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Opinion on Quaternium-15

Quaternium-15 is an approved preservative, under the ASEAN, Europe, China, US and many other countries regulations. Preservatives are ingredients that protect the product from microbial contamination during use.

Though Quaternium-15 might be a formaldehyde releaser, there is no rigorous chemical evidence that it does release formaldehyde in the normal/current practice of use in cosmetic products. Its safety has been widely studied. Formaldehyde itself is allowed in cosmetic products up to a concentration of 0.1% in oral products and 0.2% in all other products. Quaternium-15 is approved in all cosmetic products up to a concentration of 0.2%. Additionally, if the level of free formaldehyde exceeds 0.05% the product must be labeled with the warning “*contains formaldehyde*”.

The CIR (Cosmetic Ingredient Review Board), a group of expert toxicologists reviewing the safety of cosmetic ingredients concluded that the “Cosmetic products containing Quaternium-15 up to 0.2% are safe.”

In addition to the CIR, the SCCS (EU Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety) and the ACSB (ASEAN Cosmetic Scientific Body) have come to the same conclusions.

From all the scientific evidence published today, it is the common conclusion by scientists that Quaternium-15 is safe in cosmetic products at a level up to 0.2%.

There are laws and regulations established by governments to ensure that the companies will only produce and market safe products. The industry associations around the world including in ASEAN are working very hard to

promote safety and quality standards among their members and make sure that companies take compliance seriously and work hard to earn and keep the trust of their consumers and their families.

Consumers have to rest assured that Industry and Regulators are working towards ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy of the cosmetic products available to them. In case unsafe products are found in the market, Regulators keep the public informed of their decisions and actions.

The ASEAN Cosmetic Committee has issued the ASEAN Consumer Information Handbook on Cosmetic Product. This is available on the ASEAN Secretariat web site as well as the ACA web site (<http://aseancosmetics.org/>). The Handbook answers many of the questions commonly asked by consumers or ingredients or products safety.