



CANADIAN COSMETIC, TOILETRY  
AND FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES COSMÉTIQUES,  
PRODUITS DE TOILETTE ET PARFUMS

## **HOLDING STATEMENT**

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### **Personal Care Products Continue to be Closely Regulated**

The highest priority of the cosmetic and personal care product industry is to ensure the health and safety of consumers through the marketing of products that are safe, effective and that do not damage our environment. CCTFA and its member companies have a long history of working with Health Canada and Environment Canada to promote and maintain consumer safety and confidence in the cosmetic and personal care product sector.

In a follow-up to their campaign aimed at the regulation of cosmetics and personal care products in Canada and a “dirty dozen” of cosmetic ingredients, the David Suzuki Foundation announced the results of a consumer survey it initiated last April. Information is also being provided on the regulation of personal care products in Canada as well as a list of twelve ingredients consumers are being urged to avoid. This information on these ingredients is limited, often out of context or misleading.

In Canada, cosmetics and personal care products are regulated under the *Food and Drugs Act (F&DA)* and it is illegal to put onto the market any personal care product that may cause harm to the health and safety of the consumer when the product is used as intended. More specifically, a personal care product must meet the requirements established by either the *Cosmetic Regulations*, *Drug Regulations* or *Natural Health Products Regulations* of the F&DA depending on the ingredients and intended use of the product. For example, products that are used for therapeutic purposes must be fully compliant with the high standards of Canada’s *Drug or Natural Health Product Regulations* depending on the active ingredient in the product. Several categories of personal care products that may be classified as drugs or natural health products include: primary sunscreens; secondary sunscreens (i.e.: make-up, moisturizers, lip balms, etc. that make a SPF claim); acne products; medicated skin care/diaper rash products; antiseptic skin cleansers; antidandruff products; and fluoride-containing anticaries products (toothpaste). Cosmetic products must meet the requirements of the *Cosmetic Regulations* which include the prohibition or restriction on the use of certain ingredients. These ingredients are listed on Health Canada’s “Hot List” of prohibited or restricted ingredients and this list is maintained and regularly updated by Health Canada based upon the best and most recent science available from around the world.

Health Canada also works cooperatively with regulatory authorities from around the world including, but not limited to, the European Union, United States and Japan to ensure that the highest standards of health and safety are applied to personal care products sold in Canada.

As to the environmental safety of ingredients, the Government of Canada has embarked on its Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) and today is one of the world’s leaders in assessing the environmental safety of chemicals. Many ingredients used in personal care products have been or are currently in review under this process.



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Throughout all of these regulatory processes, the principals of sound science and risk assessment are applied. Evolving or new science, and/or risk information, is regularly being reviewed and considered as well as shared among regulators internationally. Regulations, including prohibition or restrictions on the use of an ingredient, can be quickly changed to protect the consumer when such action is warranted based upon sound science and risk assessment.

The David Suzuki Foundation, or any other stakeholder, is free to provide Health and/or Environment Canada with any information, data, or study it believes suggests that a currently used ingredient is a risk to consumers or to the environment.

In response to the claims made by the David Suzuki Foundation, the CCTFA forwarded the list of those so called “dirty dozen” ingredients to Health Canada and asked if there are any further regulations being contemplated as a result of any new or previously unknown scientific information or risk assessment on these substances. A copy of their detailed response, which indicates that no further regulatory action is being contemplated, is attached.

In the Canadian regulatory system, Health and Environment Canada will ultimately be the respective final arbitrators in protecting Canadians. Canadian consumers can therefore be assured that the personal care products that are on the market today are safe when used as intended and that processes are in place to regularly update the science and risk assessment on which decisions are made.

CCTFA is the national association representing the Canadian cosmetic, toiletry, and fragrance industry. CCTFA's mission is “While playing a meaningful societal role, to encourage trust and confidence in the Canadian cosmetic, toiletry and fragrance industry and in the safety, efficacy and quality of its products.” CCTFA and its member companies promote achievement of these goals by encouraging a close working relationship with governments, health-care professionals, and the consumer.