

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

POSITION STATEMENT

CONCERNING

FRAGRANCE CHEMICALS IN DETERGENTS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD
PRODUCTS

Adopted by the SCCNFP during its 20th plenary meeting
of 4 June 2002

Position Statement on Fragrance Chemicals in Detergents and other Household Products

Position Statement

Investigation of the presence of fragrance chemicals in detergents and other household products has revealed that these products may contain, to certain extent, the same fragrance materials as those used in cosmetic products. The investigations performed so far have revealed the presence of 22 of the potential fragrance allergens identified by the SCCNFP in detergents and other household products^{1,2}. Detergents and other household products were also found to contain many other fragrance chemicals used in perfumes and cosmetic products. However, the use of some fragrance chemicals (fragrance mix ingredients, Lyrall[®], etc.), which are quite commonly found in perfumes and in cosmetic products, was less frequently detected in detergents and other household products.

On the other hand, some other fragrance chemicals, such as *tert*-butyl cyclohexyl acetate, nitromusks, polycyclic musks, diphenyl ether are frequently used in detergents and other household products. These products may also contain geraniol, a well-known fragrance allergen, as a preservative. Thus, the consumer is exposed to a variety of fragrance allergens because of their use of detergents and other household products.

A person sensitised to a certain fragrance material will elicit an allergic response when exposed to this fragrance from any product whether cosmetic or detergents under similar exposure conditions. Thus, it is important that consumers have information on the presence of fragrance chemicals in the respective products.

Following the elucidation of the fragrance allergy problem in consumers caused by the use of cosmetics, the SCCNFP adopted 3 opinions on fragrance allergens in cosmetic products. Fragrance chemicals in detergents and other household products should be regarded in a similar way as in cosmetic products.

References

1. Rastogi, SC, Heydorn S., Johansen JD and Basketter DA (2001) Fragrance chemicals in domestic and occupational products. *Contact Dermatitis* 45, 221-225.
2. Rastogi SC (2002) Survey of chemical substances in consumer products. No. 4: Content of selected fragrance substances in cleaning products and other consumer products. Danish EPA, 2002.