SCCS/1669/24

Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety

SCCS

OPINION

on Biphenyl-2-ol and Sodium 2-biphenylolate (OPP & SOPP) used in cosmetic products

(CAS/EC No. 90-43-7/201-993-5 and 132-27-4/205-055-6)

The SCCS adopted this document during plenary meeting on 25 October 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Members of the Working Group are acknowledged for their valuable contribution to this Opinion. The members of the Working Group are:

For the preliminary and final version of the Opinion

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This Opinion has been subject to a commenting period of eight weeks after its initial publication (from 1st August to 27 September 2024). Comments received during this period were considered by the SCCS. For this Opinion, main changes occurred in the following sections: 3.4.2 skin sensitisation, SCCS comment in calculation of SED, and a clarification in the conclusions.

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1. ABSTRACT

The SCCS concludes the following:

1. In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2', does the SCCS consider o-Phenylphenol safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leaveon cosmetic products?

In light of the data provided, the SCCS considers **o-Phenylphenol** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leaveon cosmetic products. O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate, when used together:

- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products.
- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.2 % in rinse-off cosmetic products.

Since this safety dossier related to dermally applied products only, the SCCS did not consider oral and inhalation routes.

- *2. Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of o-Phenylphenol in cosmetic products?* /
- *3. In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2' of o-Phenylphenol, does the SCCS consider Sodium o-Phenylphenate safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products?*

In light of the data provided, the SCCS consider **Sodium o-Phenylphenate** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products. Sodium o-Phenylphenate and o-Phenylphenol, when used together:

- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products.
- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.2 % in rinse-off cosmetic products.

Since this safety dossier related to dermally applied products only, the SCCS did not consider oral and inhalation routes.

- *4. Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?* /
- *5. Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?*

The SCCS mandates do not address environmental aspects. Therefore, this assessment did not cover the safety of O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate for the environment.

Keywords: SCCS, scientific opinion, Biphenyl-2-ol, Sodium 2-biphenylolate, o-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate, Regulation 1223/2009, CAS/EC No. 90-43-7/201-993-5 and 132-27-4/205-055-6

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. MANDATE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Background

'Biphenyl-2-ol' and 'Sodium 2-biphenylolate' (CAS/EC No. 90-43-7/201-993-5 and 132-27- 4/205-055-6) are known with the INCI names 'o-Phenylphenol' and Sodium 'o-Phenylphenate', respectively, as cosmetic ingredients.

The use of o-Phenylphenol as a preservative is currently authorised in entry 7 of Annex V to the Cosmetics Regulation (EC) No.1223/2009, with a maximum concentration of 0.15 % (as phenol) in leave-on and 0.2 % (as phenol) in rinse-off cosmetic products.

The Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) adopted an opinion on o-Phenylphenol (OPP), Sodium o-Phenylphenate (SOPP), and Potassium o-Phenylphenate (POPP) $(SCCS/1555/15)^1$ in June 2015, later revised on 15 December 2015, with the following conclusion: '*Based on the information provided, no conclusions of safe use can be drawn for Sodium o-Phenylphenate and Potassium o-Phenylphenate'.* In 2018, the SCCS released an addendum² to the above scientific opinion, specifically addressing Sodium o-Phenylphenate, Potassium o-Phenylphenate, and MEA o-Phenylphenate. The SCCS concluded that *'Due to the lack of relevant information, the SCCS is unable to answer the question regarding the safe use level of sodium-OPP, potassium-OPP, and MEA-OPP. In the SCCS's view, a direct comparison between the safety of o-Phenylphenate (OPP) and its three compounds cannot be made'.* The conclusions of this opinion resulted in amending entry 7 of Annex V to the Cosmetics Regulation, removing from the list the previously authorised OPP salts.

It should be noted that o-Phenylphenol, Sodium and Potassium o-Phenylphenate are active ingredients in broad-spectrum fungicides surface biocides. Under EU biocidal Regulation (EU) 528/2012, o-Phenylphenol has been evaluated for the different product types (PTs) such as PT 1, PT 2, PT4, PT 6 as a preservative ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 % w/w.

The European Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of ECHA issued in December 2022 an opinion recommending among others a classification for o-Phenylphenol³ as 'Carcinogen of Category 2'. Following the RAC opinion, the European Commission may propose a classification for o-Phenylphenol as a 'Carc.2' (CLP Regulation Annex VI entry).

According to Article 15(1) of the Cosmetics Regulation '*the use in cosmetic products of substances classified as CMR substances, of category 2, under Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 shall be prohibited. However, a substance classified in category 2 may be used in cosmetic products where the substance has been evaluated by the SCCS and found safe for use in cosmetic products'*. In view of these provisions, regulatory measures must be adopted by the Commission services within 15 months of the classification as CMR 1A or 1B of the substance(s) concerned in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.

In December 2023, the Commission services received a dossier to defend the safe use of o-Phenylphenol, as well as its sodium salt (CAS/EC No. 90-43-7/201-993-5 and 132-27-4/205- 055-6) as preservatives in cosmetic products according to Article 15(1) of the Cosmetics Regulation 1223/2009. The Commission, therefore, requests the SCCS to carry out a safety assessment on these ingredients in view of the information provided.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_177.pdf

²<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/acb1d4ba-38cc-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1/language-en> ³ <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/0ca2507c-20b8-9cf7-cbbb-9b654457faa9>

Terms of reference

- 1. In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2', does the SCCS consider **o-Phenylphenol** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leaveon cosmetic products?
- 2. Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of o-Phenylphenol in cosmetic products?
- 3. In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2' of o-Phenylphenol, does the SCCS consider **Sodium o-Phenylphenate** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products?
- 4. Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?
- 5. Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?

3. OPINION

3.1 CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

According to the Applicant, the dossier is based on publicly available physico-chemical information.

3.1.1 Chemical identity

3.1.1.1 Primary name and/or INCI name

According to the Applicant

o-Phenylphenol Sodium o-phenylphenate

3.1.1.2 Chemical names

Taken from SCCS/1555/15

o-Phenylphenol: 2-Biphenylol (IUPAC Name) biphenyl-2-ol (1,1-biphenyl)-2-ol (CAS-name) 2-hydroxybiphenyl o-hydroxybiphenyl 2-hydroxydiphenyl 2-phenylphenol Dowicide 1 Preventol O extra

Sodium o-phenylphenate: Sodium 2-biphenylolate (IUPAC Name) sodium 2-biphenylate 2-phenylphenol, sodium salt the same synonyms as OPP but with the suffix: sodium salt or simply the prefix sodium Dowicide A Preventol ON extra

3.1.1.3 Trade names and abbreviations

o-Phenylphenol: OPP Sodium o-phenylphenate: SOPP

3.1.1.4 CAS / EC number

o-Phenylphenol CAS: 90-43-7 EC: 201-993-5

Sodium o-phenylphenate
CAS: 132-27-4 (water CAS: 132-27-4 (water-free crystal form) EC: 205-055-6

3.1.1.5 Structural formula

Taken from SCCS/1555/15

o-phenylphenate:

Sodium o-phenylphenate:

3.1.1.6 Empirical formula

o-Phenylphenol: C12H10O Sodium o-phenylphenate: C₁₂H₉ONa

3.1.2 Physical form

From SCCS/1555/15 and according to the Applicant

3.1.3 Molecular weight

o-Phenylphenol: 170.2 g/mol Sodium o-phenylphenate: 192.3 g/mol (water-free crystal form)

3.1.4 Purity, composition and substance codes

No information on purities was provided by the Applicant.

3.1.5 Impurities / accompanying contaminants

SCCS comment

Data on purity and impurities of both o-phenylphenol or sodium o-phenylphenate must be provided, including data on related substances, elemental impurities and residual solvents.

3.1.6 Solubility

According to the Applicant Water solubility: OPP: 0.560 g/L at 20°C (exp.) SOPP: 1200 g/L

Taken from SCCS1555/15:

Solubility in other solvents o-Phenylphenol: soluble in ethanol, 2-propanol, glycols, glycol ethers) Sodium o-phenylphenate: insoluble in acetone, methanol, propylene glycol; practically insoluble in petroleum fractions, pine oil.

SCCS comment

The SCCS notes that the European Commission (2002) gives slightly different water solubility for OPP (200 mg/l).

Ref. SCCS/1555/15

3.1.7 Partition coefficient (Log Pow)

According to the Applicant

OPP: 3.18 at 22.5°C (exp.; OECD TG 107)

Ref.: European Commission, 2002; ECHA website

SOPP: 2.95 (exp.)

SCCS comment

The SCCS considers that the Log Pow value reported for SOPP may be incorrect. The Applicant should either provide the actual study leading to the reported Log Kow for SOPP of 2.95, or a new experimental value of log K_{ow} , or an estimated value from a couple of mainstream models. More explanation can be found in section 3.2.1.

3.1.8 Additional physical and chemical specifications

According to the Applicant

Vapour pressure at 20° C OPP: 0.474 Pa (exp.) SOPP: 1.2 Pa (exp.)

Melting point: OPP: 56.7 °C SOPP: No melting point was detectable. Endothermic effects seen at 53-60 °C

Boiling Point: OPP: 287 °C SOPP: Study data not available as the substance is a solid which melts above 300°C.

Relative Density: OPP: 1.24 at 20 SOPP: 1.302 at 20

pKa OPP: 9.5 at 20 °C SOPP: 11.4

pH OPP: 5.8 SOPP: 12.0-13.5

Surface Tension OPP: 58.72 mN/m at 20.1 °C SOPP: 71.3 mN/m at 20 °C

3.1.9 Homogeneity and Stability

From SCCS/1555/15

No information provided. However, in ECHAs dissemination website (echa.europa.eu) it is stated "As no decomposition of the test substance could be observed below 150 °C, OPP is considered to be stable at room temperature".

SCCS General Comments to physicochemical characterisation

Modified from SCCS/1555/15

OPP exists as solid flakes or crystalline powder at ambient conditions. SOPP exists in hydrated and non-hydrated forms and also as flakes or crystalline powders. However, the dossier provided only refers to the non-hydrated form. Water solubilities of OPP and SOPP are quite high, for OPP a log Pow around 3 is given. The SCCS considers that the Log Pow value reported for SOPP may be incorrect. The Applicant should either provide the actual study leading to

the reported Log Kow for SOPP of 2.95, or a new experimental value of log Kow, or an estimated value from a couple of mainstream models. More explanation can be found in section 3.2.1.

Purities of OPP and SOPP were not provided, however from publications and study reports available, mostly purities of 98% or higher were reported for OPP and purities of 95% or higher were reported for SOPP. Some SOPP studies used material consisting of ca. 72% SOPP, ca. 25.6 % water and ca. 1.05 % NaOH. Data on purity and impurities of both o-phenylphenol or sodium o-phenylphenate must be provided, including data on related substances, elemental impurities and residual solvents.

No information on homogeneity and stability in general was provided. However, on ECHAs dissemination website (echa.europa.eu), it is stated, "As no decomposition of the test substance could be observed below 150 °C, OPP is considered to be stable at room temperature".

3.2 TOXICOKINETICS

3.2.1 Dermal / percutaneous absorption

According to the Applicant

Table 1: Overview of dermal absorption studies. It is of note that further details had already been given in the quoted reports and in SCCS/1555/15.

^b Reliability scores in accordance with the criteria set forth by Klimisch *et al.* (1997).

^c Single compartment pharmacokinetic model was used. Optimised estimates for the model parameters were obtained using SIMUSOLV.

Critical skin penetration study

A pharmacokinetic study was conducted to determine the absorption and elimination of radiolabelled OPP $(^{13}C^{14}C$ -OPP) following topical application in humans. The study was conducted in compliance with Good Clinical Practice (GCP).

0.1 mL radioactive OPP solution, with a concentration of 0.4% w/v in isopropanol, was applied to a 4 x 6 cm area of the forearm of six healthy male volunteers. The application area was covered with a nonocclusive material, allowing for air circulation. After 8 hours, the coverages were removed, and the skin was wiped clean. Tape stripping was performed at three different time points: 1, 23, and 4546.5 hours after the end of the treatment period. Urine and faeces were collected for five days, and venous blood samples were taken during and after the exposure period. Radioactivity in the samples was determined using liquid scintillation counting, and urine samples were also analysed using HPLC- ESI/MS and GC/MS.

Results

Rapid absorption of radiolabelled OPP was observed, with a high level of radioactivity detected within the first 2 hours of application. This radioactivity rapidly decreased by the end of the exposure period.

Little to no radioactivity was found in blood samples collected 2 days after termination of the exposure period. In the urine and faeces, a mean of 42.71 and 0.45% of the applied dose was recovered, respectively, with the majority eliminated within the first 24 hours.

Protective coverings and tape strips contained 54.27 and 0.04% of the radioactivity, respectively, resulting in a mean total recovery of 101.87% of the radioactivity.

The major metabolites excreted in urine included the sulphate conjugate of OPP (OPP-S), glucuronide conjugate of OPP (OPP-G), PHQ-glucuronide, and 2,4'-dihydroxy biphenylsulphate (DHB-S). These metabolites accounted for 68, 3.5, 14.5, and 12.5% of the administered dose.

Conclusion

Based on the results from the study involving healthy male volunteers, it can be concluded that OPP is rapidly absorbed and eliminated *via* urine resulting in a dermal absorption of at least 43%. The sulphate conjugate of OPP was found to be the major metabolite, whereas only 0.5% of free OPP was recovered in urine and faeces.

(Selim 1996 in EC, 2023; SCCS, 2015)

Applicant overall conclusion of dermal absorption studies

The absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of OPP was investigated in several *in vitro*, *in vivo* as well as human studies following dermal administration.

OPP is rapidly absorbed through human skin, with an absorption rate of at least 43%. Almost all the absorbed test substance is recovered in renal excreta, excluding the potential for systemic or dermal accumulation. As evident from the volume of distribution (Vd), OPP exhibits a low distribution potential in body tissues. The major metabolite detected in all analysed urine samples was the sulphate conjugate of OPP, accounting for 68.33% of the absorbed dose. Conjugation of OPP with glucuronic acid was less significant, comprising only 3.46% of the absorbed dose. Additionally, major metabolites, PHQ-Gluc (14.34% of the absorbed dose) and 2,4´-DHB-Sulf (12.35% of the absorbed dose), were observed.

Low levels of free OPP and the glucuronide conjugate (OPP-G) were observed in the early time intervals, with no free OPP detected in any analysed samples. Over 90% of the absorbed test substance was excreted within the first 24 hours after application through urinary excretion.

In summary, OPP is readily absorbed via the dermal route and exhibits a low distribution within the body. For the exposure assessment, a dermal absorption rate of 45% is considered a conservative estimate. This value is based on a human volunteer study by Selim (1996) using radiolabelled OPP. This study demonstrated that OPP is rapidly absorbed after dermal application, with a dermal absorption rate of 43.15% of the applied dose, excreted in urine and faeces. It's important to note that additional amounts might have remained on the treated skin site, not removed by tape stripping. Furthermore, OPP and its metabolites were primarily excreted in conjugated form, with free OPP representing only 0.5% of the excreted radioactivity. Based on the above information, a dermal absorption rate of 45% will be considered for the purpose of dermal exposure assessment. It has previously been noted (SCCS 2018) that sodium and potassium salts of OPP have higher water solubilities than OPP, potentially altering the absorption and biokinetics. While this is true, the Log Kow values (3.18 and 2.95) are very similar and well-known skin absorption models use the Log Kow value, along with the also comparable molecular weight (170.21 and 192.19 g/mol) to predict skin absorption. It was further argued that both sodium and potassium salts of OPP may have higher skin penetration due to their comparatively stronger irritating properties (SCCS, 2018). It is known that skin irritation can compromise skin and thus favours dermal absorption. However, ionic substances penetrate the lipophilic skin layers less easily (SCCS, 2023) and in practice the pH value of alkaline substances like SOPP corresponds to that of the respective formulation, which is chosen in such a way that no irritation occurs under use conditions. In summary, SOPP has been shown to behave similarly to OPP toxicologically based on Log_{Kow}, MW and other toxicological endpoints and as a result, the same dermal absorption of 45% was taken forward for dermal exposure assessment.

SCCS comments and conclusion on dermal absorption

The key study identified by the Applicant to derive a dermal absorption percentage of 45% for OPP is the same as was used in SCCS/1555/15. The SCCS used a Skin Permeation Calculator to further work out skin permeation constant and maximum flux (Jmax) for both OPP and SOPP (see SCCS/1647/22 section 3-3.5.1.1 (d)). The model predicts skin permeation coefficient (Kp) of a chemical in the stratum corneum, i.e. the rate of permeation through the outermost layer of the epidermal skin. The experimental values are typically determined *in vitro* using human or animal cadaver skin. The outputs of the calculator include Kp, Log_{Kp}, and Flux (Jmax) that can be used to calculate % dermal absorption values for a given chemical. The calculator worked out a very different Log K_{ow} for SOPP (contrary to 2.95 reported by the Applicant). However, considering the water solubilities, and the flux (J_{max}) values, it can be assumed that dermal absorption of SOPP should be lower than OPP. Furthermore, being a highly water-soluble sodium salt form, any SOPP entering systemic circulation will not be absorbed into the cells more than OPP, and will likely be cleared more quickly via urine than OPP. Although exact dermal absorption data are not available on SOPP, the SCCS accepts data on OPP being a 'worst' case for dermal penetration. In addition, it is expected that SOPP does not exert corrosive properties at the intended use concentrations of up to 0.2%. For that reason, the same dermal absorption figure of 45 % will be used for MoS calculation of SOPP. In view of the values reported in Table 2 below, the SCCS considers that the Log Kow value reported by the Applicant may be incorrect. The Applicant should either provide the actual study reporting the Log Kow for SOPP of 2.95, or a new experimental value of Log Kow, or an estimated value from a couple of mainstream models.

Table 2: Skin Permeation Calculator results for OPP and SOPP

3.2.2 Other studies on toxicokinetics

According to the Applicant

The absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) of OPP and SOPP was investigated in several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies. The *in vitro* assay was conducted in rat liver cells. The *in vivo* studies were conducted in different species including mice, rats, cats, dogs, goats, and humans, following oral administration. Results from these studies are summarised in **Table 3.**

Table 3: Overview of *in vitro* and *in vivo* oral absorption and bioavailability studies

Opinion on the safety of Biphenyl-2-ol and Sodium 2-biphenylolate (CAS/EC No. 90-43-7/201-993-5 and 132-27-4/205-055-6) used in cosmetic products $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{L} = \{ \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{L} = \{ \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{$

Overall conclusion on oral absorption and bioavailability studies

The absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) of OPP and SOPP following oral administration have been investigated in several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies.

In oral dosing studies with rats, more than 95% of the administered OPP and SOPP was excreted via urine and faeces. Similar results were observed in mice, where 90-98% and 6- 11% of the administered OPP were recovered from urine and faeces, respectively. Studies conducted in larger mammals like dogs, cats and goats corroborated the results of the rodent studies. This indicates a fast and complete absorption of OPP via the gastrointestinal tract. Thus, it can be concluded that OPP is rapidly bioavailable after oral dosing.

No significant retention of OPP and SOPP was observed in rats after single oral exposure. Only 1% of the administered radioactivity was found in the tissues and carcass of rats, suggesting a low potential for bioaccumulation.

Following oral uptake, the majority of OPP and SOPP administered to rats and mice underwent immediate phase-II metabolism and were excreted as sulphate or glucuronide conjugates (OPP-S or OPP-G). Small amounts of unconjugated parent compounds, along with PHQ and PBQ, were also recovered from the rodents' urine. OPP and SOPP were shown to be completely metabolised and rapidly eliminated via the renal pathway. While the degree of metabolism was qualitatively equivalent between mice and rats, there were quantitative differences in the levels of OPP sulphation and glucuronidation between the two species. In contrast, most of the compound is eliminated unmetabolised in dogs and cats.

In summary, OPP and SOPP are rapidly absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract and widely distributed within the body. Both substances are assessed to have a very high bioavailability (i.e., >95%) with minimal bioaccumulation potential. OPP is completely metabolised and primarily excreted through urine and faeces as sulphate and glucuronide conjugates. In conclusion, OPP and SOPP can be assumed to be completely absorbed following oral exposure. A correction for oral bioavailability is therefore not required for risk assessment purposes.

From SCCS/1555/15

The toxicokinetics of OPP has been investigated *in vitro* and *in vivo* in different species. The principal metabolic pathways are given in Figure A.

Figure 1: Overview on the metabolic pathways of OPP in different mammalian species (ref: Cal EPA, 2007).

SCCS overall comment on toxicokinetics

The SCCS agrees with the Applicant's conclusion to use a dermal absorption percentage of 45% for OPP as well as for SOPP. The SCCS also agrees that based on the available information, 100% oral bioavailability can be assumed for both compounds, i.e., no correction for oral bioavailability is necessary.

3.3 EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 Function and uses

According to the Applicant

OPP is approved for use as preservative in cosmetic products, with a maximum concentration of 0.15% (as phenol) in leave-on products and 0.2% (as phenol) in rinse-off products. OPP and its sodium and potassium salts are active ingredients in broad-spectrum fungicides

surface biocides. Under EU biocidal regulation ((EU) 528/2012), OPP has been evaluated for the different

product types (PTs) such as PT 1, PT 2, PT4, PT 6 as a preservative ranging from 0.1 to 0.5% w/w.

OPP and SOPP (as salt) are intended to be used as preservatives at a maximum concentration of 0.15% in leave-on and 0.2% in rinse-off cosmetic products in adults. The dermal route is the major route of exposure.

SCCS comment

The Opinion is about dermal applications only.

3.3.2 Calculation of SED/LED

According to the Applicant:

The estimated systemic exposure dose 'SED' stemming from dermal exposure is calculated according to the following equation stipulated in the SCCS NoG (SCCS, 2023) for leave-on and rinse-off product categories:

 $SED = E_{product} \times C/100 \times D_{Ap}/100$

With

- $SED = Systemic Exposure Dosaae from dermal route (ma/ka bw/day))$
- $E_{product}$ = Estimated daily exposure to a cosmetic product per Kg body weight
- $C =$ Concentration of the ingredient under study in the finished cosmetic product (%)

 D_{AP} = Dermal Absorption expressed as a percentage of the test dose assumed to be applied in real life conditions (%)

The SED calculation is based on the following input parameters:

• Eproduct: An estimated daily amount of product applied per kg of body weight is calculated in accordance with the SCCS NoG (SCCS, 2023), which takes into consideration body weight and a retention factor. The daily amounts recommended by SCCS already includes frequency in the estimated daily amount applied calculations:

o For leave-on products, using the quantity of 17.4 g/day with a body weight of 60 kg and retention of 100%, $E_{product}$ is calculated to be 290 mg/kg bw/day [i.e., (17400 mg x 1)/60]

o For rinse-off products, using the quantity of 0.54 g/day with an adult body weight of 60 kg, E_{product} is calculated to be 9 mg/kg bw/day [i.e., $(540 \text{ mg} \times 1)/60$]

C: The highest concentration of the substance in the cosmetic product $= 0.15\%$ in leaveon and 0.2% in rinse-off products

DAp: Dermal absorption = $45%$ (see Section 3.3.1)

The resulting estimated SEDs from daily application of OPP and SOPP as preservatives in cosmetic products containing 0.15% in leave-on and 0.2% rinse-off cosmetic products, are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: SED calculations for OPP and SOPP

SCCS comment:

SCCS comment

The E product corresponding to the quantity of 17.4 g/d is 269 mg/kg bw/d (in agreement with the SCCS Notes of Guidance) and not 290 mg/kg bw/d as indicated in Table 4. Furthermore, the aggregate exposure of 17.4 g/d (or 269 mg/kg bw/d) considers aggregate exposure to rinse-off, leave on and oral care products.

(*) skin and hair cleansing products and make-up products according to Table 5 of the SCCS NoG, $12th$ revision, oral products excluded.

AccOrding to the 5.003. According to the distribution factor into the calculation of the SED values is

3.4 TOXICOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.4.1. Irritation and corrosivity

According to the Applicant

The skin and eye irritation potential of OPP and its salts can be assessed based on guidelinecompliant and 'similar to guideline' skin and eye irritation studies. In these studies, undiluted OPP was shown to be strongly irritating to skin and eyes while undiluted SOPP and POPP was corrosive to skin and eyes (Overview on studies considered is given an Annex 1).

SCCS overall comment on irritation and corrosivity

The Applicants' conclusion is in line with SCCS/1555/15.

3.4.2 Skin sensitisation

From SCCS/1555/15

SCCS conclusion on skin sensitisation

No guideline-compliant skin sensitisation assay is available for OPP, SOPP and POPP. OPP has been investigated in 2 Buehler assays and SOPP has been investigated in one Buehler assay. Despite some deviation from OECD TG 406, OPP and SOPP can be considered as nonsensitisers under the conditions of these tests. No tests have been performed with POPP. However, as SOPP and POPP are salts differing by the counter ion, which are not considered as contributing to sensitisation, comparable effects could be expected for the two compounds.

According to the Applicant

The skin sensitisation potential of OPP and SOPP was evaluated in OECD test guideline compliant studies in experimental animals. None of the available studies provided any evidence of a skin sensitisation potential for OPP or SOPP.

Human patch testing conducted in multiple population types showed that OPP and SOPP exposure caused irritation and other local effects, but only a weak skin sensitisation potential. Most of the studies were conducted on dermatological patients with preexisting skin conditions (e.g., dermatitis, assumed occupational dermatosis, or suspected allergic contact dermatitis). This sensitive population displayed weak positive effects with an incidence rate of 0.29-0.4%. The skin sensitisation potential of OPP and SOPP was further evaluated in several clinical and epidemiological studies. Available clinical studies were hampered by limitations in the study design but can still be considered as part of a weight of evidence evaluation. In the clinical studies, neither OPP nor SOPP triggered any responses indicative of a sensitisation potential. While most case reports concluded negative results, a few positive skin sensitisation cases were documented.

Published epidemiological studies with OPP, including diagnostic patch tests for followpurposes, indicated a low skin sensitisation potential, with positive reactions in 0.29 to 0.72% of the study subjects. Most of the data was derived from metal workers, many of whom had pre-existing skin conditions. There was no information available on the specifications of the substance applied in these studies. Although the patch tests were performed at a concentration of 1% OPP in petrolatum, the patches were applied for different exposure periods (e.g., 24 or 48 hours), rendering it difficult to directly compare study results.

In conclusion, OPP and SOPP show a low potential to induce skin sensitisation. A recent RAC opinion proposed a CLP classification for OPP as a 'Skin Sens. 1B'. This classification is based on the observed frequency of skin sensitisation in humans (0.3%), indicating a low occurrence. The RAC conclusion emphasises that substances with a low to moderate frequency of occurrence and/or a low to moderate potency in animals can be presumed to have the potential to produce sensitisation in humans, justifying classification as skin sensitiser Category 1B (Overview on studies considered is given in Annex 2).

From the RAC Opinion

Animal data

In addition to the guinea pig studies, already described in SCCS/1555/15, the RAC Opinion also describes a local lymph node assay (LLNA) in mice with AGF/1-04, which is a representative biocidal formulation containing 10% OPP (KCP 7.1.6/01, 2005). The study was performed in compliance with GLP and OECD TG 429 with the following deviations: 1) the measurement of cell proliferation was achieved by cell counting instead of determination of 3H-thymidine incorporation; 2) the animals were sacrificed on the day after the last treatment (day 4) instead of day 6; 3) neither data on the followed procedure nor the results of the most recent positive control group are included in the study report. In this study, AGF/1-04 did not show an increased lymph node cell count at test concentrations of up to 50%.

Human data

The RAC Opinion summarizes all available human data. Overall, the frequency of occurrence of skin sensitisation is 0.3% if all studies are pooled together (54 cases among 15504 exposed people); which amounts to a low frequency of occurrence. The last criterion for assessing the occurrence is the number of published cases, that is of 58 (54 showed above plus 4 in case reported); which is lower than 100 and scores as low frequency too. In conclusion, the weight of evidence suggests that potential of OPP for inducing skin sensitisation would be low.

The CLP guidance establishes that substances showing a high frequency of occurrence in humans or a high potency in animals shall be considered for classification within category 1A. There are no positive studies in animals and the frequency of occurrence of skin sensitisation in humans is, with the available information, lower than 100 cases and with a frequency of approximately 0.3%; which are records considered for skin sensitisers of low frequency. Therefore, the conditions for classification of OPP as skin sensitiser category 1A have not been met.

However, substances showing a low to moderate frequency of occurrence in humans and/or a low to moderate potency in animals can be presumed to have the potential to produce sensitisation in humans and shall be classified as skin sensitiser category 1B. The frequency of skin sensitisation occurrence in humans (0.3%) suggests a low frequency and therefore category 1B is warranted. In conclusion, RAC proposes the classification of OPP as Skin Sens. 1B; H317, may cause an allergic skin reaction.

Ref.: ECHA RAC, 2022

SCCS overall comment on skin sensitisation

In addition to the guinea pig studies already discussed in SCCS/1555/15, the RAC Opinion includes results from a Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA), which had some serious deviations from the OECD test guideline. Although all animal studies show that OPP has no skin sensitisation potential, none of these studies were compliant to the OECD test guidelines.

In addition to the human studies described in SCCS/1555/15, four further human studies have become available. Takeing all human studies together, some studies show no skin sensitisation by OPP in humans, whereas there are a few positive human studies reported as well. Skin sensitisation was mostly observed in an occupational context, often in workers with pre-existing skin conditions. These patch test data, however, should be interpreted with caution, because there are good indications that OPP can be irritating when tested at 1%. When all data were analysed together by the RAC, the human studies indicated a low frequency of skin sensitisation (0.3%), leading to a classification of OPP as a skin sensitiser 1B.

To conclude, OPP is a rare contact allergen in humans after occupational exposure. The exposure to OPP by using cosmetic products is expected to be much lower than in occupational settings. Therefore, the SCCS considers that the risk of skin sensitisation to OPP or SOPP in cosmetics is not of a concern.

3.4.3 Acute toxicity

According to the Applicant

Acute toxicity studies conducted with OPP revealed low acute oral and dermal toxicity, with oral and dermal LD₅₀ values greater than 2000 mg/kg bw. The acute inhalation LC $_{50}$ of OPP in rats was greater than 36 mg/m³, suggesting a moderate inhalation toxicity.

In acute toxicity studies with SOPP, oral LD₅₀ values ranged between 591-1720 mg/kg bw, suggesting moderate acute oral toxicity. An inhalation study in rats with SOPP demonstrated an acute LC50 value of >1331 mg/m³, suggesting a low to moderate toxicity potential for inhalation exposure. An LD₅₀ value for dermal toxicity could not be derived in the acute dermal toxicity study due to severe necrosis observed in all animals, indicating that SOPP is unlikely to be acutely toxic by the dermal route at doses that do not cause severe local toxicity (Overview on studies considered is given in Annex 3).

SCCS overall comment on acute toxicity

The acute oral and dermal toxicity of OPP is low, whereas the acute inhalation toxicity is moderate. The acute oral toxicity of SOPP is moderate, whereas the acute inhalation toxicity is low to moderate. Determination of acute dermal toxicity of SOPP was not possible due to severe necrosis.

3.4.4 Repeated dose toxicity

According to the Applicant:

The repeated dose toxicity of OPP and salts via the oral route was evaluated in a total of eleven studies (5 subacute, 3 subchronic and 3 chronic) for OPP and five studies (1 subacute and 4 subchronic) for SOPP. The repeated dose dermal toxicity of OPP was evaluated in subacute studies in rats and mice.

Available oral repeated dose toxicity studies performed with OPP and SOPP demonstrated both substances to target kidneys, urinary bladder (males only) and liver in rats.

For OPP, kidney effects in males consisted of increased organ weight, reduced renal function, induction of nephritis, papillary necrosis, pelvis and/or papilla hyperplasia, renal tubular proliferation, and renal tubular dilatation. Male rats also exhibited urinary bladder effects characterised by increased organ weight, increased epithelial cell proliferation, and induction of simple hyperplasia, papillary or nodular (P/N) hyperplasia, and papilloma (but not carcinoma). In females, kidney effects consisted of reduced urinary pH and nephritis.

SOPP also affected the kidneys, urinary bladder, and liver in rats. The liver effects of SOPP included decreased alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity in both sexes. Kidney effects included increased organ weights and pyelonephritis in both sexes. Ingestion of SOPP favoured the excretion of alkaline urine in both sexes of rats.

Repeated dermal dose toxicity studies conducted with OPP revealed an increased incidence of ulcerative lesions at the site of application in mice. In rats, OPP has been shown to increase the incidence of local skin reactions such as hyperkeratosis and acanthosis. No systemic toxicity was observed under the study conditions.

A table on available repeated dose toxicity studies as provided in the Applicant's dossier is given in Annex 4.

SCCS overall comment on repeated dose toxicity

For short-term studies, the conclusions from SCCS/1555/15 stay the same: Subchronic toxicity studies performed with OPP and SOPP demonstrate that OPP affects kidneys (both sexes) and urinary bladder (males only) of rats. Kidney effects observed in males were increased organ weight, reduced renal function, induction of nephritis, papillary necrosis, pelvis and/or papilla hyperplasia, renal tubular proliferation and renal tubular dilatation. In females, kidney effects consisted of reduced urinary pH and nephritis. Effects in the urinary bladder of male rats comprised increased organ weight, increased epithelial cell proliferation, and induction of simple hyperplasia, papillary or nodular (P/N) hyperplasia, and papilloma (but not carcinoma). SOPP also affected the kidneys and urinary bladder, as well as the liver, in rats. The liver effects of SOPP included significantly decreased alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity in the males and females. Kidney effects induced by SOPP in both sexes included increased organ weight and pyelonephritis. Ingestion of SOPP (but not OPP) favoured the excretion of alkaline urine in both sexes of rats.

Chronic toxicity is addressed in section 3.4.7.

3.4.5 Reproductive toxicity

A compilation of studies on reproductive and developmental toxicity as provided by the Applicant is presented in Annex 5.

3.4.5.1 Fertility and reproduction toxicity

According to the Applicant

The reproductive toxicity of OPP has been assessed based on two separate two-generation reproductive toxicity studies in rats. Neither study indicated any adverse effects on the fertility of parental animals or reproduction. Suggested by morphological findings, the studies revealed effects in the kidneys and urinary bladder. The NOAELs for systemic toxicity were derived at 35 and 92 mg/kg bw/day, respectively.

In the first study, an increased incidence of renal calculi and haemorrhage was observed in males. Additionally, males showed an increased incidence of bladder calculi and urinary bladder transitional cell hyperplasia. However, there were no differences detected in reproductive parameters between the treated groups and controls in both generations. The only notable change was a greater female fertility index in the F1b generation compared to the controls. This increase in the fertility index is considered an artefact due to the extremely low fertility index in the control group, which the older age of the animals may have influenced. The second two-generation reproductive toxicity study in rats revealed urinary bladder effects such as chronic inflammation, and hyperplasia (simple and nodular) with an increased incidence were observed in males. OPP did not manifest toxicity in the offspring, except for a statistically significant body weight reduction in F1 pups. No effects on reproductive parameters were observed at any dose level.

From SCCS/1555/15

Two 2-generation studies have been performed with OPP in rats. There were no indications of an adverse effect on fertility of parental animals or on embryotoxicity or teratogenic effects in both studies. NOAELs for systemic effects of 35 and 100 mg/kg bw/d were derived from the two studies based on morphologic findings in kidneys and urinary bladder.

3.4.5.2 Developmental Toxicity

According to the Applicant

The developmental toxicity of OPP has been studied in mice, rats, and rabbits, with a separate report on the developmental toxicity of SOPP in mice.

In mice exposed to relatively high doses of OPP, both maternal and developmental effects were observed at all tested doses. As a result, the LOAEL was established at 1450 mg/kg bw/day. Similarly, an increased incidence of resorptions was reported in rat developmental toxicity studies with OPP. The lowest NOAELs identified for maternal and developmental effects were 100 and 300 mg/kg bw/day, respectively. In rabbits, no adverse effects on foetuses were observed. However, increased incidences of resorptions were noted, and these appeared to be independent of maternal toxicity. As a result, the NOAEL for developmental toxicity was established at 25 mg/kg bw/day.

In the mouse study with SOPP, developmental effects, such as reduced foetal weight and an increased incidence of cleft palate, were observed even at the lowest dose tested (100 mg/kg bw/day). The only developmental toxicity study with SOPP, is not considered to be useful in safety assessment due to design and reporting limitations. However, it did suggest SOPP's potential interference with rodent development.

In summary, while OPP did not adversely affect fertility or reproductive organs, the increased incidence of resorptions can be considered a developmental effect of both OPP and SOPP with a critical NOAEL of 25 mg/kg bw/day.

SCCS comment on developmental toxicity

In SCCS/1555/15, the SCCS derived a NOAEL of 25 mg/kg/d based on a re-analysis by Kwock and Silva (2013) of data from a teratology study performed in New Zealand White Rabbits (Zablotny *et al.*, 1991b). This NOAEL is lower than other PoDs obtained from other repeatdose/long-term toxicity studies performed with OPP and SOPP. Therefore, this conservative value of 25 mg/kg bw/d is taken for MoS calculation for both, OPP and SOPP.

3.4.6 Mutagenicity / genotoxicity

According to the Applicant

In *in vitro* assays with OPP and SOPP, minimal evidence of mutagenicity was observed, while clastogenicity occurred primarily in the presence of overt cytotoxicity. *In vivo*, micronucleus formation and/or DNA damage after oral or dermal exposure were observed for both substances, but only at high doses. The genotoxicity is attributed to the metabolites phydroquinone (PHQ) and p-benzoquinone (PBQ), which consistently yielded positive results. These metabolites demonstrated genotoxic potential under *in vitro* conditions, with this genotoxicity considered indirect, i.e., stemming from cytotoxicity and the generation of ROS during metabolism, as well as from the auto-oxidation of PHQ. This is shown in mechanistic studies with OPP, SOPP, and metabolites (refer to Section 3.10 for special investigations). Importantly, as exposure increases to highly cytotoxic levels, metabolism intensifies, and

detoxification processes become less effective, leading to significant ROS-induced damage and the induction of structural and numerical chromosome aberrations. The results from genotoxicity and mechanistic studies with metabolites PHQ and PBQ highlight the significant role of auto-oxidation and ROS formation, providing evidence for a mode of action by which OPP and SOPP induce genotoxic responses at high doses.

From SCCS/1555/15

Based on *in vitro* tests, OPP has to be considered as a substance with genotoxic potential. However, the positive results were predominantly found in tests measuring chromosome aberrations (and sister chromatid exchanges) at high concentrations. OPP is clearly genotoxic due to its metabolites, PHQ and PBQ. The metabolites clearly have a genotoxic potential. However, as this is due to cytotoxicity and the formation of ROS during metabolism and due to auto-oxidation of PHQ, it may be considered as an indirect genotoxic potential. Under *in vivo* conditions, OPP induced an increase in the number of cells with chromosome aberrations as well but at high cytotoxic doses. Based on the present results, the SCCS concludes that under normal physiological conditions OPP itself may be considered without genotoxic potential. If exposure increases up to highly cytotoxic levels, metabolism is increased and detoxification is decreased, resulting in much ROS damage and the induction of structural and numerical chromosome aberrations.

The results obtained from the genotoxicity studies with the metabolites PHQ and PBQ, indicating a strong role for auto-oxidation and ROS formation, provide support for a mode of action involving genotoxic responses at dose levels of OPP that exceed the normal detoxification.

New information

OPP: *In vivo* **study #1:**

Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2016 (see also section 3.4.10 – Special Investigations).

In *in vivo* studies, male rats were administered OPP (4,000 and 8,000 ppm) for 15 days in a diet supplemented with either 1% ammonium chloride or 3% sodium bicarbonate, to produce acidic and alkaline urinary pH, respectively. Significant increases in cell proliferation as detected by 5-bromo-20-deoxyuridine incorporation (N=3-4 per group) and micronucleus formation (N=4 per group) were seen in the bladder cells of OPP-treated rats with neutral or alkaline urinary pH but not in animals with the acidified urine.

Replicating cells were studied using BrdU incorporation and determining the labelling index. The bladder micronucleus assay followed a protocol with the CREST (calcinosis, Raynauld's phenomenon, esophageal dysfunction, sclerodactyly and telangiectasia syndrome) antibody labelling method described previously in literature. The frequencies of micronuclei, CRESTpositive and CREST-negative micronuclei, and BrdU labelling were determined.

Results:

SCCS Note: The information provided in the following Table and Figures in Balakrishnan *et al.* (2016) was considered in this Opinion. However, as the article is not available for free access, the Table/Figures have not been reproduced here to avoid copyright issues:

Table III: Induction of Total, CREST-Positive, and CREST-Negative Micronuclei in Bladder Epithelial Cell of Rats Treated with OPP and Dietary Salts.

Figure 2: Induction of cell proliferation as measured by BrdU-labeling in the bladder epithelial cells of rats fed OPP in a diet also supplemented with salts. N=3–4 per treatment. **P≤0.001; t-test on log_{10} transformed data.

Figure 3: Induction of micronuclei in the bladder epithelial cells of rats fed OPP in a diet so supplemented with salts. N=4 per treatment. *P≤0.05; **P≤0.001; t-test.

The frequency of micronuclei in the control animals treated with or without salts was very low in the range of 0.15– 0.19%, whereas the frequencies in the 8,000 ppm OPP and 8,000 ppm $OPP+NAHCO₃$ group were significantly increased to 0.51% and 0.59%, respectively. Increases in micronuclei seen at the 4,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO3, 8,000 ppm OPP and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO³ doses were due to both chromosomal breakage and chromosomal loss.

SCCS comment to the study by Balakrishnan *et al.***, 2016**

In the opinion of the SCCS the study results are acceptable, and they have the advantage of being performed in the target organ identified for OPP. However, the SCCS noted the following limitations:

- an unconventional experimental design was applied (not according to any OECD TG; providing supportive information),
- low number or animals per group (3 or 4) was used,

- no data on concurrent positive control or historical control values have been provided. Overall, there is some evidence of both aneugenicity and clastogenicity of OPP in the study. Although some hypotheses are discussed in the paper that the observed effects are due to indirect genotoxicity or due to toxicity, this is not clearly shown by the data, and the groups of rats not receiving salts also show chromosomal damage at the highest concentration.

SOPP:

In vivo **study #2**

ECHA RAC (2022) quotes an Unscheduled DNA Synthesis (UDS) study with SOPP performed by Klein *et al.*, 1986 (the study results were not available for SCCS/1555/15, apparently it is a company study report). SOPP was administered via stomach tube to 16 female rats (BOR:WISW) at 100 mg/kg bw. UDS was assessed in urinary bladder cells. SOPP induced UDS in urinary bladder epithelial cells.

SCCS comment to the study by Klein 1986

Due to several deviations from OECD TG 486 (1997) the SCCS considers this study of limited reliability. It can only be used as supportive in WoE.

In vivo **study #3:**

Comet assay De Boeck *et al.*, 2015

Groups of five male Sprague–Dawley rats were given three oral doses of SOPP tetrahydrate (CAS 132-27-4, supplied by Wako Pure Chemical Industries Ltd., Japan) or vehicle (corn oil), 24 and 21 h apart, or two oral doses of positive control (200 mg/mL EMS), by use of a stomach tube. Approximately 3 h after the last dose administration, rats were sacrificed and liver and stomach were sampled. Dose selection of SOPP tetrahydrate was based on the oral LD50 of OPP in of 2000 mg/kg in rats. The Comet Assay was therefore conducted with 1000 mg/kg/day as highest dose (i.e., 50% of the LD₅₀); the lower doses selected were 250 and 500 mg/kg/day.

Two replicate samples per organ per animal were used for scoring. Fifty randomly selected,

non-overlapping nuclei per replicate (i.e., 100 nuclei per animal) were scored for DNA migration. In this study, SOPP tetrahydrate did not induce DNA strand breaks or micronuclei in liver or stomach cells.

Table 2

DNA damage determined by the comet assay in liver and stomach of male rats at 3 h after three oral daily doses of OPP.

EMS: ethyl methanesulfonate (given 24 and 3 h prior to necropsy); HH: hedgehogs (frequency among 100 nuclei); OPP: o-phenylphenol sodium salt; SD: standard deviation. ^a Four animals instead of five; the comet slides from 1 animal were of unacceptable quality and could not be scored.

 p < 0.05 in comparison to concurrent vehicle control.

SCCS comment to the study by De Boeck *et al.***, 2015**

The study results are of limited reliability but are acceptable in a WoE approach. Overall, SOPP did not induce DNA strand breaks in hepatocytes or stomach cells in this *in vivo* Comet assay. However, the SCCS noted the following limitations/deviations from OECD TG 489:

- the organs studied are not the identified target organs for OPP,
- the purity of the test substance was not provided
- the number of cells scored was 100 per animal instead of recommended 150,
- body weight changes of the animals examined was insufficiently reported.

SCCS overall comment on genotoxicity/mutagenicity of OPP and SOPP

Three new *in vivo* datasets have been analysed by the SCCS*, i.e.* one micronucleus test of limited reliability on OPP on bladder epithelial cells with positive result, one Comet assay of limited reliability on SOPP tetrahydrate on stomach and liver cells with negative results, and an UDS test on SOPP on bladder epithelial cells as supporting data.

In particular the study by Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2016 supports the conclusion from the previous SCCS Opinion (SCCS/1555/15) that "Based on *in vitro* tests, OPP has to be considered as a substance with genotoxic potential. However, the positive results were predominantly found in tests measuring chromosome aberrations (and sister chromatid exchanges) at high concentrations. OPP is clearly genotoxic due to its metabolites, PHQ and PBQ. The metabolites clearly have a genotoxic potential. However, as this is due to cytotoxicity and the formation of ROS during metabolism and due to auto-oxidation of PHQ, it may be considered as an indirect genotoxic potential. Under *in vivo* conditions, OPP induced an increase in the number of cells with chromosome aberrations as well but at high toxic doses. Based on the present results, SCCS concludes that under normal physiological conditions OPP itself may be considered without genotoxic potential. If exposure increases up to highly toxic levels, metabolism is increased and detoxification is decreased, resulting in much ROS damage and the induction of structural and numerical chromosome aberrations."

Therefore, OPP and SOPP may be considered to have no genotoxic potential *in vivo* at the maximum concentrations intended for use in cosmetic products.

3.4.7 Carcinogenicity

According to the Applicant

The carcinogenicity of OPP and SOPP can be assessed based on carcinogenicity and combined chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity studies in rodents. The database for the assessment comprises 4 oral studies in rodents and 1 dermal study in mice for OPP and 5 oral studies in rodents for SOPP. Topline study design, results and underlying references are presented in Annex 7.

Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity studies conducted with OPP and SOPP via the oral route identified the urinary bladder and kidneys as the main target tissues in mice and rats.

A combined chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity study in B6C3F1 mice revealed that OPP induced tumours in liver and changes in kidney tubule morphology. The liver tumours observed in male mice were attributed to the high spontaneous occurrence of liver tumours in this specific mouse strain. The kidney changes included hypertrophy and increased relative kidney weight. The NOAEL was established at 250 mg/kg bw/day. In chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity in rats, kidney effects such as hyperplasia, cysts, infarct, acute inflammation, and papilla mineralisation of the kidney were observed. Further, neoplastic changes related to urinary bladder such as increased incidences of transitional cell carcinomas, papilloma, and increased incidence of calculi, congestion, haemorrhage mineralization and necrosis in the urinary bladder were observed. Based on the above effects, the NOAEL of 39 mg/kg bw/day was established. In another combined chronic and carcinogenicity study, rats exhibited an increased incidence of hepatocellular adenoma with extensive renal damage characterised by tubular dilation and varying degrees of acute and chronic inflammation at 1000 mg/kg bw/day. Furthermore, a 91-week study in male F344 rats associated OPP treatment with the development of urinary bladder tumours, such as papilloma and carcinoma, primarily transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma at and above 531 mg/kg bw/day.

Overall, the available data for OPP suggests that a combination of factors is required to induce tumour formation in the bladder and kidneys of rats, indicating the presence of a threshold mode of action (MoA) for tumour development. In the above listed studies with OPP, the lowest NOAEL was established at 39 mg/kg bw/day, which can be considered as the threshold for carcinogenicity.

The key factors contributing to the threshold MoA include the reversibility of effects, species and strain-specific differences, and tumor occurrence at high doses when sulphate and glucuronide conjugation pathways are saturated, and no skin tumor development induced by OPP metabolites. This threshold is further supported by the absence of genotoxicity in available studies with both OPP and SOPP. Additionally, factors contributing to carcinogenesis include increased sodium concentration and elevated pH in urine, as well as the pH-dependent autoxidation of PHQ in urine, which leads to the formation of reactive species.

In a 96-week study in mice, an increased incidence of hepatocellular carcinomas and haemangiosarcomas was observed in B6C3F1 mice treated with SOPP. However, these findings were not considered treatment-related because the changes were attributed to unusually low incidences in control animals, indicating no clear causal effect on cancer incidence. In a 91-week study in F344 male rats, an increased incidence of carcinoma was observed in the renal papilla and urinary bladder at and above 250 mg/kg bw/day. In a 2 year carcinogenicity study (conducted in 2 parts) in F344 rats, SOPP induced kidney tumours and increased incidences of interstitial nephritis of the kidney and increased incidences of focal atrophy of pancreatic acinar cells in females. Additionally, there was an increased incidence of urinary bladder tumours, including transitional cell papillomas and carcinomas. The LOAEL for the first study was established at 224 mg/kg bw/day based on the increased incidence of focal atrophy of pancreas in females and the NOAEL was established at 95 mg/kg bw/day. In a 112-week study in F344 male rats, transitional cell carcinoma was observed in rats at and above 1500 mg/kg bw/day. In a 102-week dermal carcinogenicity study in Swiss CD-1 mice, OPP did not induce skin neoplasms. In a 52-week, two-stage mouse skin carcinogenesis study in female CD-1 mice, SOPP induced epidermal proliferation and can act as a promoter but not as an initiator or a complete carcinogen.

Overall, OPP and SOPP did not induce tumours when applied dermally. However, chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity studies via the oral route found both OPP and SOPP to be carcinogenic, with the urinary bladder and kidneys identified as the primary target tissues in mice and rats. The observed carcinogenic effects were considered to have a threshold mode of action (SCCS, 2015; Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2016).

For the endpoint carcinogenicity, the following points of departure (PoDs) were proposed by the Applicant:

OPP:

NOAELs for systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity were established at 39 and 49 mg/kg bw/day in males and females, respectively.

SOPP:

For SOPP, the oral LOAEL of 224 mg/kg bw/day from a 104-week carcinogenicity study in rats has been considered as most appropriate and conservative value for PoD derivation.

From SCCS/1555/15

The urinary bladder and kidneys of rats are the main target tissues after chronic administration of OPP and SOPP. OPP and SOPP resulted in urinary bladder tumours (papilloma and carcinoma, mainly transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma) in male F344 rats. At higher doses, also the renal pelvis and the renal papilla are target tissues for OPPand SOPP toxicity. SOPP also induced kidney tumours in male F344 rats. Liver tumours observed in male B6C3F1 mice are attributed to the high spontaneous rate for liver tumours in this strain of mice. If repeat-dose studies performed with OPP and SOPP are considered together with mechanistic, genotoxic and toxicokinetic studies, SCCS considers SOPP and OPP different with respect to potency and tumour induction. For OPP on the other hand, the coincidence of a variety of factors is required in order to induce tumour formation in bladder and kidneys of rats allowing the assumption of a threshold MOA for tumour formation. Independent long-term repeat dose studies performed with OPP point to a threshold between 35 and 40 mg/kg bw/d.

When applied dermally, OPP and SOPP did not induce tumours.

From ECHA RAC (2022)

In conclusion, a non-genotoxic MoA for tumorigenesis in rat urinary bladders is likely. This mechanism could involve chronic irritation of the epithelium by a combination of high pH, reduced urinary osmolality, high sodium ion concentration and/or high concentration of free metabolites after excessive dose of OPP exposure; followed by regenerative hyperplasia and eventually tumours. Metabolism studies have shown than OPP in rodents is rapidly converted into conjugates, which are eliminated via urine, the same can be applied to humans (B.6.1.2- 01 and B.6.1.2-02). *In vitro* genotoxicity studies performed with main OPP metabolites, PHQ and PBQ, showed positive results for oxidative damage and cytotoxicity. OPP caused proteinbinding (non-linear increase) and cell proliferation in bladder epithelial cells from treated male F344 rats supporting a non-genotoxic mechanism for bladder tumour formation from treated male F344 rats and a threshold mechanism is proposed. A contributory role of oxidative DNA damage cannot be excluded but this would not be expected to occur at low dose levels.

SCCS overall comment on carcinogenicity

Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity studies via the oral route found both OPP and SOPP to be carcinogenic, with the urinary bladder and kidneys identified as the primary target tissues in mice and rats.

With respect to bladder cancer observed after treatment with OPP, there are indications that high concentrations (in combination with increased cytotoxicity) may induce genotoxic effects. However, as these effects were only observed at very high doses, a threshold can be assumed for OPP to cause bladder cancer. New data on mutagenicity further confirm the putative mode of action as noted in the previous SCCS Opinion (SCCS/1555/15). In that previous Opinion, the SCCS had concluded that SOPP is of higher potency and available data does not allow to define a reliable threshold for SOPP. Based on new mechanistic information that has become available in the meantime, the higher potency of SOPP can most likely be attributed to the fact that SOPP leads to higher sodium concentrations and higher pH values
in urine. This is supported by the studies by Balakrishnan (2016) – see section 3.4.10 showing that effects of OPP when combined with increasing alkanisation of urine significantly increased cell proliferation and micronuclei formation in bladder cells of rats and also showing that increasing pH significantly increased cytotoxicity induced by the OPP metabolite PHQ in the NBT-II Bladder Cell line.

Apart from the fact that SOPP leads to higher urinary pH and higher urinary sodium levels toxicokinetic behaviour of the 2 substances can be considered similar based on the available toxicokinetic information on SOPP. Therefore, the SCCS – in contrast to its previous opinion – considers, that a threshold mode of action is also appropriate for SOPP (see also section 3.4.-10 – special investigations).

The mode of action for bladder carcinogenesis induced by OPP and SOPP could involve chronic irritation of the epithelium by a combination of high pH, reduced urinary osmolality, high sodium ion concentration and/or high concentration of free metabolites after excessive dose of OPP/SOPP exposure; followed by regenerative hyperplasia and eventually tumors.

The assumption of a threshold MoA for bladder carcinogenicity in male rats is further supported by the following observations from studies performed with OPP:

- Reversibility of effects (decreased urinary bladder hyperplasia after cessation of 13 weeks of exposure to OPP)
- Sex and species- and strain-specific differences (OPP-induced bladder tumours were not observed in female rats, mice, dogs)
- dermal application to mice does not affect tumour incidence in skin
- no skin tumour development induced by OPP metabolites
- tumours occur at high doses when sulfate and glucuronide conjugation pathways are saturated

The SCCS has noted the NOAELs proposed by the Applicant for OPP and SOPP for systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity (for OPP: lowest NOAEL established at 39 and 49 mg/kg bw/day in males and females, respectively; for SOPP, an oral LOAEL of 224 mg/kg bw/day from a 104-week carcinogenicity study in rats has been considered as most appropriate and conservative value for PoD derivation. The Applicant applied a composite uncertainty factor of 10 to account for the extrapolation from LOAEL to NOAEL and study data quality resulting in a corrected PoD of 22.4 mg/kg bw/day. The SCCS, however, stated in SCCS/1555/15 that the 104-week carcinogenicity study in rats performed with SOPP was not performed according to currently accepted standards but that it can be used as supporting information.

Therefore, the SCCS will use the NOAEL of 25 mg/kg bw/d obtained from a developmental toxicity study for MoS calculation of both OPP and SOPP. This value is supported by the Applicant's corrected PoD for SOPP of 22.4 mg/kg bw/d and by the SCCS assumption (see section 3.2.1) that any SOPP entering systemic circulation will not be absorbed into the cells more than OPP, and will be cleared more quickly via urine than OPP.

3.4.8 Photo-induced toxicity

According to the Applicant

A photo irritation study is available with BALB/c 3T3 cell line for OPP. The study details and key results are presented in Table 20 and summarised below.

Table 5: Overview of phototoxicity with OPP

OPP was tested in an *in vitro* phototoxicity test conducted according to OECD Test Guideline 432 in the presence (+UVA) or in the absence (-UVA) of irradiation (9.36 mW/cm2 UVA for 8.9 minutes) using BALB/c mice fibroblast cell line 3T3. The concentrations of the test substance ranged from 7.81 to at 1000x μg/mL concentrations. Known positive (chlorpromazine) and negative (1% DMSO in Earle's Balanced Salt Solution) controls were included in the study.

Results

Pronounced cytotoxicity was observed starting at a concentration of 125 μg/mL both in the presence and absence of irradiation. No changes in pH or osmolality of the test formulations compared to the negative control were noted up to the highest tested concentration. The EC50 (cytotoxicity) values for the test substance were 93.47 μg/mL (-UVA) and 84.37 μg/mL (+UVA), with a corresponding photo irritation factor (PIF) value of 1.12 and a mean photo effect (MPE) value of <0.001. The cytotoxicity of the solvent did not show a statistically significant difference relative to the negative controls in the presence or in the absence of irradiation. The positive and negative controls gave the expected responses and fulfilled the requirements for a valid test.

Conclusion

Under the test conditions, OPP revealed no phototoxic potential in the presence and absence of exposure to a non-cytotoxic dose of UVA/vis light in the 3T3 cell line.

SCCS conclusion

The OECD compliant test indicates absence of photoxicity.

3.4.9 Human data

/

3.4.10 Special investigations

According to the Applicant:

An overview of special investigations on the mode of action of the carcinogenic activity of OPP and SOPP are summarised in Annex 8. The studies included in the table have been sourced from SCCS, 2015, EC, 2023.

Special investigation studies on the carcinogenic mode of action of OPP and SOPP revealed insights into the activities of both substances. SOPP was shown to be more potent than OPP for carcinogenicity. Early effects on bladder epithelium are reversible in the case of OPP but appear to be irreversible with SOPP. In this context, the urinary pH plays a key role in tumour development. Alkaline conditions, resulting from SOPP exposure or the combination of OPP with sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃), favour tumour formation, while urine acidification prevents it. Cell proliferation, leading to hyperplasia, is a crucial event in tumour formation.

The mechanism behind OPP's effects involves a cytotoxic action on the urothelium, leading to regenerative and reversible hyperplasia. Although the exact cause of this cytotoxicity remains unclear, it is suspected to be linked to the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) due to the autoxidation of PHQ.

SOPP stands out by possessing both tumour-initiating and promoting activities, distinguishing it from OPP, which lacks these properties. Notably, there are significant sex differences in sensitivity, with male rats demonstrating a higher susceptibility. While the exact cause of this gender disparity remains unidentified, potential factors such as differences in metabolism and urinary pH have been proposed.

New information

Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2016

Aim of the study was to further investigate the mechanisms of OPP-based bladder carcinogenesis by a series of *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments (*in vitro* cytotoxicity in TK-6 cells, *in vitro* toxicity in NBT-II cells and *in vivo* induction of cell proliferation and micronuclei in rats treated with OPP and dietary salts).

In vitro experiments aimed at investigating the underlying hypothesis that a pH-dependent autoxidation of free phenylhydroquinone (PHQ metabolite) in the urine may be responsible for the tumorigenic effects of OPP observed in the rat bladder. *In vivo* experiments aimed at investigating the influence of urinary pH (controlled by adding either acidifying or alkalizing salts to the diet or using normal diet at a dose of 8000 ppm OPP) and increasing OPP doses on cell proliferation and micronuclei formation in rat bladder cells

Following acclimation, rats were administered OPP (0–8,000 ppm) in addition to the dietary salts for 15 days. The different groups of rats were—no salt control, 1% NH₄Cl, 3% NaHCO₃, 4,000 ppm OPP, 4,000 ppm OPP+NH4Cl, 4,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO3, 8,000 ppm OPP, 8,000 ppm OPP+NH4Cl, and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO3. The rats were sacrificed on the 15th day and urinary bladder cells were harvested. 24 hours before sacrifice they were administered BrdU (50 mg/kg) in DMSO/saline (1:2) by i.p. injection. Replicating cells were studies by BrdU incorporation and a bladder micronucleus assay using the CREST (**c**alcinosis, **R**aynauld's phenomenon, **e**sophageal dysfunction, **s**clerodactyly and **t**elangiectasia syndrome) antibody was used to investigate micronucleus formation.

Results:

In vitro experiments with TK-6 and NBT-II cells showed increasing toxicity (measured as cell survival percentage) when pH increased and PHQ concentration was kept constant (toxicity observed from about pH 7.2 onwards) or at constant alkaline pH of buffer (pH 7.5) and increasing concentrations of PHQ.

The incorporation of BrdU in the rats treated with 8,000 ppm OPP and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO₃ (averaging 7.5 \pm 4.2 and 4.9 \pm 1.8% respectively) was significantly greater than that of the controls (P≤0.01; t-test). In contrast, the BrdU-labelling in the rats fed the 8,000 ppm OPP+1% NH4Cl diet was similar to the controls and significantly lower than the 8,000 and 8,000+NaHCO₃ treated rats.

The frequency of micronuclei in the control animals treated with or without salts was very low whereas the frequencies in the 8,000 ppm OPP and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO $_3$ were significantly (P≤0.01) increased. The mean frequencies of micronuclei in the rats treated with 4,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO₃ were higher than those in the rats treated with the NaHCO₃ control diet (P≤0.01). The micronucleus frequencies in rats treated with the 4,000 ppm OPP+NH4Cl and 8,000 ppm OPP+NH4Cl doses were similar to the frequencies seen in the control animals and significantly lower than those seen in 4,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO₃, 8,000 ppm OPP, and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO3-treated groups.

CREST staining was used to determine the origin of the micronuclei in the bladder cells. The results showed that the increases in micronuclei seen at the 4,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO3, 8,000 ppm OPP and 8,000 ppm OPP+NaHCO³ doses were due to both chromosomal breakage and chromosomal loss. Approximately, 50–60% of the micronuclei detected in the bladder epithelial cells from animals in the three increased treatment groups were CREST-negative indicating that they originated from chromosome breakage.

The study authors concluded that their results were supportive of the underlying hypothesis that pH-dependent autoxidation of free PHQ metabolite is responsible for tumorigenic effects of OPP observed in rat bladder and that the carcinogenic effect of OPP in the urinary bladder may be related to regenerative hyperplasia resulting from the death of bladder urothelial cells by PBQ. The study authors also concluded that the genotoxic effects of OPP occur through an unusual mechanism e.g. that the genotoxicity occurs as an indirect effect.

SCCS comment

The study results confirm the conclusions from SCCS 1555/15 on a possible mode of action of bladder carcinogenesis of OPP and SOPP:

Among the different requirements considered necessary for bladder tumorigenesis of OPP and SOPP are the following:

- Increased sodium concentration and increased pH in urine (alkaline urine and high sodium content contribute to tumour development)

- pH dependent autoxidation of PHQ in urine
- formation of reactive species by -pH dependent autoxidation of PHQ in urine
- sufficient amounts of free PHQ in urine (e.g. sufficiently high dosages)

There might be further contributing factors such as reduced formation of potentially cytoprotective prostaglandins in the urothelium.

The study further elucidated pH influence on certain mechanistic steps. As SOPP leads to alkaline urine *in vivo* (see studies listed in Annex of SCCS 1555/15), the study results of Balakrishnan indicate that differences in potencies between OPP and SOPP might be attributable to pH differences caused by these to agents (in SCCS 1555/15, urinary sodium content has been identified as a further contributing factor). As metabolism and oral toxicity of OPP and SOPP are quite comparable, the SCCS considers it justified to assume a threshold MoA for both OPP and SOPP induced bladder carcinogenesis.

3.5 SAFETY EVALUATION (INCLUDING CALCULATION OF THE MoS)

(*) skin and hair cleansing products and make-up products according to Table 5 of the SCCS NoG, 12th revision, oral products excluded.

OPP in leave-on products (skin and hair cleansing products and in make up products)

An aggregate value of 17.4 g/d (269 mg/kg bw/d) for the amount of cosmetics applied daily is taken for MoS calculation according to the SCCS's Notes of Guidance 12th revision.

OPP in rinse-off products

An aggregate value of 0.54 g/d (8.3 mg/kg bw/d) for the amount of cosmetics applied daily is taken for MoS calculation, according to the SCCS's Notes of Guidance 12th revision.

SOPP in leave-on products (skin and hair cleansing products and in make up products)

An aggregate value of 17.4 g/d (269 mg/kg bw/d) for the amount of cosmetics applied daily is taken for MoS calculation according to the SCCS's Notes of Guidance 12th revision.

SOPP in leave-on products (skin and hair cleansing products, make up products

Margin of Safety adjusted NOAEL/SED = 153

and oral care products)

An aggregate value of 17.4 g/d (269 mg/kg bw/d) for the amount of cosmetics applied daily is taken for MoS calculation according to the SCCS's Notes of Guidance 12th revision.

SOPP in rinse-off products

An aggregate value of 0.54 g/d (8.3 mg/kg bw/d) for the amount of cosmetics applied daily is taken for MoS calculation, according to the SCCS's Notes of Guidance 12th revision.

Margin of Safety NOAEL/SED = 3100

3.6 DISCUSSION

Physicochemical properties

OPP exists as solid flakes or crystalline powder at ambient conditions. SOPP exists in hydrated and non-hydrated forms and also as flakes or crystalline powders. However, the dossier provided only refers to the non-hydrated form. Water solubilities of OPP and SOPP are quite high, for OPP a log Pow around 3 is given. The SCCS has uncertainty over the validity of the Log Pow value reported for SOPP. The Applicant should either provide the actual study leading to the reported Log Kow for SOPP of 2.95, or a new experimental value of log Kow, or an estimated value from a couple of mainstream models. More explanation can be found in section 3.2.1.

Purities of OPP and SOPP were not provided, however from publications and study reports available, mostly purities of 98 % or higher were reported for OPP and purities of 95 % or higher were reported for SOPP. Some SOPP studies used material consisting of ca. 72% SOPP, ca. 25.6 % water and ca. 1.05 % NaOH. Data on purity and impurities of both o-phenylphenol or sodium o-phenylphenate must be provided, including data on related substances, elemental impurities and residual solvents.

No information on homogeneity and stability in general was provided. However, in ECHAs dissemination website (echa.europa.eu), it is stated "As no decomposition of the test substance could be observed below 150 °C, OPP is considered to be stable at room temperature".

Toxicokinetics

The SCCS agrees with the Applicant's conclusion to use for OPP as well as for SOPP a dermal absorption percentage of 45 %. The SCCS also agrees, that based on the available information, 100% oral bioavailability can be assumed for both compounds, i.e., no correction for oral bioavailability is necessary.

Exposure

OPP and SOPP (as salt) are intended to be used as preservatives at a maximum concentration of 0.15% in leave-on and 0.2% in rinse-off cosmetic products in adults. The dermal route is the major route of exposure.

Toxicological Evaluation

Irritation and corrosivity

Undiluted OPP was shown to be strongly irritating to skin and eyes while undiluted SOPP was corrosive to skin and eyes.

Skin sensitisation

In addition to the guinea pig studies already discussed in SCCS/1555/15, the RAC Opinion includes results from a Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA), which had some serious deviations from the OECD test guideline. Although all animal studies show that OPP has no skin sensitisation potential, none of these studies were compliant to the OECD test guidelines.

In addition to the human studies described in SCCS/1555/15, four further human studies have become available. Taking all human studies together, some studies show no skin sensitisation by OPP in humans, whereas there are a few positive human studies reported as well. Skin sensitisation was mostly observed in an occupational context, often in workers with pre-existing skin conditions. These patch test data, however, should be interpreted with caution, because there are good indications that OPP can be irritating when tested at 1%. When all data were analysed together by the RAC, the human studies indicated a low frequency of skin sensitisation (0.3%), leading to a classification of OPP as a skin sensitiser 1B.

Acute toxicity

The acute oral and dermal toxicity of OPP is low, whereas the acute inhalation toxicity is moderate. The acute oral toxicity of SOPP is moderate, whereas the acute inhalation toxicity is low to moderate. Determination of acute dermal toxicity of SOPP was not possible due to severe necrosis.

Repeated dose toxicity

Subchronic toxicity studies performed with OPP and SOPP demonstrate that OPP affects kidneys (both sexes) and urinary bladder (males only) of rats. Kidney effects observed in males were increased organ weight, reduced renal function, induction of nephritis, papillary necrosis, pelvis and/or papilla hyperplasia, renal tubular proliferation and renal tubular dilatation. In females, kidney effects consisted of reduced urinary pH and nephritis. Effects in the urinary bladder of male rats comprised increased organ weight, increased epithelial cell proliferation, and induction of simple hyperplasia, papillary or nodular (P/N) hyperplasia, and papilloma (but not carcinoma). SOPP also affected the kidneys and urinary bladder, as well as the liver, in rats. The liver effects of SOPP included significantly decreased alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity in the males and females. Kidney effects induced by SOPP in both sexes included increased organ weight and pyelonephritis. Ingestion of SOPP (but not OPP) favoured the excretion of alkaline urine in both sexes of rats.

Reproductive toxicity

Two 2-generation studies have been performed with OPP in rats. There were no indications of an adverse effect on fertility of parental animals or on embryotoxicity or teratogenic effects in both studies. NOAELs for systemic effects of 35 and 100 mg/kg bw/d were derived from the two studies based on morphologic findings in kidneys and urinary bladder. While OPP did not adversely affect fertility or reproductive organs, the increased incidence of resorptions can be considered a developmental effect of both OPP and SOPP with a critical NOAEL of 25 mg/kg bw/day.

Mutagenicity / genotoxicity

Three new *in vivo* datasets have been analysed by the SCCS*, i.e.* one micronucleus test of limited reliability on OPP on bladder epithelial cells with positive result, one Comet assay of limited reliability on SOPP tetrahydrate on stomach and liver cells with negative results, and an UDS test on SOPP on bladder epithelial cells as supporting data.

In particular the study by Balakrishnan *et al.*, 2016 supports the conclusion from the previous SCCS Opinion (SCCS/1555/15) that "Based on *in vitro* tests, OPP has to be considered as a substance with genotoxic potential. However, the positive results were predominantly found in tests measuring chromosome aberrations (and sister chromatid exchanges) at high concentrations. OPP is clearly genotoxic due to its metabolites, PHQ and PBQ. The metabolites clearly have a genotoxic potential. However, as this is due to cytotoxicity and the formation of ROS during metabolism and due to auto-oxidation of PHQ, it may be considered as an indirect genotoxic potential. Under *in vivo* conditions, OPP induced an increase in the number of cells with chromosome aberrations as well but at high toxic doses. Based on the present results, SCCS concludes that under normal physiological conditions OPP itself may be considered without genotoxic potential. If exposure increases up to highly toxic levels, metabolism is increased and detoxification is decreased, resulting in much ROS damage and the induction of structural and numerical chromosome aberrations."

Therefore, OPP and SOPP may be considered to have no genotoxic potential *in vivo* at the maximum concentrations intended for use.

Carcinogenicity

Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity studies via the oral route found both OPP and SOPP to be carcinogenic, with the urinary bladder and kidneys identified as the primary target tissues in mice and rats. The mode of action for bladder carcinogenesis induced by OPP and SOPP could involve chronic irritation of the epithelium by a combination of high pH, reduced urinary osmolality, high sodium ion concentration and/or high concentration of free metabolites after excessive dose of OPP/SOPP exposure; followed by regenerative hyperplasia and eventually tumors.

Photo-induced toxicity An OECD compliant test indicates absence of photoxicity.

Human data Addressed under "Skin sensitisation"

Special investigation Addressed under Mutagenicity / genotoxicity and Carcinogenicity

4. CONCLUSION

1. In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2', does the SCCS consider o-Phenylphenol safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leaveon cosmetic products?

In light of the data provided, the SCCS considers **o-Phenylphenol** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leaveon cosmetic products. O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate, when used together:

- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products.
- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.2 % in rinse-off cosmetic products.

Since this safety dossier related to dermally applied products only, the SCCS did not consider oral and inhalation routes.

- 2. *Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of o-Phenylphenol in cosmetic products*? /
- 3. *In light of the data provided and taking under consideration the classification as 'Carcinogen Cat. 2' of o-Phenylphenol, does the SCCS consider Sodium o-Phenylphenate safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products*?

In light of the data provided, the SCCS consider **Sodium o-Phenylphenate** safe when used as preservative up to a maximum concentration of 0.2 % in rinse-off and 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products. Sodium o-Phenylphenate and o-Phenylphenol, when used together:

- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.15 % in leave-on cosmetic products.
- should not exceed the maximum concentration 0.2 % in rinse-off cosmetic products.

Since this safety dossier related to dermally applied products only, the SCCS did not consider oral and inhalation routes.

- *4. Alternatively, what is according to the SCCS, the maximum concentration considered safe for use of Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?* /
- *5. Does the SCCS have any further scientific concerns with regard to the use of O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate in cosmetic products?*

The SCCS mandates do not address environmental aspects. Therefore, this assessment did not cover the safety of O-Phenylphenol and Sodium o-Phenylphenate for the environment.

5. MINORITY OPINION

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And references quoted in the above documents.

7. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

See SCCS/1647/22, 12th Revision of the SCCS Notes of Guidance for the Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients and their Safety Evaluation – Appendix 15 - from page 158

8. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

See SCCS/1647/22, 12th Revision of the SCCS Notes of Guidance for the Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients and their Safety Evaluation – Appendix 15 - from page 158

OPP: o-Phenylphenol

SOPP: Sodium o-Phenylphenate

CREST: Calcinosis, Raynauld's phenomenon, esophageal dysfunction, sclerodactyly and telangiectasia syndrome

PBQ: p-Benzoquinone

PHQ: Phenylhydroquinone

9. ANNEXES (study tables and selected study descriptions from the Applicant's dossier)

9.1 ANNEX 1. Irritation and corrosivity

1. Skin irritation

Overview of skin irritation studies

2. Eye irritation

Overview of eye irritation/corrosion studies

9.2 ANNEX 2. Skin sensitisation

Animal studies

Human studies

9.3 ANNEX 3. Acute toxicity

Acute oral toxicity studies

^d LD50 value was calculated using probit analysis according to Bliss method.

^e LD50 value was calculated using linear interpolation.

^f LD50 calculated using programmed probit analysis according to Fink and Hund.

^g LD50 was calculated by linear interpolation.

^h LD50 was calculated using programmed probit analysis according to Fink and Hund.

Acute dermal toxicity studies

⁴ LD50 could not be derived since the test substance caused severe necrosis in all males and females. Except for one male, all animals were sacrificed for humane reasons after considering the severity of necrosis.

Acute inhalation toxicity studies

9.4 ANNEX 4. Repeated dose toxicity

Oral repeated dose toxicity studies

9.5 ANNEX 5. Reproductive and development toxicity

Overview of reproductive toxicity studies

Developmental toxicity studies

^j Various regulatory reviews such as US EPA, 2006; Cal EPA, 2007; CAR, 2015; HC, 2020; RAC, 2022 have considered the NOAEL for developmental toxicity at ≥250 mg/kg bw/day whereas SCCS, 2015 and EC, 2023, have set the NOAEL for developmental toxicity at 25 mg/kg bw/day. The SCCS, 2015 and EC, 2023 and CLH derived, NOAEL for maternal and developmental toxicity as 100 and 25 mg/kg bw/day, respectively.

9.6 ANNEX 6. Mutagenicity and genotoxicity

In vitro mutagenicity/genotoxicity studies

In vivo mutagenicity/genotoxicity studies

Unscheduled DNA synthesis/DNA damage assay

9.7 ANNEX 7. Carcinogenicity

Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity studies

^k The dietary doses are converted considering the default factor 0.05 for rats (EFSA, 2012). Only the kidney and urinary bladder were evaluated in a small group (20 males), and results were not reported for all organs. Although Haematuria was observed at all dose levels from week 45, no associated and other effects were noted at 62 and 125 mg/kg bw/day.

Dose converted from EFSA, 2014 dose converter.

Details on the study by Quast and McGuirk 1995 as presented by the Applicant

The combined chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of OPP (purity≥ 99.88%) was investigated in an OECD TG 453 compliant dietary study in mice. B6C3F1 mice (50/sex/group) were dosed orally via diet at doses of 0, 250, 500 and 1000 mg/kg bw/day for a period of 2 years. During the treatment period, animals were observed for clinical signs, body weight, food consumption, and food efficiency at defined intervals. Ophthalmological examinations were conducted prior to the start of the study and immediately after decapitation. Haematology and clinical chemistry were performed on terminal blood samples. Organ weight of all the major organs was performed at the termination of the study. The pathological evaluation of gross and microscopic examination of major tissues, major organs, and all gross lesions from sacrifice and dead animals was performed during the study.

Results

OPP treatment did not affect the survival of the interim sacrifice animals and the terminal sacrifice. No treatment-related effects were identified from clinical observations, ophthalmology, clinical chemistry, and haematology. At 1000 and 500 mg/kg bw/day, decreased body weight, increased relative liver weights, absolute and relative brain weight, relative testes weights and reduced absolute weights of heart, kidneys, and spleen was observed. Further, a slight increase in the number of male mice with liver masses/nodules was observed. In the satellite group, at 1000 and 500 mg/kg bw/day, changes in heart, kidney weights, relative brain and testes weights were observed.

At 1000 and 500 mg/kg bw/day, increased incidences of hepatocellular adenoma were observed in males. In female mice, microscopic changes in liver were seen; however, no hepatoblastoma and significant increases in liver or other tumours was observed. At all doses, kidney hypertrophy and increased relative kidney weights were observed in females.

Conclusion

Under the study conditions, OPP was considered to be carcinogenic in B6C3F1 mice. The NOAEL for carcinogenicity was established at 250 mg/kg bw/day, whereas LOAEL for systemic toxicity was established at 250 mg/kg bw/day.

Note: Cal EPA (2007) considered the incidence of hepatoblastoma at the 500 mg/kg bw/day dose as treatment-related due to its rare spontaneous occurrence in this strain.

Details on the study by Wahle *et al..*., 1996 as presented by the Applicant:

The combined chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of OPP (purity ≥98%) was investigated in an OECD TG 453 compliant dietary study in rats. Fischer 344 rats (50/sex/group) were dosed orally via diet at doses of 0, 39/49, 200/248 and 402/647 mg/kg bw/day in males/females daily for a period of 2 years. During the treatment period, animals were observed for clinical signs, body weight, food consumption, and food efficiency at defined intervals. Ophthalmological examinations, haematology, urine analysis and clinical chemistry were performed during the study. Organ weight of all the major organs was performed at the termination of the study. The animals were evaluated pathologically including gross and microscopic examination of major tissues, major organs, and all gross lesions from sacrificed animals and from animals found dead.

Results

No treatment related effects were observed in food consumption, ophthalmology, haematology, clinical chemistry, and organ weights. At 402/647 mg/kg bw/day, a decrease in mean body weights, a slight increase in mortality, abnormal urine colour and various stains, increased incidence of blood in urine, and increased incidence of urinary bladder masses and pitted zones in kidneys was observed. Changes in clinical chemistry such as an increase in blood urea nitrogen and alkaline phosphatase levels whereas decrease in triglycerides, cholesterol and total bilirubin levels was observed. Further an increased incidence of cystic tubular dilatation in males, increased incidence of renal infarct was

noted in males and females, and increased incidences of hyperplasia, acute inflammation, and mineralization within the tubules of the renal papilla were observed in females. At 402/647 mg/kg bw/day neoplastic changes such as increased incidence of transitional cell carcinomas, increase incidence of urinary bladder papilloma, and increased incidence of calculi, congestion, haemorrhage mineralization and necrosis in the urinary bladder were observed. These lesions were generally associated with foci of urinary bladder hyperplasia and/or neoplasia in males.

At 200/248 mg/kg bw/day, decreased body weight, body weight gain, food consumption and food efficiency, clinical signs, gross pathological signs of toxicity and increases in the incidence of retinal degeneration and optic nerve atrophy were observed. Changes in clinical chemistry such as increased chlorine levels, a decrease in uric acid, triglycerides, cholesterol, and total bilirubin levels were observed. Neoplastic changes such as increased incidence of transitional cell carcinomas in males of simple urinary bladder hyperplasia were observed.

Conclusion

Under the study conditions, OPP was assessed to be carcinogenic in Fischer 344 rats. The NOAEL for systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity was established at 39 and 49 mg/kg bw/day in males and females, respectively.

Details on the study on SOPP by Hiraga *et al..*., 1983 as presented by the Applicant

The carcinogenicity of SOPP (purity ≥95.5%) was investigated in a dietary study in rats. The study consisted of two parts. In the first study, three groups of F344 rats (50 animals/sex/dose) received diets containing 0, 7000 and 20000 ppm equivalent to 0, 270 and 770 mg/kg bw/day in males; 0, 5000 and 10000 ppm for females equivalent to 0, 224 and 466 mg/kg bw/day for 104 weeks. After 104 weeks, the surviving animals received SOPP-free diets for another 2 weeks. To detect possible delayed effects of test substance on urinary bladder tumour development, the investigators conducted a second study. This was like the first study in terms of study design except that the second study used only 25 animals/sex/dose and after the 104 weeks of dietary exposure to SOPP, the animals received SOPPfree diets until their natural death and it included an additional dose group (i.e., 95/113 mg/kg bw/day for the males/females). Hence, the overall duration of the second study was approximately 160 weeks. During the treatment period, animals were observed for body weight and clinical signs at defined intervals. The animals were observed for pathologic evaluation including gross and microscopic examination of major tissues, major organs, and all gross lesions from sacrificed animals and from animals found dead.

Results

The results the study indicated that SOPP affected the kidneys and urinary bladder, as well as the pancreas.

First study

At 466/770 mg/kg bw/day, decreased body weights, clinical signs such as haematuria, increased focal atrophy of the pancreas and increased incidences of interstitial nephritis of the kidney were observed. Further, in the kidneys, both non-neoplastic changes (interstitial nephritis and pyelonephritis) and neoplastic changes (transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma) occurred with low incidences in males. Statistically significant increases in the incidences of focal atrophy of pancreatic acinar cells in fema les and male haematuria were observed. At the next lower dose of 224/270 mg/kg bw/day, statistically not significant urinary bladder papillomas and/or carcinomas were observed in both sexes. There were also increased incidences of interstitial nephritis in both sexes, however, without statistical significance. Further, a statistically significant and dose dependant increase in the incidences of focal atrophy of pancreatic acinar cells in females was observed; in males, an increased incidence of the pancreatic lesion occurred; however, it did not reach statistical significance.

Second study

At 466/770 mg/kg bw/day, kidney and bladder lesions were primarily observed in females. These lesions included interstitial nephritis and pyelonephritis. However, the incidences of these kidney lesions were lower than in the first study. Further, a reduction in body weight and haematuria was observed in males. At 224/270 mg/kg bw/day, statistically not significant increased incidences of interstitial nephritis in the kidney, urinary bladder papillomas and/or carcinomas were observed in males only. For this study, the investigators did not report data for non-neoplastic lesions in the pancreas (and other organs, except for the kidneys and bladder).

Neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions in the urinary bladder, kidneys, and pancreas of male rats

ND, not done.

^a Combined incidences of papilloma and carcinoma, as reported by the investigators.

 b One animal with transitional cell papilloma and two with transitional cell carcinoma in the renal pelvis. These rats</sup> also had carcinoma in the urinary bladder.

c Focal atrophy of acinar cells was reported in the 2-week recovery study but not in the 56-week recovery study for reasons that were not explained.

*, *** Fisher Exact test, as calculated by DPR; significant at p<0.05 and p<0.001, respectively.

 $^{+,++}$ Cochran-Armitage trend test, as calculated by DPR; significant at p<0.01 and p<0.001, respectively.

Neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions in the urinary bladder, kidneys, and pancreas of female rats

ND: not determined.

^a Combined incidence of papilloma and carcinoma, as reported by the investigators.

b Focal atrophy of acinar cells was reported in the 2-week recovery study but not in the 56-week recovery study for reasons that were not

Fisher Exact test, as calculated by DPR in Cal EPA, 2007: significant at p<0.05, p<0.01, p<0.001, respectively.

+,++,+++ Cochran-Armitage trend test, as calculated by DPR in Cal EPA, 2007; significant at p<0.05, p<0.01, and p<0.001, respectively.

Conclusion

Under the study conditions, SOPP was assessed to be carcinogenic in Fischer 344 rats. In the first study, the LOAEL for systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity was established at 270 and 224 mg/kg bw/day in males and females, respectively. In the second study, the NOAEL for both systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity was established at 95 and 113 mg/kg bw/day in males and females, respectively.

Note: The non-neoplastic changes such as interstitial nephritis and pyelonephritis and neoplastic changes such as transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma in the kidneys and carcinomas/papilloma induced in the bladder at 224/270 mg/kg bw/day did not reach statistical significance. However, in their evaluation, Cal EPA (2007) considered the observations to be treatment-related findings because of the rare spontaneous occurrence of this tumour in this strain of rats.

9.8 ANNEX 8. Special investigation MoA carcinogenicity

Overview of special investigations on the mode of action of carcinogenicity

