

## Market Surveillance Study - Summary Report

### “Cosmetics for kids fail to comply with regulations”

#### Introduction



In recent years, cosmetic products that appeal to children have often failed to satisfy the legal requirements in Europe and in particular, products with attractive packaging, sometimes showing images of well-known characters from films or the toy sector. Children and adults perceive these products as toys. Products may be part of attractive sets, serve as gifts and bear warning notes that are common for toys. Most of the producers of such cosmetics are toy manufacturers or trading companies.

To provide the surveillance authorities with reliable data on the extent of quality concerns, the European Network of Official Cosmetics Control Laboratories (OCCLs) conducted a Europe-wide market surveillance study on so-called “kids’ cosmetics” and included in the study common care products for infants and older children for comparison.

#### Samples

In the years 2011 to 2013, a total of 702 cosmetic products were sampled by the competent authorities in eleven countries. About 50 per cent of the products (329 samples) corresponded to the type “kids’ cosmetics” and 50 per cent (373 products) were classified as common care products for children. One third (33%) of the kids’ cosmetics had been produced in China, compared to only 1% of the tested care products.

#### Investigations

Depending on the OCCL laboratory, the samples were tested for ingredients like colorants, preservatives, fragrances, sunscreen agents or mineral paraffin, for impurities like heavy metals, phthalates or nitrosamines as well as for microbiological contamination. Further on, compliance with declaration requirements was checked.

#### Results

The overall compliance of kids’ cosmetics was very low compared to the common care products. Authorities objected to 34% of the collected kid’s cosmetics and only to 7% of the care products. Sales bans were issued for 4.0% of the kids’ cosmetics but only for 0.3% of the care products. The use of unallowed colourants, the presence of the preservatives methylisothiazolinone and methylchloroisothiazolinone in amounts above the authorised concentration limits and the presence of toxic impurities like lead or nitrosamines (nitrosodiethanolamine, nitrosodimethylamine) were amongst the reasons for sales bans.

Nail varnishes (73% of the samples), perfumes (47%), body and face paints (36%), lip products (29%) and eye products (29%) had to be rejected. Nearly every second product originating from China (46%) was objected to. It became evident that due to the high rate of objections, this product category should be closely monitored in the future.

The activities were coordinated by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM). For further information, please contact the national authorities.