

# **Toxicological Information- und Data Network - A European Challenge?**

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## **Concept for Product Information about Cosmetics**

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Cosmetic products (e.g. soaps, shower gels, hair shampoos, tooth pastes, deodorants, lip sticks, skin creams, aftershaves, etc) are safe to consumers in their reasonably foreseeable uses.

Although these products are common and found in practically all households, ingestion accidents with cosmetic products are comparatively rare. As the toxicity of these products is mostly low, no or only harmless symptoms occur in the vast majority of such cases. However it is important for poison control centres to know that a certain product is harmless to avoid unnecessary, possibly in-patient, treatment.

A declaration system for cosmetic products based on frame formulations was developed together with the *European Association of Poison Control Centres and Clinical Toxicologists* (EAPCCT) and the European Cosmetic Toiletry and Perfumery Association (COLIPA). For certain toxicologically relevant ingredients the exact content or a concentration range must be stated. There are only few types of cosmetic products without frame formulations; for these products their quantitative and qualitative formulations are notified.

The notification of frame formulations provides, on the one side, poison control centres with all the necessary information about products. On the other side the workload and costs for manufacturers of cosmetic products are kept as low as possible.

The submission of formulations in the conventional manner on paper has been largely replaced by electronic notifications in the form of so-called KOS files. In cooperation with the German Federal Institute for Health Protection of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine (Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin - BgVV) in Berlin, the IKW initially developed the notification programme "BgVV-Meldeprogramm". As this programme met with a positive response also abroad, a trilingual version

(German, English, French) has been available since September 2000. The name of this new version is **SYSDECOS**.