SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

Request for a scientific opinion on Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7). Submission I

Commission Department requesting the Opinion: Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

1. Background

Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) and its salts, as Calcium salicylate, Magnesium salicylate, MEAsalicylate, Sodium salicylate, Potassium salicylate and TEA- salicylate (CAS 824-35-1/18917-89-0/59866-70-5/54-21-7/578-36-9/2174-16-5) are currently listed in Annex V (entry 3) of the Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009 (Cosmetics Regulation) as preservative to be used in all cosmetic products up to a maximum concentration of 0.5% (acid). The following restriction applies: Not to be used for children under 3 years old, except for shampoos.

Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) is also listed in Annex III (entry 98) of the Cosmetics Regulation to be used up to a maximum concentration of 3.0% for the cosmetic rinse-off hair products and of 2.0% for other products. The following restrictions apply:
Not to be used for children under 3 years old, except for shampoos.
For purposes other than inhibiting the development of micro-organisms in the products.
This purpose has to be apparent from the presentation of the product.

The SCCNFP published an opinion on the safety of Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) in June 2002 (SCCNFP/0522/01)2.

ECHA’s Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) adopted its opinion on the harmonised classification for Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) on 10 March 2016, with a proposed classification as CMR2 under Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008. This proposed classification does not cover the salts of Salicylic acid.

Art. 15 (1) of the Cosmetics Regulation states that ‘a substance classified in category 2 may be used in cosmetic products where the substance has been evaluated by the SCCS and found safe for use in cosmetic products. To these ends the Commission shall adopt the necessary measures in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 32(3) of this Regulation’.

In December 2017, Cosmetics Europe transmitted a safety dossier on Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) intended to demonstrate the safety of the ingredient for its current uses and restrictions.
2. Terms of reference

1. *In light of the new data provided, does the SCCS still consider Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) safe when used as a preservative in all cosmetic products up to a maximum concentration of 0.5% (acid) considering its current restriction as reported above?*

2. *In addition, does the SCCS still consider Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) safe when used for purposes other than inhibiting the development of micro-organisms at a concentration up to 3.0 % for the cosmetic rinse-off hair products and up to 2.0 % for other products considering its current restrictions as reported above?*

3. *Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of Salicylic acid (CAS 69-72-7) in cosmetic products?*

3. **Deadline:** June 2018

4. **Supporting documents:**

   - Folder Reference.zip

The SCCS approved this mandate by written procedure on 22 December 2017.