

Press Release

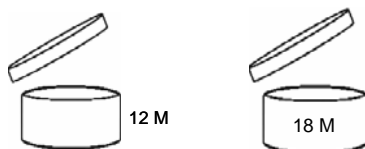
Cosmetics legislation reformed **MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON COSMETIC PRODUCTS'** **COMPOSITION AND STORAGE LIFE** 23.2.2005

Legislation concerning cosmetic products, such as shampoos, make-up and skin-care products, has been reformed in Finland. The new Cosmetics Act and the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Decree on Cosmetic Products allow consumers to receive more precise information on the composition of cosmetic products and allergenic perfume substances. Labelling of the storage life of cosmetic products will also change.

Up to now allergic consumers have only been able to tell from the list of ingredients on cosmetic products whether products contain perfume or not. Under the new regulations, the names of twenty six substances that can easily cause contact-allergy reactions must now be indicated in the list of ingredients. The new labelling requirements will enter into force on 11 March 2005.

In the past, the minimum durability of cosmetic products has been indicated with BEST USED BEFORE THE END OF _____. This label has only been required for products with a minimum durability of less than 30 months, however. Under the new regulations products with a minimum durability of more than 30 months must be labelled to show how long after opening they can be used without any harm to the consumer.

This information is indicated by a special symbol representing an open cream jar together with the storage life in months (abbreviated as M). For instance, 12 months is marked with the abbreviation 12 M. Below are two examples of the new label:



The new storage life label is not required for disposable products, aerosols and similar products that are not opened or products that do not present a health risk even if they are stored for a long time. The new labelling requirements will enter into force on 11 March 2005. Products manufactured and packaged before this date that comply with the old regulations do not have to be taken off the shelf.

The Cosmetics Act also contains provisions concerning animal testing. In Finland the testing of cosmetic products or their ingredients on animals has not been possible for years in practice. Testing products on animals for cosmetic purposes has been banned since 11 September 2004. Testing ingredients on animals is

prohibited if alternative methods exist. Even if there are no alternative methods, all animal testing will be banned as of March 2009 or March 2013, depending on the nature of tests.

The basic principle in cosmetics regulations is that only safe products should be allowed on the market. Traders are responsible for seeing that cosmetic products comply with regulations. The name and address of the company that is responsible for marketing a product must be indicated on a product or packaging. Contact information for cosmetics companies in the EU is available from the European Cosmetic Toiletry and Perfumery Association (Colipa) at www.european-cosmetics.info.

The Cosmetics Act and the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Decree on Cosmetic Products implement the latest amendments to EU legislation concerning cosmetic products. They will replace previous legislation applying to cosmetics.

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