



Handcrafted Soap Makers Guild, Inc.

ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

Position Statement

April 28, 2005

The concepts of “handcrafted”, “soap” and “soap maker” frequently mean different things to different people. Since these are key terms to the whole of the Handcrafted Soap Makers Guild, it is important that the definitions being used are understood and agreed upon.

“Soap”

Within the Handcrafted Soap Makers Guild, the definition of “soap” being used is the common, not technical definition. To qualify as soap, the final product must foam and lather, be used for cleaning and be in a form commonly understood to be “soap”. Therefore both cold process and melt and pour qualify as “soap” for this organization.

For additional clarification, products that are technically soap (a blend of fatty acids and alkali) may also be referred to as “natural soap” or “soap from scratch”.

“Soap Maker”

A “soap maker” within the HSMG is one who takes bulk ingredients and produces a unique and individualized soap. The ingredients can be oils and lye or bars of MP soap; both are considered “bulk ingredients”.

“Handcrafted”

The process of making and selling soap is complex and involves many steps. These include creating the recipe; measuring and mixing the soap; adding scent and color; creating the shape by molding, cutting and/or trimming; designing and creating packaging; and finally marketing, displaying and selling the final product. Depending on the methodology of the individual, some of these steps are done “by hand” and with creative and artistic involvement and some are done automatically or mechanically.

For the purposes of the Handcrafted Soap Makers Guild, a soap is deemed to be “handcrafted” if a majority of the time, energy and processes used in its creation are “by hand”. In the case of cold process soap the “by hand” part might be in the recipe, mixing, measuring and molding. However, in the case of MP soap, the “by hand” part might be in the unique design, scent and color.

Dealing with the Press and Public

In dealing with the press, from this point forward the official spokesperson for the HSMG shall use this terminology and it shall also be used in brochures and on the HSMG website. Members are encouraged to similarly adopt this terminology and use it when dealing with their customers and the public at large.

Approved by the
Board of Directors

Authorized by vote of the Membership
at the 2005 Annual Meeting