

Statement: 29 April 2015

HPRA working at EU level to remove/reduce MI in cosmetics

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), responsible for ensuring that the cosmetics industry complies with relevant legislation, states that whilst the vast majority of consumers won't have sensitivity to Methylisothiazolinone (MI), it is concerned about increased sensitivity to MI overall. The HPRA, in tandem with our colleagues across the other EU Member States, has been and is currently working with the European Commission on new laws to reduce the amount of MI permitted in cosmetic products.

Currently, there are legal limits as to how much MI can be contained in cosmetic products, both on its own and in combination with Methylchloroisothiazolinone (MCI). The HPRA has fully supported proposals for the removal of MI from **leave-on cosmetic products**. There will be new legislation in place for the mixture of MI/MCI this year. From July no new leave-on cosmetic products containing the MI/MCI mixture will be allowed to be placed on the market. No leave-on cosmetic products containing the MI/MCI mixture will be allowed on the market from April 2016.

The European Commission is currently drafting legislation to prohibit MI, on its own, in leave-on cosmetic products.

A review is currently taking place on the scientific evidence relating to the continued use of MI in **rinse-off cosmetic products**. Following this process, new proposals for changing the current levels may be made. The HPRA's position in relation to rinse-off products will be to support such recommendations that offer the most consumer protection.

The HPRA advises consumers who experience any undesirable effects relating to a cosmetic product, to:

- Stop using the product immediately;
- Symptoms will usually reduce but if not, or if they recur, contact your doctor who may refer you to a dermatologist for further allergy testing;
- Pay attention to production information and ingredients of cosmetic products;
- Report your experience to your healthcare professional, the manufacturer (whose contact details are on the product packaging) or indeed directly to us at the HPRA. Consumers can submit reports through our website www.hpra.ie or by emailing us at cosmetics@hpra.ie.

The HPRA has published an [Advisory Notice for consumers](#) which contains further information in respect of this issue.

Further information on the regulation of cosmetic products in general can be found in the [Cosmetics section](#) of our website.

ENDS

MEDIA QUERIES

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ABOUT THE HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) protects and enhances public health and animal health by regulating medicines, medical devices and other health products. The products under its remit include human and veterinary medicines, medical devices, blood and blood components, tissues and cells, organs for transplantation and cosmetics. Formerly known as the Irish Medicines Board (IMB), it became the Health Products Regulatory Authority on 1 July 2014.