

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## RESTRICTED MEASURE ON DIETHYLENE GLYCOL AND TOLUENE IN COSMETICS

In February 2009, the Annexes II and III of EU Cosmetic Directive 76/768/EEC are amended by adopting 2009/6/EC. Restricted measures have been set for the following chemicals:

Diethylene Glycol (DEG) is used in cosmetic products function as solvent, viscosity controlling and masking/perfuming. In 2007, a huge number of recall cases were reported due to the presence of DEG in toothpaste. It is an impurity in glycerol and polyethylene glycols which are common ingredients in oral care products. The European Pharmacopoeia defines limits for DEG in glycerol (0.1% DEG) and polyethylene glycols (0.4% sum of ethylene glycol and DEG). In accordance with 2009/6/EC, DEG should not be used as an ingredient in cosmetic products, but a maximum concentration of up to 0.1% of DEG from impurities in the finished cosmetic products can be considered to be safe.



Currently, Toluene is banned in adhesive and spray paint at concentrations above 0.1% in products for the general public according to Directive 76/769/EEC (to be repealed by REACH directive) on certain dangerous substances and preparations. Although Toluene is classified as a CMR<sup>1</sup> substance of category 3 under Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) concluded it is safe from the general toxicological point of view when present up to 25% in nail products. However, its inhalation by children should be avoided, and warning sentences are required to present on product label according to the 2009/6/EC.



<sup>1</sup> carcinogen, mutagen, reprotoxic

Below please find a table for summarizing the amended requirements of the chemicals:

Substance	CAS No.	Limitation and requirement
Diethylene glycol (DEG)	111-46-6	Prohibited as a cosmetic ingredient (Not more than 0.1% as impurity)
Toluene	108-88-3	Not more than 25% in nail products Labeling information required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep out of reach of children</li> <li>To be used by adults only</li> </ul>
Butoxydiglycol/ Diethylene glycol monobutyl glycol (DEGBE)	112-34-6	Not more than 9% as solvent in hair dye products Prohibited in aerosol dispensers (sprays)
Butoxyethanol/ Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (EGBE)	111-76-2	Not more than 4% as solvent in oxidative hair dye products Not more than 2% as solvent in non-oxidative hair dye products Prohibited in aerosol dispensers (sprays)
Phytonadione	84-80-0; 81818-54-4	Prohibited as a cosmetic ingredient



The new regulation of the above chemicals will come into force on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009, except the requirement of Toluene will come into force on 5 February 2010.

If you are concern about the presence of restricted chemicals in your cosmetic products, SGS can help to provide you an answer. Contact us now!.

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