

Identification of Nanomaterials: Methodological guidance to assess characterisation data for particulate materials for all actors in the chain

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TOPIC / ABSTRACT

Determining whether a particulate material qualifies as a nanomaterial in the regulatory sense can be a complex exercise: the question of the applicable definition, the mastery of technical concepts, the choice of the analytical approach, the interpretation of data, and the understanding of French and European expectations (particularly for stakeholders outside the European Union) all make this a subject prone to misinterpretation. It is to address these difficulties that **NanoMesureFrance has developed a methodological guide** recently released to its members, the result of joint work by the "Cosmetics" and "Materials & Chemistry " working groups. This webinar presents its objectives: enabling every actor in the value chain, especially regulatory profiles without advanced analytical expertise, to assess the relevance and quality of the information provided by their raw material suppliers.

The guide's philosophy is **pragmatic and educational**: rather than a technical treatise, it offers a questionnaire supported by successive decision trees, to progressively **build a body of evidence enabling a conclusion on the "nanomaterial or not" status of a raw material**, while avoiding the classic mistakes that lead to the misclassification of certain materials.

The content of the guide will then be detailed: **key terms and points of attention** (*mixtures of materials, number-based particle size distribution, identifiable constituent particles, particle shape, median diameter D50, electron microscopy, choice of testing laboratory*), followed by a list of **preliminary information** to be collected as well as **questions to ask the supplier**. **Decision trees** are then introduced, covering three possible configurations: a single material, a mixture of materials of different chemical natures, and a mixture of grades of the same material. The guide also includes a flowchart dedicated to electron microscopy, the reference technique of the French and European authorities.

Finally, **users of the guide will share their feedback** on the application of this methodology to concrete industrial cases, according to their profile (manufacturer or user of particulate materials).

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