



Official report

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Consumer safety (SCCS) –
Opinion on the safety of the use of deoxyarbutin in cosmetic productsSCCS^{a,*}, Gisela H. Degen^{b,1}^a SCCS Secretariat at the European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, 11, rue E. Ruppert, L-2920, Luxembourg, Luxembourg^b Leibniz Research Centre for Working Environment and Human Factors (IfADo), Dortmund, Germany

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ABSTRACT

Conclusion of the opinion: Although on the basis of the provided scientific data the use of deoxyarbutin as such can be considered safe for consumers in cosmetic products in a concentration up to 3% in face creams, hydroquinone will be formed at levels which raise concerns with regard to the safety of such products during life-cycle of the product (e.g. storage conditions and stability under in-use conditions). Therefore, the overall conclusion of the SCCS is that the use of deoxyarbutin up to 3% in face creams is not safe.

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Link to the SCCS Opinion:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_183.pdf.

Deoxyarbutin CAS n. 53936-56-4 (4-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]phenol) with INCI name Tetrahydropyranyloxy Phenol is a skin lightening agent synthesised through removal of hydroxyl

groups from the glucose side-chain of β -arbutin.

In the first opinion (SCCP/1158/08) on β -arbutin adopted on 15th April 2008 the SCCP raised concerns with other substances resulting in the release and/or formation of hydroquinone.

However, Hydroquinone (CAS 123-31-9) is listed in Annex II/1339 of the Cosmetic Regulation No 1223/2009; therefore it is banned as cosmetic ingredient with the exception of entry 14 in Annex III. It is only permitted for professional use in artificial nail systems in a concentration in the final product up to 0.02%. Since Hydroquinone could not be used as a skin whitener after introduction of a ban, other substances have been used for that purpose, including Arbutin.

A dossier on the related substance, deoxyarbutin, was submitted to the European Commission by Girindius AG in 2008.

Although on the basis of the provided scientific data the use of deoxyarbutin as such can be considered safe for consumers in cosmetic products in a concentration up to 3% in face creams, hydroquinone will be formed at levels which raise concerns with regard to the safety of such products during life-cycle of the product (e.g. storage conditions and stability under in-use conditions).

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Therefore, the overall conclusion of the SCCS is that the use of deoxyarbutin up to 3% in face creams is not safe.

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Transparency document

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