

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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RECAST OF COSMETIC DIRECTIVE

Cosmetic products are currently regulated under the Cosmetic Directive 76/768/EEC, which entered into force in 1976, with subsequently 55 amendments up to now. On 24 March 2009, European Parliament voted the Recast of European Cosmetic Directive and European Commission has decided to simplify the Cosmetic Directive and is expected to be completed during 2009.

The objectives of simplification of current Cosmetic Directive is to remove legal uncertainties and inconsistencies between different Member States and to implement a better system to ensure safety of cosmetic products within EU market.

The EU Cosmetics Legislation will become a regulation and therefore will be directly applicable in all Member States. This recast involves several changes, including a tighter in-market control, better regulation on cosmetic ingredients, a comprehensive system for product safety assessment and new labeling requirements.

Brief Introduction of the Recast

One of the major proposed changes in the coming Cosmetic Legislation is a simplified, centralised and electronic notification system in the European Union.

As usual as before, "Product Information Package" (PIP) should be ready for assessment. In addition to



the previous requirements, "Preservation Efficacy Test" (or "Challenge Test") will be included in the PIP. Preservation challenge test should be performed to evaluate the ability of a preservative effectiveness in a finished product to protect against the growth of microorganisms.

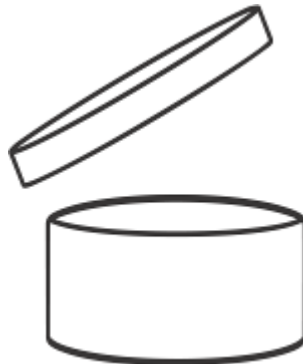
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An 'hourglass' symbol is introduced for the labeling of product's expiry date (Figure 1). In the new legislation, the date of minimum durability should appear on the label, which is preceded by the words "Best used before the end of" or by the new "hourglass" symbol. The labeling for product with minimum durability more than 30 months remains unchanged, which means that the indication of the period of time after opening for safe use can be indicated by the "open-jar" symbol (Figure 2), followed by the period in months and/or years.

Figure 1



Figure 2



In order to comply with new EU cosmetic requirements, cosmetic manufacturers and importers should be aware of the coming changes and take action now.

SGS is experienced in regulatory requirements of cosmetic in different markets, and provides professional consultation and product testing services. If you are interested in our services, please don't hesitate to contact us and [visit our website](#).

Also, the manufacture process should comply with GMP requirements in accordance with the relevant harmonized standards (e.g. ISO 22716 - Cosmetics – Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) – Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices).

There is a slight modification on the regulation of chemicals classified as Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or Toxic to Reproduction (CMR). Under current 76/768/EEC, chemicals classified as CMR category 1, 2 and 3 will be automatically banned in cosmetics. However, CMR 3 may be allowed in certain use condition if their safety is reviewed by the Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety (SCCS). CMR 1 and 2 is also allowed, provided that they are complying with the food safety requirements as defined in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, there is lack of alternatives, the application is made for a particular use of the product category with a known exposure, and have been evaluated and found safe for use by the SCCS in cosmetic products.

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