

Ingredients under scrutiny

Preservatives, despite their importance in protecting consumers, continue to face controversy. The recent CTFA seminar set out to demystify some of the issues surrounding these and other ingredients. **By Abby Vorster**

As science evolves so do consumers' interpretation thereof, yet sometimes it occurs in a misinformed way. This has resulted in the continued and close scrutiny of cosmetics raw materials and ingredients.

In an effort to keep its members, suppliers and the greater South African cosmetics industry up to date on the associated matters, the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association of South Africa (CTFA) recently hosted seminars in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town on 17, 18 and 19 March respectively.

Positioned on the theme 'hot ingredients under scrutiny', Janine Wilson, the CTFA's outgoing technical manager, touched on various subjects including regulatory specifics within various markets like China, Europe and Australia, current global legislation and the limitations on certain substances like parabens and Methylisothiazolinone (MIT).

The cosmetics industry in South Africa is self-regulating, with base regulations applied. It also closely follows the regulations set out by the European Cosmetic Directive, which lays out the requirements for cosmetics sold in the European Union. Furthermore, CTFA members and the greater cosmetics industry in South Africa abide by the requirements set out in the CTFA Cosmetic Compendium, the annexes of which Wilson says, provide a basis and crucial information needed for formulating.

China compliant

An interesting market presenting lucrative export opportunities for brands worldwide, China still presents itself as a relatively grey area for South African cosmetics manufacturers.

'It is one of the most regulated markets worldwide and closely follows EU regulations, yet where it differs is, raw materials used in products sold in China require pre-market approval via a dossier,

and therefore a Chinese INCI name,' Wilson explains. Similar to the annexes of the European Cosmetic Directive, China has nine inventories outlining safety limits for various types of raw materials.

Preservatives

Parabens, which are used primarily for their fungicidal properties, have, according to Wilson and the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS), been found to be practically non-toxic. Yet they still face scrutiny in the media as well as on social media platforms.

In April last year, the EU published an updated regulation, 358/2014, which bans the use of five specific parabens in cosmetics. These are isopropylparaben, isobutylparaben, pentylparaben, phenylparaben and benzylparaben. Specific deadlines applied for compliance, and thereafter a second regulation was introduced restricting the use of propyl paraben and butyl paraben to 0.14 per cent, expressed as acid, and imposing some labelling requirements. Wilson advised delegates at the Johannesburg seminar to actively reduce inclusion levels of these preservatives, and when formulating, to stick to guidelines set out in the EU regulations, to be safe.

For information on upcoming CTFA seminars, or to find out more about becoming a member of the association, visit www.ctfa.co.za.

▼ **1** Janine Wilson reminded delegates to always consult the annexes of the Cosmetic Compendium when formulating

2 Sally Gnodde, the CTFA's executive director welcoming guests and delegates to the Gauteng seminar

3 Hanlie and Andre Burger from Skin Kidz attended the seminar hosted at the Johannesburg Country Club in Auckland Park

