postmetry

C

What's inside the newsletter from

Cult Beauty

Sender	Info@m.cultbeauty.com
Sector	Beauty
Emails read	4 campaigns, 1 transactional
Period	November 2026

Our address was subscribed in November 2026, after the CNIL recommendation was published (April 14, 2026).

Overall score

A B **C** 74/100 D E F

The main finding

An open-tracking pixel is present on 1 transactional message.

It is the first of 5 points to fix. The highest score is deliverability (100/100), the lowest compliance (30/100), better than 39% of the 643 brands measured.

Transactional
1 message

November 2026 · calculated on 23 November

Compliance

30 /100

better than 39% of the 643 brands measured

Deliverability

100 /100

better than 42% of the 642 brands measured

Technical

100 /100

better than 74% of the 643 brands measured

Experience

95 /100

better than 97% of the 643 brands measured

5 points to fix

Each line leads to the criterion in its family, with the excerpt that establishes it and how to fix it.

Priority

An open-tracking pixel is present

Criterion “No open-tracking pixel” · Compliance · on 1 transactional message

−35 pts
out of 35 in Compliance

```
<img src="https://link.m.cultbeauty.com/q/***" alt="" width="20" height="1">
```

Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level.

Priority

The recipient's address is written into the message

Criterion “No recipient identifier in the message” · Compliance · on 1 transactional message

−10 pts
out of 10 in Compliance

```
href adresse:base64 · src adresse:clair
```

Links carry no email address, contact identifier or automatic login token in their parameters.

To review

No untracked path leads to the site

Criterion “An untracked path leads to the site” · Compliance · on 1 transactional message

−15 pts
out of 15 in Compliance

At least one link in the message points directly to the brand's domain, without going through the platform's redirect domain: the logo, the legal notice or the privacy policy will do.

To review

Tracked unsubscribe link

Criterion “The recipient keeps control over tracking” · Compliance · measured on 1 transactional message

−10 pts
out of 20 in Compliance

Secondary

The text version carries less than 80% of the links

Criterion “The message can be rendered outside HTML” · Experience · measured on 1 transactional message

−5 pts
out of 15 in Experience

17 criteria met, including « The message says who is writing and under which rules » and « DKIM signature validated ». They are listed in their family, below.

Every send, at the time it arrived

One dot per message received by our subscription since November. Tap a dot to open it; the arrows move from one send to the next.

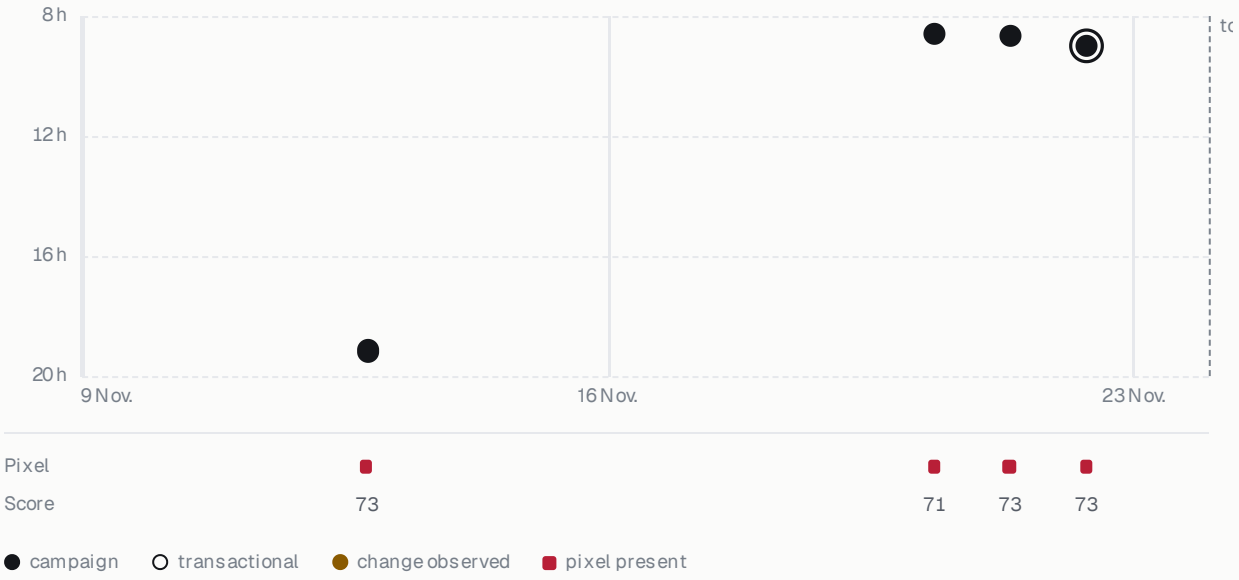
Technical reading of the send of Nov. 2, 2026 →

4
campaigns in 1 week
about 4 a week, in November

No fixed day
sending day
Thursday leads, 1 of the 4 campaigns

8 h
favourite sending hour
75% of campaigns arrive between 8:00 and 9:00

22 Nov.
last send received
« 25% OFF Saie, Summer Fridays & more »



Campaign 4 of 4

Sunday 22 Nov., 8:59

25% OFF Saie, Summer Fridays & more

Type Marketing campaign

Score 73 / 100

Pixel Present, detected by its size

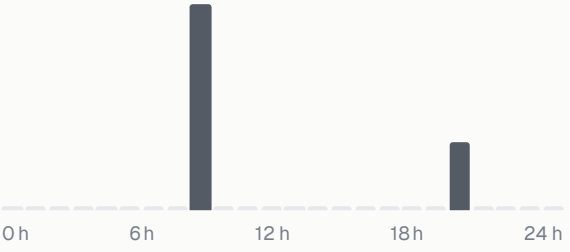
Sending day

Tap a bar to find its sends on the timeline.



Arrival time

Hour by hour, on the 4 campaigns.



No change observed since November Each campaign is compared with the previous one, criterion by criterion.

Criteria in detail

The 24 criteria + 1 bonus

17 met **2** partly met **3** not met **0** not observable **2** not applicable



Compliance

These checks cover what the send imposes on the recipient and what it leaves them: measurement of their behaviour, ways to leave, tracking of their objection.

Tracking pixels: the CNIL rule Method, Compliance family

better than 39% of the 643 brands measured

The calculation · 30 pts out of 100

1 met · 1 partly met · 3 not met · 1 not applicable



Weight of each criterion in the score.

No open-tracking pixel

Not met

0/35 pts

Open-tracking pixel detected on the only transactional message concerned

0 points out of 35 — met on 0 of 1 transactional message concerned.

An invisible image tells the sending platform that the message was opened, when, and from which device: this is individual tracking of reading behavior, and the recipient sees none of it. The message does not say whether they consented or objected — that choice lives in the sending platform, not in the email.

Served from `cultbeauty.com`.

The excerpt that establishes it

```
<img src="https://link.m.cultbeauty.com/q/***" alt="" width
="20" height="1">
```

How to fix it

Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level. Look for “open tracking”.

Turning it off loses the open rate — a measure already largely distorted by mailbox privacy protections, which preload images — and changes nothing about the click rate.

Met when no tracking pixel is present. A single pixel is enough for the criterion not to be met on an email.

CNIL 14/04/2026·LIL art.82 · PM-PRIV-001 · The detection rule

Unsubscribing is possible and announced

Not applicable

not applicable

This measurement did not apply to any of the emails received. It **drops out of the denominator**: it is never counted as a failure.

Met when the message announces unsubscribing in its headers, through a page rather than an email to write, and in its body. The detail says which of the two is missing. Not applicable to a transactional email.

RFC 2369 · PM-PRIV-002

The recipient keeps control over tracking

Partly met

10/20 pts

Tracked unsubscribe link on the only transactional message concerned (1 of 2 measures met)

10 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

How to fix it

A path separate from the unsubscribe link leads to a preference centre where the recipient can refuse tracking (opens, clicks) without unsubscribing. Most email platforms offer this page; otherwise it goes in the template footer, with its own link, named for what it does (“manage my preferences”, “refuse tracking”).

The page takes an afternoon to set up and then serves every send. It is what the CNIL recommendation expects from an email that measures how its readers behave.

Two measures: does the unsubscribe link go through a tracker, and does a separate path lead to a preference center or to refusing tracking? Neither establishes that a refusal succeeds — checking would require following the link, which would record a click on the sending platform's side. They describe the control left to the recipient, not the result they would get.

What was measured — 1 met out of 2

- Tracked unsubscribe link on the only transactional message concerned — Not met
- A separate path leads to a preference center or to refusing tracking on a single transactional message — Met

CNIL 14/04/2026·Postmetry · PM-PRIV-003

The message says who is writing and under which rules

Met

20 pts

The message says who is writing and under which rules on a single transactional message

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

A commercial email must make it possible to identify the advertiser (CPCE, article L. 34-5), and the recipient must be able to know who processes their data. This indicator groups what a message can show of it.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- The message names its sender on a single transactional message — Met
- A reply to the message is possible on a single transactional message — Met
- A link leads to the privacy policy on a single transactional message — Met

CPCE L. 34-5 ·directive 2000/31 art. 6·CAN-SPAM · PM-PRIV-004

An untracked path leads to the site

Not met

0/15 pts

Every link to the site goes through a tracker on the only transactional message concerned

0 points out of 15 — met on 0 of 1 transactional message concerned.

A recipient who simply wants to visit the site has no option but to go through the click counter.

How to fix it

At least one link in the message points directly to the brand's domain, without going through the platform's redirect domain: the logo, the legal notice or the privacy policy will do. In the editor this is set link by link (“do not track this link”, “disable click tracking”) or through an exclusion list in the account settings.

An untracked link does not count in measured clicks; choosing the logo or the footer takes nothing away from the clicks that matter.

Met when at least one link in the message leads to the brand's site without going through a click counter.

Postmetry · PM-PRIV-005

No recipient identifier in the message — Not met — 0/10 pts

The recipient's address is written into the message on the only transactional message concerned

0 points out of 10 — met on 0 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Base64-encoded or hashed, it is still the address: a hash is recovered by hashing a list of known addresses. Placed in a URL or a header, it travels wherever the message goes — redirect server logs, analytics tools, browser history.

The excerpt that establishes it

```
href adresse:base64 · src adresse:clair
```

How to fix it

Links carry no email address, contact identifier or automatic login token in their parameters. In the email platform, these come from merge variables inserted into URLs (`?email={{contact.email}}`, `?uid=…`): remove them from the template's links, and turn off login-by-link if it is offered.

The platform still identifies the recipient for tracked clicks; what changes is that the address no longer travels in clear to the website, its analytics and its partners.

Met when the recipient's address appears — neither in clear, nor encoded, nor hashed — in no URL and no proprietary header. Addressing headers do not count: they carry it by design.

Postmetry·RGPD art.4 en repère · PM-PRIV-020



Deliverability

These checks read the authentication verdict set by our server when the message arrived. This verdict is dated by construction: we never recalculate it, which would query today's DNS rather than the DNS of the day the email was sent.

Gmail sender requirements ↗ (https://support.google.com/a/answer/81126)
Yahoo requirements ↗ (https://senders.yahooinc.com/best-practices/) Method, Deliverability family

better than 42% of the 642 brands measured

The calculation · 70 pts out of 70, scaled to 100 — 5 met · 1 not applicable



Weight of each criterion in the score.

DKIM signature validated — Met — 20 pts

Valid DKIM signature on a single transactional message

20 points out of 20 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when our receiving server validated the DKIM signature of the email.

RFC 6376·RFC 8601 · PM-DELIV-001
RFC 6376 — DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) Signatures (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc6376)

RFC 8601 — Message Header Field for Indicating Message Authentication Status (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8601)

DMARC alignment validated — Met — 20 pts

DMARC alignment verified on a single transactional message

20 points out of 20 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when the domain shown in the sender matches the one that authenticated the message.

RFC 9989 · PM-DELIV-002

RFC 9989 — Domain-Based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989)

DMARC policy that helps keep out some impersonation — Met — 15 pts

Active DMARC policy on a single transactional message

15 points out of 15 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when the published policy is “reject” or “quarantine”. A “none” policy asks nothing of mail providers: it is published with no effect on messages that impersonate the domain.

RFC 9989 §4.7 · PM-DELIV-003 · RFC 9989 — section 4.7, “p” tag (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989#section-4.7)

No SPF failure — Met — 10 pts

No SPF failure on a single transactional message

10 points out of 10 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when SPF does not fail. An SPF “none” alongside a valid DKIM and DMARC is a common and legitimate configuration: it is not penalized.

RFC 7208 · PM-DELIV-004

RFC 7208 — Sender Policy Framework (SPF) for Authorizing Use of Domains in Email (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7208)

One-click unsubscribe, as defined by RFC 8058 — Not applicable — not applicable

This measurement did not apply to any of the emails received. It **drops out of the denominator**: it is never counted as a failure.

Met when the “List-Unsubscribe” header carries an https address and “List-Unsubscribe-Post” is exactly “List-Unsubscribe=One-Click”. This is what Gmail and Yahoo require of bulk senders: the mailbox's button then acts without opening a page. Not applicable to a transactional email.

RFC 8058 · Gmail et Yahoo · PM-DELIV-005

A DKIM signature that covers what matters — Met — 5 pts

The DKIM signature covers what matters in the message on a single transactional message

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

What the signature covers, not only that it passes: an algorithm accepted by RFC 8301, the whole body signed, the From, Subject, Date and List-Unsubscribe headers signed, a signature not expired on receipt. Not applicable without a DKIM signature.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- Accepted signing algorithm on a single transactional message — Met
- Whole body signed on a single transactional message — Met
- Essential headers signed on a single transactional message — Met

- ☐ Signature valid on receipt Not applicable

RFC6376·RFC8301 · PM-DELIV-006



Technical

These checks cover what email clients actually do with the message: truncation, style blocks removed, resources never loaded. Each threshold states where it comes from: the documented behaviour of an email client, a specification, or our own method.

Support by email client (caniemail) ↗ (https://www.caniemail.com/) Method, Technical family

better than 74% of the 643 brands measured

The calculation · 85 pts out of 85, scaled to 100 — 6 met



Weight of each criterion in the score.

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold ■ Met — 25 pts

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold on a single transactional message

25 points out of 25 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when the HTML part stays under 102 KB. Beyond that, Gmail cuts off the end of the message — and the end is where the unsubscribe link and the notices are.

Gmail · PM-TECH-001

A shallow template ■ Met — 20 pts

Shallow template on a single transactional message

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

Met when layout tables are nested no more than 6 levels deep. Beyond that, the Word engine shared by desktop Outlook and the diverging clients each render the template their own way.

What was measured — 1 met out of 1

- Lightly nested layout tables on a single transactional message Met

Postmetry · PM-TECH-002

Well-formed HTML ■ Met — 15 pts

Well-formed HTML on a single transactional message

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

A doctype, a character set declared in the document, balanced tags and unique identifiers. Each client repairs incomplete markup its own way, which is what makes rendering unpredictable. End tags that HTML makes optional do not count.

What was measured — 4 met out of 4

- Doctype declared on a single transactional message Met
- Character set declared in the HTML on a single transactional message Met
- Balanced tags on a single transactional message Met

- Unique identifiers on a single transactional message Met

WHATWG · PM-TECH-030

Every link leads somewhere Met

10 pts

Every link leads somewhere on a single transactional message

10 points out of 10 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when no link is empty, reduced to "#" or written as "javascript:". Such a link leads nowhere, and most clients neutralise it. Not applicable if the message contains no link.

Postmetry · PM-TECH-031

No remote stylesheet Met

10 pts

No remote stylesheet on a single transactional message

10 points out of 10 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when the message calls no external stylesheet, through "link" or "@import". Several clients never load them. A font stylesheet does not count: without it, the text falls back to another font.

caniemail · PM-TECH-020 · <link> in an email — support by client (https://www.caniemail.com/features/html-link/)

The message follows the shape of an email Met

5 pts

The message follows the shape of an email on a single transactional message

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

Lines of 998 bytes at most, readable Message-ID and Date, a character set announced on every text part, a transfer encoding consistent with the content (RFC 5322, RFC 2045). Most servers tolerate these deviations, each in its own way.

What was measured — 5 met out of 5

- Lines of 998 bytes at most on a single transactional message Met
- Well-formed Message-ID on a single transactional message Met
- Readable date on a single transactional message Met
- Character set announced on every text part on a single transactional message Met
- Consistent transfer encoding on a single transactional message Met

RFC 5322 · RFC 2045 · PM-TECH-010



Experience

Four questions about what becomes of the message once received: does it stay understandable, can the recipient still act, can a client render it, can a screen display it. Automatic detection only covers what is declared in the message.

WCAG 2.2 ↗ (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/) Method, Experience family

better than 97% of the 643 brands measured

The calculation · 95 pts out of 100 5 met · 1 partly met · 1 bonus

25	15	15	10	20	15

Weight of each criterion in the score.

The message makes sense without its images, from the inbox on

Met · 25 pts

The message reads without its images and announces itself in the inbox on a single transactional message

25 points out of 25 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

Met when the message keeps at least 200 readable characters with images blocked, and a preheader of 40 to 130 characters announces it in the message list. Without a preheader, the inbox shows the first text of the body instead — often “View in browser”.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- At least 200 characters remain readable with images blocked on a single transactional message — Met
- Preheader of 40 to 130 characters on a single transactional message — Met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-001

The message can be rendered outside HTML

Partly met · 10/15 pts

The text version carries less than 80% of the links on the only transactional message concerned (2 of 3 measures met)

10 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

How to fix it

The text version (`text/plain`) comes with the HTML and carries the content and the links, not just a sentence saying “open this message in your browser”. Email platforms generate it from the HTML when the option is on (“auto-generate plain text”).

This is the version that watches, screen readers and some business clients read; spam filters also use it, comparing the two versions.

Met when a text version comes with the email and carries the essentials: at least 60% of its text and 80% of its links. A client that does not display HTML falls back on it; reduced to “view the web version”, it renders nothing.

What was measured — 2 met out of 3

- A plain-text version accompanies the message on a single transactional message — Met
- The text version carries at least 60% of the text on a single transactional message — Met
- The text version carries less than 80% of the links on the only transactional message concerned — Not met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-002

All links stay visible with images blocked

Met · 15 pts

All links stay visible with images blocked on a single transactional message

15 points out of 15 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when no link is carried by a single image without alternative text: such a link leaves nothing on screen. Not applicable if the message contains no links.

Postmetry · PM-EXP-003

Tap targets large enough

Met · 10 pts

Tap targets of sufficient size on a single transactional message

10 points out of 10 — met on 1 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Met when no sized tap target falls below 24 px a side (WCAG 2.2, criterion 2.5.8). Only targets with a declared dimension are measured; the criterion's exceptions — a target within a line of text, sufficient spacing — are not. Not applicable if the message declares no dimensions.

WCAG 2.2 — 2.5.8 · PM-EXP-004

WCAG 2.2 — Target Size (Minimum), success criterion 2.5.8, level AA (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/#target-size-minimum)

The message stays readable with assistive technology

Met

20 pts

The message stays readable with assistive technology on a single transactional message

20 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

Declared language, described content images, layout tables marked as such, link texts that say where they lead: what a screen reader needs to render the message. The detail says which of these measures is missing.

What was measured — 4 met out of 4

- Message language declared on a single transactional message Met
- Every content image is described on a single transactional message Met
- Layout tables marked as such on a single transactional message Met
- Every link says where it leads on a single transactional message Met

WCAG 2.2 · RGAA · PM-EXP-005

HTML Standard — The lang and xml:lang attributes (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/dom.html#the-lang-and-xml:lang-attributes)

HTML Standard — Requirements for providing text to act as an alternative for images (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/images.html#alt)

The message declares its adaptation to screens

Met

15 pts

The message declares its adaptation to screens on a single transactional message

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 1 transactional message.

Met when the message declares its viewport and its adaptation to screen width. Without them, it displays on a phone at its original width, and is read by zooming and scrolling sideways.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- Viewport declared on a single transactional message Met
- Adaptation to screen width declared on a single transactional message Met

W3C · PM-EXP-026 · CSS Device Adaptation — the viewport tag (https://www.w3.org/TR/css-device-adapt-1/)

Media Queries Level 4 (https://www.w3.org/TR/mediaqueries-4/)

Dark mode declared

Bonus point not earned

+0 pts

The message does not declare its support for dark mode on the only transactional message concerned

0 points out of 5 — met on 0 of 1 transactional message concerned.

Earned when the message declares `color-scheme` or a `prefers-color-scheme` rule. No standard requires it — clients that force dark mode invert the colors themselves — but declaring it leaves control to the template rather than to the mail client.

caniemail · PM-EXP-027

FINDINGS OUTSIDE SCORING

Observed, not scored

These findings are not part of any score: their threshold has no citable source. They are still shown in full.

Every link in the message goes through a tracker

recognized by a tracking subdomain under the brand's name

Each click is recorded and tied to the recipient before being redirected. No link leads directly to the site: there is no way to visit the brand from this message without being measured.

▼ The evidence — excerpt from your email

```
https://link.m.cultbeauty.com/q/***
```

Does this address really send Cult Beauty's emails? –

DKIM d=m.cultbeauty.com · SPF pass · DKIM pass · DMARC pass · 1 transactional

Across 1 transactional message from Cult Beauty received at our addresses, in November 2026:

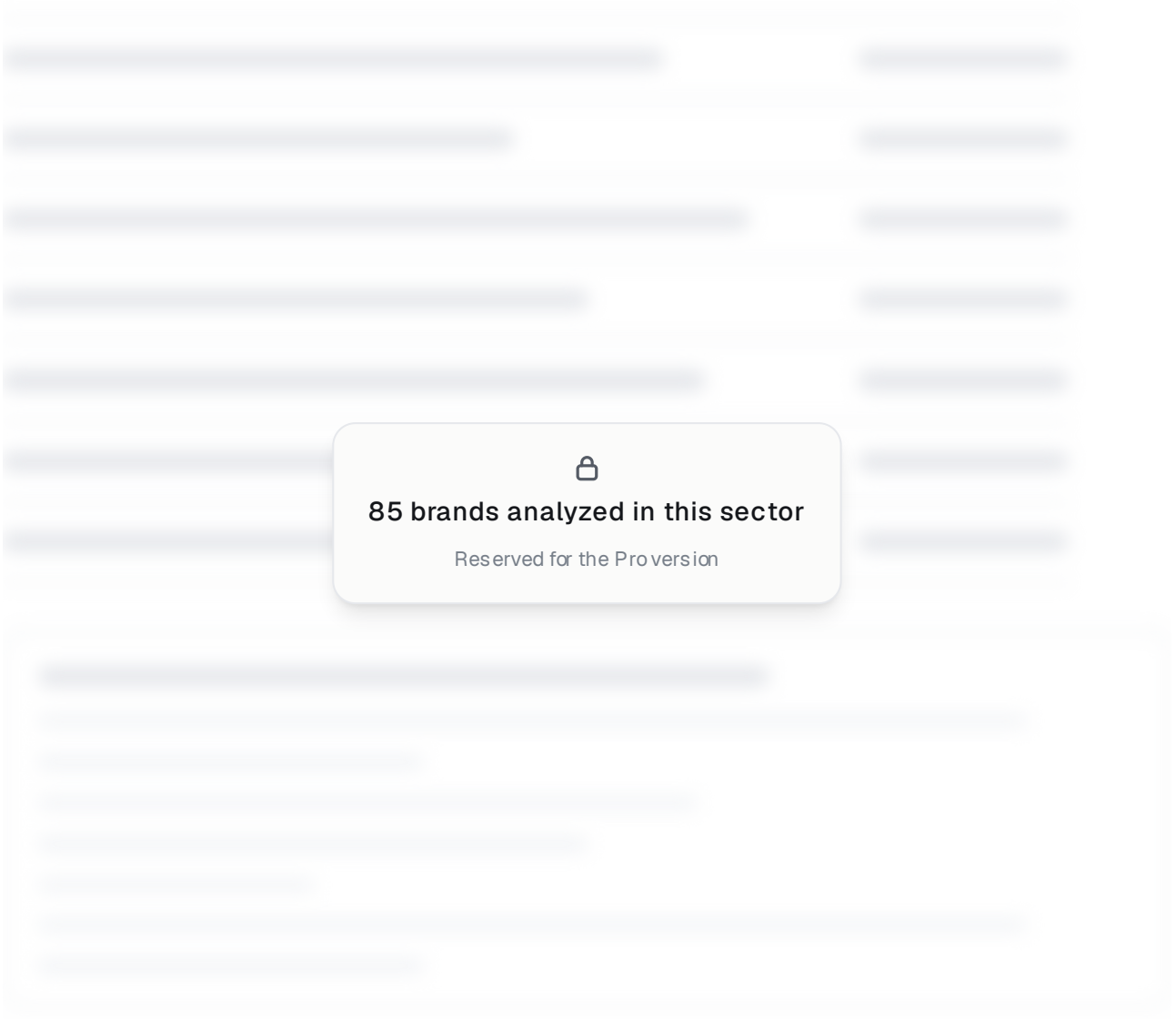
From field	`info@m.cultbeauty.com` · 1 of 1
DKIM signing domain (d=)	`esp1.co` · 1 of 1 `m.cultbeauty.com` · 1 of 1
Verdict on receipt	**SPF** pass · 1 of 1 **DKIM** pass · 1 of 1 **DMARC** pass · 1 of 1

The verdict is the one the receiving server wrote in the Authentication-Results header when the message arrived: it is read, never recomputed.

These findings describe the emails received at our addresses. They say nothing about a message received elsewhere: the From field can be written freely, and only the headers of the message you received show the path it took.

Sector comparison

Beauty — 85 brands with at least one campaign analyzed. The shares below are counted on them, never on the catalog.



Reading notes

How to read this page

01 **A criterion that is not observable or not applicable leaves the calculation.** It stays listed, never counted as zero: its weight leaves the denominator rather than weighing as a failure.

02 Each line describes an **observable finding**, with the excerpt that establishes it. No legal qualification is ever attached to it.

03 The measurements come from **deterministic analyzers**: the same message always gives the same result, and a disputed finding can be redone identically from the archive.

04 Every share is published **on an observed basis**, and names it: “26 of 30 brands analyzed.” A brand with no email received enters no denominator.

05 The **deliverability score is borrowed**: its verdict comes from the server that received the message. All the other families come from our own analyzers.

Does this analysis speak to you?

Let's go through it together, in 20 minutes.

We go over the 5 points with you, the evidence for each and the order in which to fix them. By video call, no commitment.

Pick a time slot : https://cal.com/noam-ouaknine-ecibnn/20min (https://cal.com/noam-ouaknine-ecibnn/20min)

Get Cult Beauty's changes

One email when a criterion changes state, nothing else.

Do you work at Cult Beauty?

Claim the brand: transactional emails, alerts, dated evidence.

The Pro version

Full history, before and after, alerts.

This report can also be read online, with a preview of each email:
https://postmetry.com/en/marque/cult-beauty/?kind=transactional