



Taiwan's Important Cosmetic Regulatory Updates in 2016

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Taiwan's overarching cosmetic regulation has been under revision since 2015, and hasn't finished yet. Presumably the most significant change will be the abolition of pre-market approval. Overall no big changes to cosmetic market access requirements were announced this year, although the details of pending regulatory reforms were outlined.

Chapter 1: Regulate children cosmetics

Setting safety requirements for children cosmetics

On Oct.14 2016, Taiwan FDA released and implemented “Guidelines for Safety of Children Cosmetics”. Since then, children cosmetic in Taiwan are regulated separately from general cosmetics; manufacturers/importers must comply with several requirements when producing/importing children cosmetics.

Highlights of children cosmetic requirements:

- Ingredients with safe usage history should be preferentially used by companies when formulating children cosmetics. Companies shall **minimize use of fragrances, perfume, colorants and preservatives**.
- Total **microbial counts** in children cosmetics shall be **less than 100 CFU/g(ml)**. **Escherichia coli, pseudomonas aeruginosa** and **staphylococcus aureus** should not be found during testing.
- The appearance, color, packaging, labels and size shall not mislead children that products can be eaten.
- For medicated products (shampoo excluded) with **salicylic acid** as the main ingredient used to soften cuticles and preventing acne, their labels shall indicate that **“children under 3 are forbidden to use the product”**.
- Cosmetics containing **“Alpha Hydroxy Acid”** or its preparations shall be marked with **“infants and children shouldnot use the product”**.
- For cosmetics containing **camphor, menthol and methyl salicylate**, if there is a possibility that children under 2 may use them, their packaging, labels and instructions shall indicate that **“children under 2 shall use under the guidance of doctors or pharmacists”**.
- It is recommended for children cosmetics to mark “use it under the supervision of adults” or similar sentences with the same meaning.
- For cosmetics in pressed containers, it is recommended to mark “avoid spraying in eyes, do not pierce or burn it, keep out of the direct sunlight and place, keep away from fire and heat” or similar sentences with the same meaning.

Additionally parabens, which are the most commonly used preservatives, can cause skin irritation in children. A TFDA official revealed that like the European standard, Taiwan will prohibit the use of parabens in cosmetics for children under 3, and other cosmetics containing parabens shall be marked with “children under 3 shall not use the product”. The official also predicted that the rule would be implemented by early next year.

To regulate infant wet wipes as cosmetics

The other change in children cosmetic was to regulate wet wipes for infants as cosmetics. This regulation will be implemented from June 1st 2017, after which all wet wipes made for infants must obey the specific rules in “Statute for Control of Cosmetic Hygiene”. The definition of infant references the definition set by WHO, which means babies under 1 years of age.

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