



Health
Canada

Healthy Environments
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Branch

Santé
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Direction générale,
Santé environnementale et
sécurité des consommateurs

Cosmetics Program
Consumer Product Safety Bureau
Product Safety Directorate
Health Canada

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

April 28, 2009

Beta Montemayor
Manager
Environmental Sciences and Regulations
Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association
420 Britannia Road East, Suite 102
Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3L5


Dear Mr. Montemayor,

**Re: Concerns over the March 2009 Campaign for Safe Cosmetics report on
contaminants in children's bath products.**

This letter is in response to CCTFA's question to Health Canada on whether the Department has any concerns over the recent report from the US-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics Report entitled "No More Toxic Tub: Getting Contaminants Out of Children's Bath & Personal Care Products".

The report highlights the presence of formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane in a number of children's bath products sold in the US that are also found on the Canadian market, with a maximum of 610 ppm and 35 ppm respectively. Based on the current scientific and regulatory information, Health Canada's Cosmetics Division does not consider the amounts of these substances presented in the report to pose a concern to health.

As formaldehyde may cause sensitivity in some individuals, the amount acceptable in cosmetic ingredients is not permitted to exceed 0.2% (2000 ppm) or 0.1% (1000 ppm) in skin/hair products and oral products respectively, which is the minimum concentration that provides effective anti-microbial effect. Formaldehyde is not acceptable in aerosol cosmetics, as the aerosolized formaldehyde has not been shown to be safe. The restrictions set out on formaldehyde in the Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist are consistent with the EU requirements and CIR conclusion.

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Although 1,4-dioxane is on the Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist as being prohibited from use as an ingredient in cosmetics, it is recognized that this substance may form during the manufacturing of some products, such as bubble bath and shampoo. Health Canada has not established limits for 1,4-dioxane impurities for cosmetics at this time. In the interim, established impurity limits for similar products are used as a reference for cosmetics, namely USP's 380 ppm limit for drugs.

None of the amounts of formaldehyde or 1,4-dioxane presented in the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics report approached or exceeded Health Canada's limits for these ingredients. Therefore, based on the available information, there is no need for any regulatory intervention at this time. Health Canada will continue to monitor information on these substances as it becomes available to ensure that the cosmetic products on the market remain safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luisa Carter-Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Luisa Carter-Phillips
Head, Cosmetics Division