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Introduction

The story of fragrance allergens in cosmetics is a long one... but this time it seems to be coming to an end.

It took more than 10 years for the SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety) Opinion of 26 and 27 June 2012 to finally be translated into regulations.

The stakes were high, and the implications for the industry particularly far-reaching. The Opinion recommended nothing less than a ban on substances that had previously been permitted, restrictions on the use of certain others, and above all, compulsory labelling for around 80 of them!

Although the industry protested and disputed the relevance of such a measure, in the end it was consumer information that prevailed.

In 2023, after 10 years of discussions, consultations, impact studies, counter-proposals, analyses and assessments, the "Allergens" Regulation was finally published.

It finally made it compulsory to label 80 fragrance ingredients and substances on the packaging (but with a possible window of opportunity for digital information at a later stage), as soon as they are present in at more than 0.01% in rinse-off products and more than 0.001% in leave-on products.

It brings with it new INCI names where none existed before, with some of them grouping together several related substances that already had INCI names, CAS numbers added for several of them, and also the regulatory obligation for manufacturers to measure these "new" allergens in their products, to know whether or not they need to be labelled.

Not to mention the regulatory obligation to review all product ingredient lists to bring them up to date, and to change their packaging to include them...

What are these "new" allergens? How are they regulated? How should they be labelled? And how will this new labelling be accepted (or not) internationally?

This ebook sets out to answer all these questions, starting with a reminder of the historical background to this upheaval, followed by details of the new Regulation and practical solutions for implementing it. It also includes the technical and regulatory data sheets for the 80 substances involved, with their European regulations (cosmetics and CLP), their IFRA standards and the rules that apply to them in 16 crucial export destinations.

It is true that the "Allergens" Regulation sets deadlines for compliance: three years for products placed on the market, five years for products made available on the market.

Given the scale of the task, it's not too early to start preparing: this ebook has been designed as the best tool for doing just that.