

## Letters to the Editor

### Allergenic ingredients in nail polishes

Dear Sir

The article by Sainio et al. (1) on nail polish ingredients comments on the paucity of products free of toluenesulfonamide/formaldehyde resin (TSFR). They also report the presence of TSFR in Almay nail enamels. Since 1994, Almay has manufactured only TSFR-free formulations utilizing glyceryl tribenzoate as part of a unique patented resin system. This formula is also toluene-free.

It is also worth emphasizing that the new INCI nomenclature adopted for use in the European Union (2) has adopted the revised CTFA ingredient name for TSFR, *tosylamide/formaldehyde* resin. The latter name will appear on ingredient disclosures in the United States and European Union.

Yours sincerely

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#### References

1. Sainio E-L, Engström K, Henriks-Eckerman M-L, Kanerva L. Allergenic ingredients in nail polishes. *Contact Dermatitis* 1997; 37: 155-162.
2. De Groot A C, Weijland J W. Conversion of common names of cosmetic allergens to the INCI nomenclature. *Contact Dermatitis* 1997; 37: 145-150.

### Reply

Dear Sir

We appreciate Almay's concern about their customers, and are delighted to learn that the cosmetics industry is improving their products. Apparently, the product that we analyzed was from an old batch (bought in Finland in 1995; ref. (1)). Furthermore, it is certainly worthwhile using the new INCI nomenclature (2) in future scientific reports, toluenesulfonamide/formaldehyde resin being replaced by the INCI name *tosylamide/formaldehyde* resin.

Yours sincerely

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#### References

1. Sainio E-L, Engström K, Henriks-Eckerman M-L, Kanerva L. Allergenic ingredients in nail polishes. *Contact Dermatitis* 1997; 37: 155-162.
2. De Groot A C, Weijland J W. Conversion of common names of cosmetic allergens to the INCI nomenclature. *Contact Dermatitis* 1997; 37: 145-150.