

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

Request for a scientific opinion on the colorant Carbon Black, CI 77266 nano CAS n. 1333-86-4, EC n. 215-609-9

1. Background

Carbon Black, CI 77266 CAS n. 1333-86-4, EC n. 215-609-9, listed in Annex IV as reference number 126 of the Cosmetic Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009, is used as colorant in cosmetic products.

According to the applicant the ingredient Carbon Black CI 77266 has a long history of use as a cosmetic colorant. Typical uses of Carbon Black are in different types of cosmetic products, typical use concentrations range from 0,001% to 10% with 0.001% for skin products, 5% for nail enamels and mascaras and up to 10% for other eye decorative products such as eyeliners, eye pencils and eye shadows.

As a result of the recast of the European Cosmetic Directive (76/768/EEC) into the Cosmetic Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009 a new description will be necessary for this chemical. According to the definition established in the Cosmetic Regulation under art. 2(k), this material is a nanomaterial. Based on this new definition, specific data on the material in its nano form was submitted by the applicant.

According to the applicant the present dossier evaluates the safety of Carbon Black/CI 77266 taking into account most recent recommendations for the safety evaluation of nanomaterial. These recommendations include the SCCS "Guidance on the safety assessment of nanomaterials in cosmetics" (SCCS/1484/12) as well as ECHA "Recommendations for nanomaterials applicable to Chapter R7a Endpoint specific guidance" (ECHA, 2012).

Regarding the tests for nanomaterials, the review of health effects-related testing guidelines concluded that, in general, the OECD guidelines are applicable for investigating the health effects of nanomaterials, but specific attention needs to be given to the physicochemical characteristics of the test material, including such characteristics in the actual dosing solution (OECD, 2009; OECD 2010; OECD, 2012; REACH nanoconsultation, 2011).

The current submission I- according to Cosmetics Europe - provides an overall safety assessment for this ingredient in nano-form, which takes into account the available information.

2. Terms of reference

(1) Does the SCCS consider Carbon Black, CI 77266 in its nano form safe for use as a colorant with a concentration up to 10 % in all cosmetic products taking into account the scientific data provided? If no, is it possible to differentiate the concentration safe limit according to the type of cosmetic products?

(2) Does the SCCS have further scientific concern with regard to the use of carbon Black, CI 77266 in its nano form as a colorant in cosmetic products?