



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies
Health Technology and Cosmetics

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

Request for a scientific opinion on Resorcinol (CAS No 108-46-3, EC No 203-585-2)

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

1. Background on substances with endocrine disrupting properties

On 7 November 2018, the Commission adopted a review¹ of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products ('Cosmetics Regulation') regarding substances with endocrine disrupting properties. The review concluded that the Cosmetics Regulation provides the adequate tools to regulate the use of cosmetic substances that present a potential risk for human health, including when displaying ED properties.

The Cosmetics Regulation does not have specific provisions on EDs. However, it provides a regulatory framework with a view to ensuring a high level of protection of human health. Environmental concerns that substances used in cosmetic products may raise are considered through the application of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ('REACH Regulation').

In the review, the Commission commits to establishing a priority list of potential EDs not already covered by bans or restrictions in the Cosmetics Regulation for their subsequent safety assessment. A priority list of 28 potential EDs in cosmetics was consolidated in early 2019 based on input provided through a stakeholder consultation. The Commission then organised a public call for data² from 16 May 2019 – 15 October 2019 on 14³ of the 28 substances (to be treated with higher priority) in order to be able to prepare the safety assessment of these substances. Resorcinol is one of the above-mentioned 14 substances for which the call for data took place.

2. Existing information on Resorcinol

In cosmetic products, the ingredient Resorcinol (CAS No 108-46-3, EC No 203-585-2) with the chemical names 1,3-benzenediol and 1,3-dihydroxybenzene is currently regulated as an oxidative hair dye in hair products and products intended for colouring eyelashes in a concentration up to 1,25 % (Annex IV/22 a, b). Furthermore, Resorcinol is also allowed in a concentration up to 0.5 % in hair lotions and shampoos (Annex IV/22 c).

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/EN/COM-2018-739-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

² https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/call-data-ingredients-potential-endocrine-disrupting-properties-used-cosmetic-products_en

³ Benzophenone-3, kojic acid, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor, propylparaben, triclosan, resorcinol, octocrylene, triclocarban, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), benzophenone, homosalate, benzyl salicylate, genistein and daidzein

Resorcinol has been subject to different safety evaluations (1980, 1985, 1987, 1993, 2007, 2009 and 2012). In particular, the SCCS opinion from 2009 states that ‘...the use of resorcinol as an ingredient in oxidative hair dye formulations with a maximum on-head concentration of 1.25% will not pose a risk to the health of the consumer, apart from its sensitising potential.’ In addition, the SCCS opinion from 2012 on oxidative hair substances used in products to colour eyelashes confirmed that Resorcinol is safe up to 1.25% and is not irritant to eyes.

During the call for data, stakeholders submitted scientific evidence to demonstrate the safety of Resorcinol as an oxidative hair dye in cosmetic products. The Commission requests the SCCS to carry out a safety assessment on Resorcinol in view of the information provided.

2. Terms of reference

- (1) *In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the concerns related to potential endocrine disrupting properties of Resorcinol, does the SCCS consider Resorcinol safe when used as an oxidative hair dye in products intended for hair and eyelashes up to 1.25 % and up to 0.5 % in hair lotions and shampoos?*
- (2) *Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of Resorcinol as an oxidative hair dye in products intended for hair and eyelashes and for hair lotions and shampoos?*
- (3) *Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of Resorcinol in cosmetic products?*

3. Deadline: 9 months

4. Supporting documents:

Input from the call for data in 2019 on the safety of Resorcinol in Cosmetic Products.

The SCCS approved this mandate by written procedure on 4 February 2020.