

April 2025

To Our Valued Suppliers,

At Kroger, we are strongly committed to ensuring the safety of products we sell across our enterprise as well as being responsible corporate citizens. As part of our commitment to corporate responsibility, we continuously look for ways to ensure we operate in a responsible manner and provide a safe environment our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve.

Kroger utilizes UL WERCSmart to aggregate specific regulatory information for all chemical-containing items, over-the-counter health products, pesticides, aerosols, batteries, and other potentially hazardous-material products that you sell to us.

Your role as a supplier to Kroger is to register your product and formulations with UL WERCSmart prior to item setup. UL WERCSmart will then perform an assessment of each product to support Kroger's regulatory compliance goals.

All proprietary information provided to UL WERCSmart is kept confidential. **UL WERCSmart is** committed to the highest levels of security and will not share any proprietary information with **Kroger.**

UL assesses an annual subscription fee for WERCSmart registration, which is determined by the number of currently registered formulated and non-formulated products. All existing and new product registrations are fully paid under the annual fee. This includes all existing, new, and future participating retailers who implement UL WERCSmart in the future.

A supplier's annual WERCSmart subscription fee is determined by the number of distinct products you create. Visit this <u>page</u> to learn more.

Action Required

For any qualifying product that Kroger has agreed to purchase:

- Navigate to the WERCSmart website
- Click Sign Up to create a new account or Log In if you already have an account (upper right corner)
- Select Create Company Account (if necessary) or enter account information to log in
- Help is accessible from the UL WERCSmart page at the top right or by accessing https://wercsmart.freshdesk.com/en/support/home

Please complete the registration process for new products Kroger may purchase and for resubmissions of existing products falling under registration requirements.

Next Steps

All products subject to WERCSmart registration must be registered and directed to Kroger. As of September 5, 2018, hazardous products are rejected for setup with all Kroger banners until they are registered with WERCSmart.

Typical products requiring WERCSmart registration are listed on the following page. This list is not all-inclusive. If you have questions about whether your product requires registration, please email the Kroger WERCSmart team at wercsinfo@kroger.com

Already registered in WERCSmart?

If your products are already registered in WERCSmart, please confirm you have instructed UL WERCSmart to share your product data with Kroger. Log into your <u>UL WERCSmart</u> account and navigate to the *Retail Partners* tab of your registered product. Once on the *Retail Partners* page, please confirm that Kroger is selected (see image below). We have found that many suppliers have registered their products to other retailers but have not directed UL WERCSmart to provide data to Kroger. Under its supplier NDAs, UL will not automatically forward data to us unless you instruct them to do so. <u>Selecting Kroger</u> on the *Retail Partners* tab will direct data to all store banners in The Kroger Family of Companies.

For answers to specific questions regarding Kroger's WERCSmart program, contact wercsinfo@kroger.com



We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and partnership. It will help us both manage the regulatory compliance responsibilities that we have and alleviate the shared and costly exposures of noncompliance. It will also aid our Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan, which will benefit the communities in which we live and serve.

Sincerely,

Kate Meyer

Vice President, General Merchandise, Health & Beauty Care

Ceni Sawhey

Erin Sanchez Vice President, Grocery

	Examples of Products Requiring UL WERCSmart Registration
Chemical-Containing	 Products advertised or labeled to kill, repel, or prevent the growth of any living organism (including anti-microbial products such as bathroom cleaners) Pesticides and other products regulated and/or registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Products containing a powder, gel, paste, liquid, or gas All cleaning products
Medication	 Products intended for human inhalation, consumption, or absorption: lozenges, pills or capsules (e.g., pain reliever, vitamins, water pills, etc.) Medicated swabs, wipes, and bandages Patches (heated and/or medicated) Contraceptive foams, films, and spermicides All OTCs, vitamins, and/or nutritional supplements. All products labeled with Drug Facts, Supplement Facts, or "Active Ingredients." OTC inhalers
General Merchandise	 Nicotine replacement products and nicotine-containing products: e.g., nicotine gum,
and Personal Care	 patches, lozenges, and pouches All cosmetics Equipment sold with chemicals (e.g. vaporizer sold with medication, air fresheners, gel shoe inserts) Liquids (e.g., liquid soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, baby wash, cough medicine, eye drops, ear drops, nasal spray, etc.) Medicated shampoos, gums, ointments, and creams Suntan lotion Lip balm, lip creams, and petroleum jelly Skin lotions, creams, and ointments Perfume and fragrances
Aerosols	 Any product that contains a compressed gas or propellant (e.g., hair spray, cooking oil, shave cream, spray paint, spray cheese, cleaning products, etc.)
Batteries	All batteriesAll battery-containing products
Light Bulbs	 Fluorescent, halogen, High-Intensity Discharge (HID), LED, and neon bulbs. Only incandescent bulbs are not required to be registered
Electronics	Items with a power cord, circuit board, or containing lights
Food/Grocery	Energy bars, energy/vitamin drinks, dietary supplements, liquid meal replacements, liquid water enhancers, food coloring, cooking oil, extracts containing alcohol
Flammable or Combustible	Flammable or combustible products as defined by DOT, OSHA, or NFPA