



**Cosmetics Contain Harmful Chemicals**

***Cancer and birth defects.*** A variety of chemicals in cosmetics have been determined by the state to cause cancer and birth defects. An astonishing one-third of all products contain one or more ingredients, such as coal tar, formaldehyde, and lead acetate, with a potential link to cancer, according to a recent Environmental Working Group (EWG) study.

***Women and worker exposure.*** Workers in nail and beauty salons are on the front lines of exposure to hazardous chemicals in beauty care products. The vast majority of these workers and their customers are female. For pregnant women, chemicals linked to birth defects can present a variety of health hazards to their unborn child.

***Market alternatives.*** Cost-effective alternative chemicals and formulations already exist for dangerous chemicals in cosmetics. Major manufacturers have long made essentially identical products that do and do not contain chemicals known to cause cancer and birth defects, at the same cost to consumers.

**Failings of Self-Regulation**

***No independent health and safety testing.*** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not review cosmetic ingredients for their health and safety before they come to market, nor does it have the authority to recall hazardous products. FDA relies on the cosmetics industry's self-policing committee, the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) panel, for information on product safety. Because testing is voluntary and controlled by the manufacturers, many 89% of the ingredients used in cosmetic products have not been evaluated for safety by the CIR, the FDA, or any other publicly accountable institution.

***U.S. Cosmetics Consumers Unprotected.*** The FDA has banned or restricted the use of only nine cosmetic ingredients in 67 years, and the CIR has found only nine additional chemicals unsafe for use. By contrast, the European Union has banned the use in cosmetics of all chemicals known or likely to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

**SB 484 (Migden) - Making Cosmetics Safe for Californians**

The California Safe Cosmetics Act of 2005 authored by Senator Carole Migden (D-San Rafael) and sponsored by the National Environmental Trust, Breast Cancer Fund and Breast Cancer Action:

- » Requires cosmetics manufacturers, packers, and/or distributors to disclose to the Department of Public Health (DPH) ingredients in their products known by the state to cause cancer or birth defects;
- » Authorizes DPH to investigate the health impacts of chemicals in cosmetics that are linked to cancer or birth defects;
- » Requires DPH, if it finds exposure to the chemical may be toxic, to submit its findings to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) at the Department of Industrial Relations;
- » Requires DPH to investigate, when resources are available, the presence in cosmetics of chemicals that have been declared unsafe by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review panel.

**Implementation Update**

Beginning in 2007, the California Safe Cosmetics Program (CSCP) convened a series of stakeholder meetings and workshops to solicit feedback from public and environmental health advocates and industry on how best to implement this program. Stakeholders provided input on fact sheets, reporting forms, timetables and outreach and education strategies.

As of July 2008, the CSCP is finalizing their online reporting structure as well as an online database that allows the public to have access to the information the program has received from the cosmetics industry. Companies will begin reporting their toxic ingredients starting in fall 2008 and the public will have access to this information almost simultaneously.

For more information, go to CSCP's website at [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cosmetics](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cosmetics).

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