



Scientific Committee on Consumer Products

SCCP

**Clarification on Opinion SCCNFP/0932/05**

**on**

**Zinc oxide**

COLIPA n° S76



The SCCP adopted this opinion at its 19<sup>th</sup> plenary on 21 January 2009

## Clarification on opinion SCCNFP/0932/05 on zinc oxide

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Three independent non-food Scientific Committees provide the Commission with the scientific advice it needs when preparing policy and proposals relating to consumer safety, public health and the environment. The Committees also draw the Commission's attention to the new or emerging problems which may pose an actual or potential threat.

They are: the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) and are made up of external experts.

In addition, the Commission relies upon the work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA), the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

**SCCP**

Questions concerning the safety of consumer products (non-food products intended for the consumer).

In particular, the Committee addresses questions related to the safety and allergenic properties of cosmetic products and ingredients with respect to their impact on consumer health, toys, textiles, clothing, personal care products, domestic products such as detergents and consumer services such as tattooing.

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[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/risk\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/risk_en.htm)

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**1. BACKGROUND**

In a request of 16 January 2009, the SCCP was asked to provide clarification on the following question:

In the SCCP statement 0932/05 of 20 September 2005 "on Zinc oxide used in sunscreens", regarding the SCCNFP opinion 0649/03 of 24-25 June 2003 on zinc oxide, the SCCP indicates that further data on micronised zinc oxide should be provided in order to allow its safety evaluation.

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*In order to take the appropriate measures regarding the use of zinc oxide as UV-filter, in its non-nano form, can the SCCP confirm that it considers the use of the latter as safe in cosmetic products as a UV-filter up to 25% on the basis of the SCCNFP opinion from 2003?*

**3. CLARIFICATION**

The SCCP considers that on basis of the dossier reviewed in 2003 the use of ZnO in its non-nano form (pigment grade, with particle sizes above 100 nm) is considered safe. The concern expressed in the SCCNFP opinion 0693/03 with regard to phototoxicity is not relevant for this form of ZnO due to the absence of dermal penetration.