



The International
Fragrance Association

Annual Report



2025

A year of connection, progress and global engagement



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A year of connection: **Progress and global engagement**

In his first full year as President of the International Fragrance Association, Alexander Mohr reflects on a period defined by learning, listening and strengthening global relationships.

In 2025, IFRA deepened its engagement with fragrance companies, associations and stakeholders worldwide, delivering several key milestones.

These included the launch of the 52nd Amendment to the IFRA Standards, publication of the third IFRA-IOFI Sustainability Report, and the introduction of a new IFRA website to improve clarity and access to information.



Advocacy efforts continued across all regions, alongside organisational growth and the rollout of IFRA's new strategy.

A highlight of the year was the Global Fragrance Summit in Singapore, demonstrating the value of cross-cultural dialogue. Mohr closes by thanking the Chairman, Board and IFRA team, and looks ahead to advancing IFRA's mission of safe and sustainable fragrance for all.



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Trust, science and responsibility: **Fragrance in a changing world**



Paul Andersson, Chairman of IFRA, reflects on a year shaped by rapid global change and heightened responsibility for the fragrance industry.

With fragrance embedded in everyday life for billions of consumers, trust remains the industry's most valuable asset. In 2025, IFRA actively engaged in intensified regulatory discussions, particularly in Europe, advocating for science-based, proportionate and globally consistent approaches.

Safety and scientific integrity remained central, alongside continued defence of fragrance ingredients, expanded regulatory dialogue and progress on non-animal testing.

Sustainability also featured strongly, with the third IFRA-IOFI Sustainability Report highlighting measurable progress. Andersson concludes by thanking the IFRA team for their expertise and dedication, which underpin the industry's credibility worldwide.



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IFRA in APAC: **Achievements and priorities in 2025**

Caroline Li, IFRA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, highlights a year of strong progress driven by collaboration, capacity-building and dialogue.

In 2025, IFRA deepened engagement with national and partner associations across the region, including high-profile participation at the CAFFCI annual meeting in China.

A major milestone was the successful fragrance risk assessment workshop held in Seoul with regional partners, strengthening technical understanding of fragrance safety.

Sustainability also saw a breakthrough, with eight Chinese domestic companies joining the IFRA-IOFI Sustainability Charter following targeted outreach and workshops.

Regulatory advocacy continued with cosmetic associations across Asia, alongside expanded open dialogue on ingredient defence with Chinese experts.

Li looks ahead to 2026 with a continued focus on partnership, sustainability and science-led engagement across the region.



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IFRA in Asia North: **Building momentum through engagement and advocacy in China**



Leon Huang, Senior Advisor for Asia North at IFRA, reflects on his first year with the organisation and a period of strong integration and progress in China. In 2025, IFRA reinforced its presence through key engagements, including the Shanghai ESG meeting in May and active participation at the CAFFCI annual meeting in September.

Regulatory advocacy also remained a priority, with targeted initiatives such as the lilial workshop supporting greater flexibility and dialogue following regulatory changes.

Looking ahead to 2026, Huang draws on the symbolism of the Year of the Horse, representing diligence and resilience, and expresses optimism for continued collaboration and success in advancing IFRA's work across the region.



EU Chemicals Omnibus: **Balancing safety, clarity and innovation in European regulation**

Aurélie Perrichet, Regional Director Europe EMEA, and Johannes Weiss, Manager Public Affairs and Sustainability Europe, outline key regulatory developments affecting the fragrance sector in 2025.

A long-standing challenge has been the potential banning of ingredients based on hazard classification, even where safe use in cosmetics can be demonstrated, leading to unnecessary reformulation and lost innovation.

In response, the European Commission proposed the Omnibus VI on Chemicals, recognising regulatory complexity as a barrier to investment.



For IFRA, the proposal brings meaningful improvements, including more workable labelling rules under CLP, realistic implementation timelines, and a more functional derogation system for cosmetics.

In 2026, discussions will continue as EU institutions work towards a balanced, science-based outcome that protects consumers while supporting innovation and competitiveness.

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EU Bioeconomy Strategy: **Supporting the fragrance industry's transition to renewable, circular solutions**

Johannes Weiss, Manager Public Affairs and Sustainability Europe at IFRA, outlines key developments related to the European Commission's update of its Bioeconomy Strategy in 2025.

The strategy aims to accelerate a sustainable, circular economy by promoting renewable biological resources across sectors. IFRA contributed to the public consultation, advocating for a policy framework that unlocks the bio-based potential of the fragrance industry.

In parallel, IFRA conducted a member survey to better understand feedstock use and attitudes towards bio-based materials.

For the first time, this data quantifies the mix of synthetic, natural and renewable ingredients used by the industry, confirming a clear shift away from fossil-based feedstocks. In 2026, IFRA will continue engaging with EU institutions to support a sustainable, innovative and cost-effective bioeconomy for fragrance.



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Safe and Sustainable by Design: **Shaping a workable framework for fragrance innovation in Europe**



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Johannes Weiss, Public Affairs and Sustainability Manager at IFRA, outlines IFRA's engagement on Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD), an approach increasingly reflected in EU policy.

SSbD promotes the integration of safety and sustainability from the earliest stages of innovation, an approach already being explored by parts of the fragrance industry.

In 2025, IFRA advocated for a pragmatic European SSbD framework, drawing on lessons from a 2024 case study on the fragrance ingredient methyl salicylate.

These insights were shared with the European Commission, Member State authorities and stakeholders, including at high-level policy forums. IFRA also provided detailed input to the Commission's consultation on a revised SSbD framework, stressing that SSbD should remain voluntary, avoid duplicating existing requirements and remain workable for complex formulations such as fragrances.

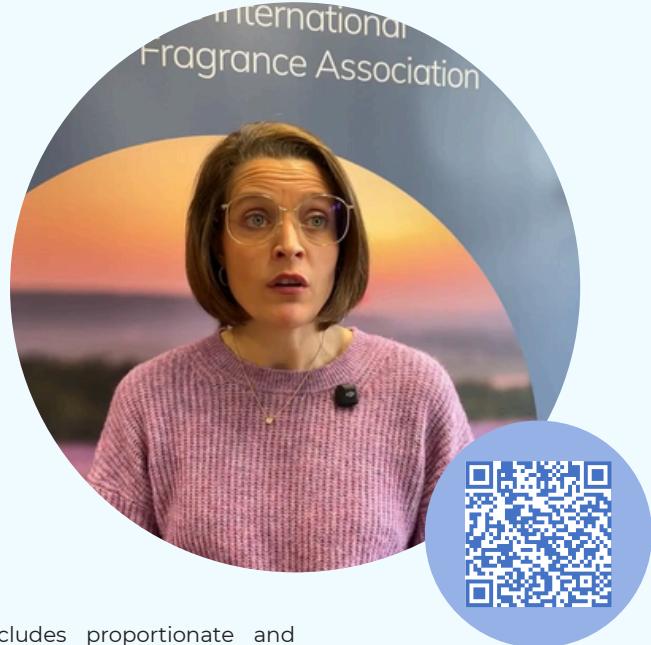
With the final framework expected in early 2026, IFRA will continue to promote SSbD as a practical tool that supports innovation while maintaining high safety standards.

EU Detergents Regulation: **Delivering a workable framework for safety and innovation**

Jennifer Dorts, Senior Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager at IFRA, outlines key developments in the revision of the EU Detergents Regulation.

Concluded in June 2025 after more than two years of negotiations, the revised regulation sets harmonised rules for the EU market while ensuring high levels of environmental and human health protection.

Throughout the process, IFRA actively represented the fragrance sector and worked closely with A.I.S.E. to secure balanced outcomes.



The final text includes proportionate and workable requirements on biodegradability, fragrance allergen labelling and animal testing, maintaining alignment with REACH.

Formal publication is expected in 2026, with IFRA continuing to engage on forthcoming delegated acts and implementation.

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IFRA in India: **Building regulatory trust, skills and industry alignment**

Sandeep Srivastava, Director IFRA India, reflects on a year focused on awareness-building, regulatory engagement and capacity development.

In 2025, IFRA strengthened dialogue with key Indian authorities, including BIS, the Ministry of Chemicals and the Drug Controller, reinforcing the relevance of IFRA Standards in a major global sourcing hub.

A significant milestone was the inclusion of IFRA Standards in newly announced Indian fragrance ingredient standards in December.

IFRA also advanced industry collaboration through the fourth FICCI Fragrance Summit, expanded skills development via a pioneering perfumery programme with Hindu College, and supported sustainability initiatives for farmers and ingredient users.

With stronger industry relationships in place, IFRA looks to 2026 to consolidate regulatory implementation and further build professional capability across the Indian fragrance sector.



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IFRA in Latam: **Deepening engagement and preparing for regulatory change**



Eduardo Valle, Senior Regional Manager for Latin America at IFRA, reflects on a year marked by strong regional and local engagement.

In 2025, IFRA delivered roadshows in Brazil and Mexico with national associations ABIFRA and ANFPA, strengthening dialogue with industry and government stakeholders. The successful IFRA LATAM Week in Santiago de Chile addressed key issues including chemical inventories, biodiversity and the Nagoya Protocol.

IFRA also expanded its outreach through webinars, workshops and closer collaboration with regional partners such as CASIC.

Looking ahead to 2026, priorities include ingredient defence as new restrictions emerge, trade developments linked to the Mercosur–EU agreement, and expanded capacity-building initiatives, including the next IFRA LATAM Week in June 2025.

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IFRA-IOFI labelling manual: **Ensuring consistent and credible hazard communication**



Cristina Arregui, Global Regulatory Affairs Director at IFRA, highlights the importance of the 2025 update to the IFRA-IOFI Labelling Manual.

The Manual provides essential guidance on the application of GHS classification and labelling rules to fragrance and flavour ingredients, ensuring clarity and consistency across the industry.

Harmonised interpretation of hazard data is critical to avoid conflicting classifications for the same substance and to maintain trust throughout the supply chain.

The approach aligns with EU principles under REACH and CLP, encouraging data sharing and consensus-building. By speaking with one voice, the industry is better positioned to support robust scientific positions and engage effectively with regulators.



CLH Proposals: **Advocating for proportionate, science-based classification**



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Cristina Arregui, Global Regulatory Affairs Director at IFRA, explains how work on the IFRA-IOFI Labelling Manual supports engagement on EU harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) proposals.

By aligning on robust, coherent interpretation of hazard data, the industry is better placed to advocate for pragmatic application of CLP rules.



IFRA promotes classifications that reflect human relevance, informed by mechanistic evidence and realistic exposure, rather than effects seen only at extreme test doses.

This is particularly important for fragrance ingredients, which are used at very low levels but can face significant regulatory consequences. IFRA's message remains clear: consumer protection must be evidence-based, proportionate and compatible with innovation.

IFRA Standards: **Launching the 52nd Amendment consultation**



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Jennifer Dorts, Senior Manager, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at IFRA, provides an update on the IFRA Standards, the industry's flagship programme for the safe use of fragrance ingredients worldwide.

In December 2025, IFRA launched the public consultation for the 52nd Amendment, marking a major milestone in the continuous evolution of the Standards.

The proposed Amendment introduces 51 new Restriction Standards, revises 18 existing ones, updates the IFRA Furocoumarin Policy into a single revised Standard, and removes eight outdated Standards.

The consultation also covers revised guidance and annexes, reinforcing clarity and consistency.

Throughout 2026, IFRA will collect and assess stakeholder feedback, with formal notification of the 52nd Amendment expected by year end.

25 years of IFRA Standards evolution: **Evolving standards, science and product stewardship**

Matthias Vey, Vice-President Scientific Affairs, reflects on 25 years at IFRA and the evolution of its scientific and regulatory role.

At the heart of this journey are the IFRA Standards, which for more than five decades have remained central to the Association's mission.

Once perceived primarily as a rule-enforcing system, the Standards are today widely recognised as a framework for product stewardship, supporting consumer safety and responsible industry practice.

This shift has been underpinned by continuous scientific progress, with RIFM methodologies evolving to reflect advances in toxicology and risk assessment.

Together, these developments have strengthened the robustness, credibility and value of IFRA Standards worldwide.



IFRA Transparency List: **2025 update reinforcing insight and confidence in the perfumer's palette**

Jennifer Dorts, Senior Manager, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at IFRA, presents the latest update to the IFRA Transparency List, often referred to as the perfumer's palette.

The List provides a global overview of fragrance ingredients in use at a given point in time and is built on IFRA's periodic Volume of Use Survey, conducted with anonymised input from members and stakeholders.

Released in July 2025 and based on the 2024 survey, the new edition covers nearly 3,700 ingredients, including more than 1,000 Natural Complex Substances.

The update reinforces IFRA's commitment to transparency and supports ongoing safety assessments by RIFM. The current List will remain the reference until the next survey in 2028.

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Furocoumarins policy: **A specific revision within the IFRA Standards**



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Matthias Vey, Vice-President Scientific Affairs at IFRA, highlights the revision of the furocoumarins standard as a clear example of IFRA's approach to product stewardship.

Furocoumarins, naturally present in certain natural complex substances, most of them citrus oils, are known for their phototoxic properties and are regulated by both IFRA and public authorities.

The revised Standard was developed through a dedicated working group representing the full fragrance value chain including the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM), supported by a comprehensive review of available scientific findings established within IFRA.

IFRA also engaged closely with regulators to align technical criteria and implementation as much as possible.

The process strengthened regulatory coherence, ensured high levels of consumer safety and set a benchmark for future Standards development, reinforcing IFRA's leadership in science-based self-regulation.

Transparency Consultation: **Opening the process and strengthening trust in the IFRA Standards**

Matthias Vey, Vice-President Scientific Affairs at IFRA, highlights the Association's continued efforts to strengthen transparency and stakeholder involvement in the development of IFRA Standards.

In recent years, key documents supporting the Standards such as methodologies and RIFM safety assessments have been made publicly accessible, improving understanding of how scientific and product stewardship decisions are reached.

Central to this approach is IFRA's Consultation process, through which proposed Standards and supporting materials are shared globally with members and stakeholders for feedback prior to finalisation.

This open and inclusive approach is currently being applied to the 52nd Amendment, reinforcing IFRA's long-standing commitment to transparency, collaboration and trust.

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Stakeholder engagement and the IDEA project: Strengthening collaboration and risk assessment



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Matthias Vey, Vice-President Scientific Affairs at IFRA, highlights the expansion of stakeholder engagement through the International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens (IDEA).

Supported by the European Commission, IDEA brings together dermatologists, scientists, regulators and industry to advance the assessment and management of fragrance skin sensitisers.

Over more than a decade, the initiative has contributed to the refinement of quantitative risk assessment methodologies used in IFRA Standards.

A key focus today is the IDEA surveillance project, developed in close collaboration with leading dermatology clinics across Europe, providing high-quality clinical data to inform best practices.

This work reinforces IFRA's commitment to science-based product stewardship and responsible engagement with the medical community.

IDEA Progress: **QRA Based only on animal-free New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)**

Amaia Irizar, Senior Toxicology Associate at IFRA, highlights progress made in 2025 under the International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens (IDEA).

The multi-stakeholder initiative continued advancing science-based skin sensitisation risk assessment, supporting the safe use of fragrance ingredients within defined exposure limits.

A key milestone was the extension of the IDEA Reference Chemical Potency List to 110 substances, now published in a peer-reviewed journal and supporting the use of quantitative New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in a follow-up study by IDEA.

Findings were shared with regulators, scientific bodies and experts through workshops and consultations.

In 2026, IDEA will continue dissemination and outreach, marking a significant step towards fully NAM-based quantitative risk assessment while maintaining strong consumer protection.



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Animal-free safety assessment: **The changing regulatory landscape**



Amaia Irizar, Senior Toxicology Associate at IFRA, outlines major regulatory developments in 2025 signalling a global transition towards animal-free chemical safety assessment.

Authorities in the EU, United States, Canada and the United Kingdom advanced strategies and roadmaps promoting the use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and phasing out vertebrate testing.

These initiatives will directly affect the fragrance industry by clarifying how NAM-based evidence can be used in regulatory submissions and by reducing reliance on animal testing.

While the shift creates opportunities for greater global alignment, coordination will be essential to avoid fragmented requirements.

Looking ahead to 2026, IFRA will support implementation efforts, including through its active role in the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA).



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Strengthening IFRA's voice: Visibility and global reach

Charles de Lusignan, Global Communications Director at IFRA, reflects on a highly active year for communications in 2025.

IFRA strengthened its visibility and relevance across regulation, sustainability, science and global engagement, supported by the launch of a new corporate website in June.

Editorial output increased significantly, alongside a growing LinkedIn presence supported by video and project-based content.

Advocacy communications became a key focus, notably around the EU Chemicals Omnibus, through coordinated, evidence-based messaging and international media engagement.

Event communications also played a central role, culminating in the Global Fragrance Summit in Singapore.

Looking ahead to 2026, IFRA aims to deepen engagement, sharpen strategic storytelling and further enhance its service to members and stakeholders.



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Practical developments in IFRA Communications 2025: **Improving access, coordination and member support**



Marta Varela, Communications and Events Manager at IFRA, outlines a year focused on practical delivery and service to members. In 2025, priorities included improving access to information, increasing transparency and strengthening collaboration with national associations and partners.

Key activities ranged from organising and delivering IFRA webinars to supporting the launch and content development of the new IFRA website.

IFRA also coordinated the production and multilingual rollout of the third IFRA-IOFI Sustainability Report and supported new signatories to the Sustainability Charter.

Further work included coordinating member and stakeholder meetings, supporting internal communications, and managing sponsor relations for the Global Fragrance Summit 2025, helping translate IFRA's strategy into tangible outcomes.

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Global Fragrance Summit 2025 Singapore 15-16 October

The International Fragrance Association (IFRA) was delighted to be able to welcome over 250 attendees to Global Fragrance Summit 2025.

This year's event took place in Singapore from 15-16 October, with a visit to the Singapore Botanical Gardens on 17 October

Global Fragrance Summit 2025 saw experts and leaders from across the fragrance industry come together to discuss the future of the sector.

Conversations occurred through the lens of sustainability, regulatory affairs, customer needs and the need for engagement and collaboration.



See pictures of the event by scanning the QR code or visit www.globalfragrancesummit.com



Sustainability: **Advancing sustainability through data, collaboration and transparency**

Alexander Mohr, IFRA President, and Cordula Mock Knoblauch, Head of Sustainability Aroma Ingredients at BASF, presented key insights from IFRA's sustainability work and the third IFRA-IOFI Sustainability Report. Sustainability is a core pillar of IFRA's strategy, supported by growing global engagement with the Sustainability Charter, now signed by more than 160 companies.

Published in July 2025, the report draws on extensive member data and shows strong progress across responsible sourcing, environmental management, workplace practices, product safety and governance. Companies are increasingly measuring carbon footprints, integrating sustainability into R&D and exceeding reporting requirements.

New work on bio-based and renewable feedstocks highlights a clear industry ambition to reduce reliance on fossil materials, while recognising cost, data and regulatory challenges. Together, these efforts underline a collective, data-driven approach to continuous improvement and long-term sustainability.

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Protecting biodiversity while supporting trade:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Matthias Vey, Vice-President Scientific Affairs at IFRA, outlines the Association's engagement with CITES to support the responsible trade of natural fragrance ingredients.

Naturals such as tonka, frankincense and oud are essential to perfumery but can be affected by biodiversity constraints and trade restrictions. IFRA works as an accredited observer to CITES, contributing scientific and supply-chain expertise to ensure proportionate measures that protect species while keeping materials available in trade.



A key achievement has been securing exemptions for finished fragrance mixtures once raw materials are certified, significantly reducing administrative burden without weakening protection. Through collaboration with partners and regulators, IFRA helps shape balanced outcomes that support conservation, compliance and creative perfumery.

This video taken from IFRA Global Fragrance Summit 2025

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