

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON COSMETIC PRODUCTS AND NON-FOOD PRODUCTS
INTENDED FOR CONSUMERS

OPINION

CONCERNING

LEAD ACETATE

Adopted by the SCCNFP on 1 July 2004
By means of the written procedure

1. Term of References

1.1. Background

Article 4b of the Council Directive 76/768/EEC relating to cosmetic products stipulates that *“the use in cosmetic products of substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, of category 1, 2 and 3, under Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC shall be prohibited. To that end the Commission shall adopt the necessary measures in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10(2). A substance classified in category 3 may be used in cosmetics if the substance has been evaluated by the SCCNFP and found acceptable for use in cosmetic products.”*

Additional information from COLIPA and Combe International Ltd on lead acetate (a substance classified as CMR Cat. 1 and 3) for hair dye use was provided.

1.2. Request to the SCCNFP

In the light of its opinion of 25 May 2004 on substances classified as CMR and the data submitted by COLIPA and Combe International Ltd, the SCCNFP was invited to express its opinion on safety of Lead acetate (a substance classified as CMR Category 1 and 3) when used as a cosmetic ingredient.

2. Opinion of the SCCNFP

The SCCNFP opinion on the received request is based on review of the information from COLIPA and Combe International Ltd. and its previous opinions SCCNFP/0474/01 and SCCNFP/0825/04.

The SCCNFP has previously given opinions on substances classified by the EU as CMR Category 1, 2 and 3 (SCCNFP/0474/01 and SCCNFP/0825/04). Lead acetate is classified as toxic to reproduction, category 1; R61. “May cause harm to the unborn child”.

Therefore SCCNFP is of the opinion that lead acetate is covered by its existing opinions and should not be intentionally added to cosmetic products.

3. Other considerations

Not applicable

4. Minority opinions

Not applicable