

Letter to the Editor

Procedures for supplying fragrance information promptly to dermatologists

Dear Sir,

The following procedure has been approved by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA), including all its regional and national associations (e.g. in Europe, Japan, North and South America) and has been shared with COLIPA (The European Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association), CTFA (Cosmetics, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, US) and JCIA (Japanese Cosmetic Industry Association).

Introduction

A very small segment of the consumer population who use cosmetic products may experience a skin reaction to a product. If this happens, the cosmetic user may seek treatment by a dermatologist who, in turn, may seek information – from the product manufacturer – about the product composition.

If the cosmetic product contains a fragrance compound that may be considered as a possible cause for the skin reaction, it is to the benefit of the patient and the dermatologist, as well as the cosmetic manufacturer and fragrance supplier, to have a mechanism in place that allows quick access to sound information to the dermatologist about ingredients contained in the fragrance.

The following procedure describes how the process of seeking and tracing information generally works and how the fragrance industry and its trade association, IFRA, can provide assistance.

Procedure

Step 1

The dermatologist tries to obtain all the necessary details from the patient about the product that is supposed to be the cause of the skin reaction. An initial step is to check the product's ingredient declaration (INCI names) in order to identify ingredients that might have been causative. This will also show whether, in fact, the product contains a fra-

grance; this is indicated by the term 'Fragrance' or 'Parfum' in the ingredient listing. It should be noted that it is proposed that in future, in the European Union, some selected fragrance ingredients will also be found as part of the ingredient declaration. (Full list of ingredients in Appendix 1)

Step 2

The dermatologist may seek further information regarding the product (including specific information about the fragrance). Therefore a contact with the manufacturer of the product needs to be established. This may be done by: (a) using the contact telephone number which may be provided on the product label or packaging; or (b) obtaining a contact telephone number of the product manufacturer via the address as given on the packaging of the product or by assistance of the shop where the product was bought (or any shop that sells the brand); or (c) contacting the appropriate trade association for the cosmetics industry, i.e. *CTFA* (Cosmetics, Toiletry and Fragrance Association) in the USA: the CTFA provides information on how to contact its member companies via its website <http://www.ctfa.org> → Consumer Information → Company Contact Information; *COLIPA* in Europe: COLIPA (The European Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association), Rue de Congress, 5–7, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: + 32 22276610, Fax: + 32 22276627, e-mail: dgilles@colipa.be; *JCIA* in Japan: JCIA (Japanese Cosmetic Industry Association) Hatsumei Kakan, 2-9-14 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001, Japan. Tel: + 81 335020576, Fax: + 81 335020829, e-mail: k-takano@jcia.org, to identify the appropriate contact person for the manufacturer.

A first entry could be the consumer affairs department, which should then be able to route the request to the appropriate person.

The more details that can be given regarding the concerned cosmetic product, the easier it will be to identify. Information that should be available

when contacting the cosmetic manufacturer comprises:

- Name of the product
- Name of the brand
- Product code or reference
- Batch code

It is recommended that the consumer keeps the original product that is suspected to be the cause of the skin reaction not just for identification purpose, but also in case that further investigations are necessary.

Step 3

If, based on the information received from the dermatologist, the fragrance is suspected to be the cause of the skin reaction, the cosmetic manufacturer can identify the fragrance that forms part of the cosmetic product of concern and its supplier. At this stage the manufacturer and the dermatologist should agree whether: (a) fragrance information will be provided to the dermatologist through the manufacturer; or (b) the name of the fragrance supplier company (and an experienced contact person) will be given to the dermatologist so that direct contact can be established.

To assist both the cosmetic manufacturer and the dermatologist at this stage the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) maintains a list of scientifically qualified contacts for all its member (fragrance supplier) companies and ensures it is always up to date. These activities should lead to the result that in all cases of inquiries an efficient contact can be made in the minimum amount of time.

Step 4

Depending on the agreement made in step 3, the fragrance manufacturer or the cosmetics manufacturer gets back to the dermatologist with the agreed information. If the dermatologist needs samples for further testing the details should also be agreed at this stage and the samples promptly despatched.

Step 5

Further investigation by the dermatologist to identify the real cause for the skin reaction is to be carried out.

Step 6

As far as fragrance materials are concerned, the dermatologist should supply the cosmetic and

fragrance manufacturer with the results of the investigations (material that caused the adverse reaction, type of application, etc.). This enables the manufacturers to build up a database of important information for their safety evaluations. Appendix 2 contains a schematic of the procedure.

Final Remark

To make the flow of information as described above work efficiently requires an excellent cooperation between all involved parties. IFRA and its members on their part will give their best contribution.

Yours sincerely,
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Appendix 1. List of the 26 fragrance ingredients proposed for labelling on cosmetic products in Europe

CAS number	INCI name
122-40-7	Amyl cinnamal
100-51-6	Benzyl alcohol
104-54-1	Cinnamyl alcohol
5392-40-5	Citral
97-53-0	Eugenol
107-75-5	Hydroxycitronellal
97-54-1	Isoeugenol
101-85-9	Amylcinnamyl alcohol
118-58-1	Benzyl salicylate
104-55-2	Cinnamal
91-64-5	Coumarin
106-24-1	Geraniol
31906-04-4	Hydroxyisohexyl 3-cyclohexene carboxaldehyde
105-13-5	Anise alcohol
103-41-3	Benzyl cinnamate
4602-84-0	Farnesol
80-54-6	Butylphenyl methylpropional
78-70-6	Linalool
120-51-4	Benzyl benzoate
106-22-9	Citronellol
101-86-0	Hexyl cinnamal
5989-27-5	Limonene
111-12-6	Methyl 2-octynoate
127-51-5	Alpha isomethyl ionone
90028-68-5	<i>Evernia prunastri</i> (oakmoss) extract
90028-67-5	<i>Evernia furfuracea</i> (treemoss) extract

Appendix 2. Schematic of procedure for supplying fragrance information promptly to dermatologists.*

STEP 1

Dermatologists to obtain details from the patient about the product in question.

Initial step: check product's ingredient declaration (INCI names) to identify ingredients.

STEP 2

Dermatologist to contact manufacturer of the product for further information as needed by:

(a) using address or telephone number indicated on the product label/
packaging *or*

(b) shop where product was bought to obtain telephone number of the
manufacturer *or*

(c) contacting the appropriate cosmetics industry trade association.

STEP 3

If fragrance is suspected

Manufacturer and dermatologist to agree whether:

(a) fragrance information will be provided to the dermatologist through the
manufacturer *or*

(b) name of fragrance supplier company will be given to the dermatologist for
direct contact.

STEP 4

Depends on outcome of step 3

Provision of agreed information to the dermatologist by:

(a) fragrance manufacturer *or*

(b) cosmetics manufacturer.

STEP 5

Dermatologist to further investigate the real cause of the skin reaction.

STEP 6

Dermatologist to supply results of investigations for fragrance materials to:

(a) cosmetics manufacturer and

(b) fragrance manufacturer.

* Please see accompanying note for more detailed explanation of the procedure.