

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

Request for a scientific opinion: Request for a scientific opinion on the Acetaldehyde (CAS 75-07-0; EINECS 200-836-8)

1. BACKGROUND

Acetaldehyde is classified as carcinogen category 2 (CMR substance according to CLP classification) under the EU chemicals legislation. The substance is not regulated in an Annex to the Cosmetics Directive.

The Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and non-food products intended for consumers expressed its opinion (SCCNFP/0821/04) with the following conclusions:

- Based on the information on the amount of fragrance compound present in the finished cosmetic products provided, the SCCNFP is of the opinion that acetaldehyde can be safely used as a fragrance/flavour ingredient at a maximum concentration of 0.0025% in the fragrance compound.
- SCCNFP does not recommend any further restrictions to the use of Acetaldehyde as a fragrance/flavour ingredient in cosmetic products.

This assessment was based on the presence of acetaldehyde in the fragrance compound of cosmetic products. This exposure was estimated to pose no increased life time cancer risk. However, the exposure to acetaldehyde from other uses of ethanol and/or acetaldehyde in cosmetics was not considered.

Moreover, concentration limits proposed on the basis of above opinion were considered so low that they might cause analytical problems when applied in practice.

Consequently, Industry was requested to prepare an exposure and safety assessment taking into account all possible sources of acetaldehyde exposure from cosmetic products.

This information was submitted by COLIPA in July 2011. This submission contains the requested safety assessment of acetaldehyde in all cosmetic products at concentration of 100 ppm, regardless whether deliberately added or from incidental presence.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The SCCS is requested to answer the following questions:

1. *Is acetaldehyde safe when present up to 100 ppm in cosmetic products taking into account the new data provided?*
2. *And/or does the SCCS recommend any other concentration limit with regard to the use of Acetaldehyde as an ingredient in cosmetic products?*
3. *Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns regarding the use of Acetaldehyde in mouth-washing products?*