

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000169

OUTCOME: 7 – Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: Animal Testing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

Question:

May I have details of the cosmetic ingredients imported into Australia over the past year that required testing on animals, or that had been tested on animals?

Answer:

Many cosmetic ingredients imported into Australia are listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (ie they are existing chemicals that may have been the subject of animal tests in the past, but that may now be introduced without notification to the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)). Many other cosmetic ingredients are introduced in volumes lower than one tonne per year, or are polymers with high molecular weights and so are notified and assessed under categories (such as Limited or Polymer of Low Concern (PLC) certificates, or Low Volume Chemical Permits) that do not have statutory toxicological data requirements. Furthermore, cosmetic ingredients that are introduced in low volumes or low concentrations may be exempt from notification and assessment (and NICNAS is therefore not provided with information as to whether or not animal testing has been carried out). Once a certificate has been issued following the assessment of a new chemical, NICNAS does not collect data regarding whether or not the chemical is actually introduced (ie imported or manufactured).

NICNAS therefore cannot provide details on all cosmetic ingredients imported into Australia over the past year that have been tested on animals. However, the full reports of NICNAS's risk assessments, including details of the tests submitted for each chemical, are published on the NICNAS website.

In the 2013-14 financial year, NICNAS issued eight certificates for new chemicals introduced as ingredients in cosmetic products for which a standard assessment (with statutory data requirements) was conducted. For six of these chemicals, data from animal tests conducted on the notified chemical were submitted for at least one of the health endpoints, while for the remaining two approvals the animal test data submitted were data from tests previously conducted on similar (analogue) chemicals. The details of the cosmetic ingredients that had at least one animal test conducted on the notified chemical are provided in Table 1.

Table 1

NICNAS Assessment	Chemical Name and INCI* name
STD/1443	Amides, rape oil, N-(hydroxyethyl), ethoxylated (INCI name: PEG-4 Rapeseedamide)
STD/1451	Imidazolium compounds, 2-(C9-19 and C9-19-unsatd. alkyl)-1-[(C10-20 and C10-20-unsatd. amido)ethyl]-4,5-dihydro-1-Me, Me sulfates (INCI name: Quaternium-87)
STD/1433	L-Arginine hydrogen carbonate (INCI name: Arginine Bicarbonate)
STD/1471	1,2,3-Propanetricarboxylic acid, 2-hydroxy-, tri-C14-15-alkyl esters (INCI name: Tri-C14-15 alkyl citrate)
STD/1498	Fatty acids, coco, 2-sulfoethyl esters, ammonium salts (INCI name: Ammonium Cocoyl Isethionate)
STD/1435	D-Glucopyranose, oligomeric, 12-hydroxyoctadecyl glycosides (INCI Name: Hydroxystearyl Glucoside)

*INCI = International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients. The ingredient list on the label of a cosmetic product typically uses INCI names.