

## **Dermatologists express public concerns over the use of methyldibromo glutaronile in “leave-on” cosmetics.**

**August 2002 - LONDON (United Kingdom)**

Several dermatologists have recently expressed their concerns over the use of methyldibromo glutaronile (1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane) as a preservative in certain cosmetic products. The substance is suspected of being responsible of the rise in the incidence of contact allergy throughout Europe.

This ingredient is regulated in the European Cosmetics Directive Annex VI and can therefore be used as a preservative up to a concentration of 0.1% in finished products marketed in the EU. Furthermore, it must not be used in cosmetic sunscreen products at a concentration exceeding 0.025%. In practice, methyldibromo glutaronile is commonly used in a wide range of cosmetics, but it is its use in sun creams and moisturisers which is causing dermatologists concern because exposure to the potential allergenic substance is greater in these “leave-on” products.

Dr. Ian White, chairman of the EU's Scientific Committee on Cosmetic and Non-Food Products intended for Consumers (SCCNFP) and consultant dermatologist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, said to BBC News Online that “the chemical had been used for many years, but it has become more widely used recently.” He also explained that the Committee “heard the alarm bells ringing, so [it] warned about the situation.”

In fact, the European Commission, which received a letter from the chairman of the Environmental & Contact Dermatitis Research Group (EECDRG) with data demonstrating the rising incidence of contact allergy to methyldibromo glutaronile, asked to the SCCNFP to perform a review on the basis of the data provided. The Committee was questioned on whether further restrictions with regard the use of methyldibromo glutaronile as a preservative in cosmetic products would be necessary or not.

In its opinion issued on June 4, 2002, the SCCNFP stated that the available data “show a clear rise in the incidence of contact allergy to methyldibromo glutaronitrile throughout Europe.” “This indicates that the current usage of the preservative - concentration and product types - is responsible for this rise. Maximum consumer exposure will occur from use of leave-on products containing 0.1% (the maximum permitted) of the preservative, said the Committee”. It therefore recommends restricting its use “to rinse-off products at the current maximum permitted level of 0.1%.”

SCCNFP opinion may be downloaded at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sccp/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sccp/index_en.html)

The SCCNFP is an independent body mandated to advise the E.U. Commission on scientific and technical questions concerning consumer health relating to cosmetic products and non-food products intended for the consumer, especially substances used in the preparation of these products, their composition, use as well as their types of packaging.

Internet source for this article: <http://194.185.232.22/brd/news.asp?ID=158>