



Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety

SCCS

**Memorandum on Scientific Evaluations and Opinions to
be adopted by the SCCS**

The SCCS adopted this memorandum at its 2nd Plenary meeting

on 18 June 2013

About the Scientific Committees

Three independent non-food Scientific Committees provide the Commission with the scientific advice it needs when preparing policy and proposals relating to consumer safety, public health and the environment. The Committees also draw the Commission's attention to the new or emerging problems which may pose an actual or potential threat. They are: the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS), the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) and are made up of external experts.

In addition, the Commission relies upon the work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

SCCS

The Committee shall provide opinions on questions concerning all types of health and safety risks (notably chemical, biological, mechanical and other physical risks) of non-food consumer products (for example: cosmetic products and their ingredients, toys, textiles, clothing, personal care and household products such as detergents, etc.) and services (for example: tattooing, artificial sun tanning, etc.).

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ISSN 1831-4767

Doi:10.2772/67183

ISBN 978-92-79-30110-0

ND-AQ-13-003-EN-N

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http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/index_en.htm

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Keywords: SCCS, memorandum, scientific evaluations, directive 76/768/ECC

Opinion to be cited as: SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety), memorandum on Scientific Evaluations and Opinions to be adopted by the SCCS, 18 June 2013

Safety of cosmetic products is based on the safety of the ingredients. The "*Notes of Guidance for Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients and Their Safety Evaluation by the SCCS*" is a document compiled by the members of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS, replacing the former SCCP, SCCNFP and SCC). The document contains relevant information on the different aspects of testing and safety evaluation of cosmetic substances in Europe. It is designed to provide guidance to public authorities and the cosmetic industry, in order to improve harmonised compliance with actual cosmetic EU legislation (1).

As early as 2001/2002 the SCCNFP, a predecessor of SCCS, has brought attention to incomplete dossiers submitted for safety evaluations of cosmetic ingredients (2). Following this, in 2002 the SCCNFP outlined the requirements for toxicological dossiers for safety evaluations of cosmetic ingredients (3, 4). This resulted in availability of improved dossiers for safety evaluations. However, in the past few years, the SCCS has found that several dossiers submitted are lacking necessary information/studies for the safety evaluation of the respective cosmetic ingredient. The SCCS, therefore, emphasizes that the toxicological dossiers should be complete as described in references 1, 2, 3 and 4. Furthermore, the SCCS points out that every dossier should include all information and original studies on a cosmetic ingredient, which are submitted for safety evaluation of the same substance in another agency.

The European Commission is invited, where necessary for regulatory purpose, to organize the exchange of data for the safety evaluation by SCCS with other agencies, e.g. ECHA and EFSA.

A specific problem is evident with regard to safety dossiers on nanomaterials. The supporting evidence submitted for a given nanomaterial under assessment is sometimes completely on irrelevant materials and may include information on non-nano forms, entirely different physico-chemicals parameters and morphological forms, and not the actual material used in cosmetics products.

The ban on animal studies for the safety evaluation of cosmetic ingredients is now in force. The Commission has adopted Commission Communication COM(2013) 135 final on 11 March 2013, which also outlines the Commission's understanding of the scope of the bans. Accordingly, data generated before the respective deadlines can continue to be relied on. It is also possible to rely on data generated after the deadlines, provided that the data was generated for compliance with non-cosmetics related legislative frameworks and for ingredients that are not exclusively used in cosmetics. For some cosmetic ingredients, toxicity data may therefore be available from other areas, or a review of data may be published from other agencies on internet. The SCCS may decide to use such data when appropriate. This applies to all available scientific information including animal studies.

References

1. SCCS/1501/12 The SCCS's notes of guidance for the testing of cosmetic substances and their safety evaluation 8th revision adopted at the 17th plenary meeting of 11 December 2012
2. Memorandum on Scientific Evaluations and Opinions adopted by the SCCNFP during the 17th Plenary Meeting of 12 June 2001.
3. Discussion paper on assessment on assessment strategies for hair dyes adopted by the SCCNFP during the 19th Plenary meeting of 27 February 2002
4. Updated basic requirements for toxicological dossiers to be evaluated by the SCCNFP during the 22nd plenary meeting of 17 December 2002
5. Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 November 2009 on cosmetic products