

Certificate Creator®: An Innovative Toxicological Software and Database

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Abstract

Whether to enhance our features (make up) or just take care of our skin (facial lotions, body cream), cosmetics are part of our everyday life. The number of components in these products ranges from one to a legion. For instance we can find ingredients such as water, oils, preservatives, fragrances, colourants. The proportion in which they are present determines the safety of the cosmetic product. It is therefore crucial to analyse the toxicity of each component.

Nowadays, the variety of cosmetic products available is large and consumers are increasingly concerned about the safety of the products they apply on their skin. They need more information and transparency from industrials.

A recent EC regulation is going to enforce more restrictive conditions of production. Whether in packaging (more information needs to appear) or marketing (safety assessments are mandatory as well as a challenge test prior to the launch a product), more rules are applied to satisfy consumers' concerns.

Therefore, industrials will be faced with new obligations in 2013. They need to take into account this regulation right now to be prepared for the future. Thus, we must find means to face this huge demand for safety assessments and cosmetic reports.

Consequently our agency has developed a new informatics tool. It is composed of four complementary software components that facilitate the editing of a full safety assessment as well as the management of the agency.

This article aims to highlight the use of informatics as a useful and invaluable tool to face a changing cosmetics context.

Introduction

The world of cosmetics is in constant evolution. Regulations are being reviewed and modified to answer the growing concerns about products' safety.

One of the main concerns of industrials all over the world has been ignited by the newest regulation applicable in 2013.

This new regulation enforces different new concerns: the presence of nanomaterials in a product has to be notified on the packaging, dosage of traces and impurities and a challenge test is made mandatory. The New Regulation in Cosmetics Products (EC No 1223/2009) causes the creation of cosmetic products to be more complex and rigorous than ever, more and more safety tests and assessments have to be made, transparency towards the consumers is privileged.

Moreover, similar reinforcements are witnessed in other fields such as: toys, biocides, complementary diets, chemicals and medical devices.

Therefore, advice on regulatory matters as well as scientific matters is sought for by industrials. The growing number of conferences and summits on these subjects attest to the growing concern of professionals.

These concerns are worldwide as brands expand all over the world. However, regulations may vary from one country to another. In Asia, for instance, countries that are members of the ASEAN respect regulations similar to those in Europe, whereas non-members answer to other regulations. The lack of uniformity within countries' regulations represents another obstacle to exporting cosmetic products. Thus, appealing to specialised agencies, such as ours will ease the administrative burden on industrials' shoulders.

Furthermore, customers are more and more demanding as to the information received about ingredients in cosmetic products. Indeed, the flow of information available online or in magazines, whether trustworthy or not, fuels anxiety about the safety of cosmetics. The recent decree forbidding phthalates in children's products in France attests to the media coverage of such issues and answers the concerns of worried parents.