

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY

Request for an Addendum to the scientific opinion on the safety of oxidative hair dye substances and hydrogen peroxide in products to colour eyelashes

1. Background

The definition of the term "hair product" was introduced in the preamble to Annexes II to VI of the EC Cosmetics Regulation n. 1223/2009¹. A "hair product" is defined as a cosmetic product which is intended to be applied on the hair of head or face, except eyelashes.

The application of the newly defined term "hair product" in conjunction with provisions relating to specific substances in the new Annex III to the EU Cosmetics Regulation will restrict the use of relevant substances. Moreover, it is no longer legally possible to market oxidative colouring agents for application to eyelashes in the EU from July 2013.

The safety data on each hair dye substance submitted for risk assessment by the SCCS in the framework of the assessment strategy contain mandatory data on eye irritation. Therefore, the safety of these substances with regard to the application in the eye area was or will be assessed in the overall evaluation of each individual hair dye substance.

The Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) adopted the scientific opinion by written procedure on 12 October 2012 (SCCS/1475/12) related to the use of oxidative hair dye substances and hydrogen peroxide for use in products to colour eyelashes with the following conclusion:

Information on eye irritation of oxidative dyes at or near anticipated use concentrations intended for eyelashes is available for only some of the dyes. For those tested at such concentrations there was either no or slight irritant potential and their use is considered safe in permanent eyelash dye formulations intended for the consumer. Dyes tested at higher concentration which was found to be not or slightly irritant can be considered safe. It is unknown what the irritant potential is of those dyes which have not been tested at use concentrations but which are irritant at the concentrations tested. For these substances appropriate information is required before they can be assessed.

For those hair dyes substances for which there is information on eye irritation at anticipated dilutions and were found to have no or slight effects, there is no concern about eye irritation in the consumer.

For those hair dyes substances for which there is no information on eye irritant potential at anticipated dilutions, it is not possible to draw a conclusion without additional information on eye irritant potential at anticipated use concentrations. For those dyes which are skin sensitizers, there is a risk of allergic contact dermatitis developing in previously sensitised individuals. No detailed information is available on the ocular irritant properties of permanent eyelash dyes formulations intended for the consumer and these formulations need to be assessed on a case by case basis by the supplier.

In December 2013 the Commission received the attached submission by Cosmetics Europe². According to the applicant the document contains the requested information for six out of the ten dyes and the selection reflects the commercial interest of companies who funded the studies.

1-<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:342:0059:0209:en:PDF>

2-Cosmetics Europe- European Cosmetics Toiletry and Perfumery Association

2. Terms of reference

1. *Does SCCS consider the submitted safety data, in particular the data provided on eye irritation, sufficient to conclude that oxidative hair dyes which were found safe for use in hair dye products can be safely used in products to colour eyelashes?*
3. *And/or does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of the oxidative hair dyes (the ones related to the submitted data) intended to colour eyelashes (e.g. max conc. in the finish cosmetic product, warning)?*

Deadline: