



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Resources Based, Manufacturing and Consumer Goods Industries

Consumer Industry

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

Request for a revision of the scientific Opinion (SCCS/1576/16) on Vitamin A (Retinol, Retinyl Acetate, Retinyl Palmitate)

Commission Department requesting the Opinion: Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

1. Background

Vitamin A is currently not regulated in the Annexes to the Cosmetics Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009. In 2016, the SCCS issued the opinion SCCS/1576/16 on [Vitamin A](#) concluding that its use as a cosmetic ingredient is safe at given concentrations for body lotions and face creams, leave-on (other than body lotions) and rinse-off products (see concentrations mentioned above).

However, in its opinion, SCCS recognized also that the population's overall exposure to Vitamin A can be significantly higher: *“The most important source of Vitamin A in the population is diet, followed by food supplements and cosmetics.(...) exposure to Vitamin A via food may already be very close to the UL and any additional source of exposure, including cosmetic products, may exceed this UL”* (UL stands for tolerable Upper intake Levels and it is used in the Risk Assessment).

Based on the SCCS opinion, intake of Vitamin A via additional sources of exposure to Vitamin A (in addition to exposure via food) may, therefore, exceed safe levels.

In 2020, the Commission services received additional information on a recent study that evaluated the aggregated exposure to Vitamin A from cosmetics, diet and food supplements and the contribution of cosmetic products among the overall/total exposure to Vitamin A.

2. Terms of reference

- (1) *In light of the data provided, does the SCCS consider that the contribution of the cosmetic products among the overall/total exposure to Vitamin A is of concern?*
- (2) *SCCS is invited to update accordingly opinion SCCS/1576/16 on Vitamin A notably as regards, as needed, the maximum concentration limits for the different categories of cosmetic products indicated in that opinion.*

3. Deadline

9 months

4. Supporting documents

- Study report on aggregate exposure to Vitamin A from cosmetics, diet and food supplements

The SCCS approved this mandate by written procedure on 8 March 2021.