neotron
Part of the Cotecna Group

Zinc Pyrithione
Check your anti-dandruff shampoo coming from outside Europe!

Zinc Pyrithione is the coordination complex of Zinc and Pyrithione, a derivative of the naturally occurring antibiotic aspergillic acid, with antimicrobial, antifungal and anti-seborrheic effects.[1]
It is an active ingredient widely used in the past in cosmetic shampoos for its antifungine and anti-dandruff activity.[2]

The SCCS repeatedly assessed Zinc Pyrithione as safe in hair rinse products up to a maximum concentration of 1%, but in 2018 the ECHA classified the molecule as CMR 1B (Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic for Reproduction for humans).
Consequently, the ingredient entered Annex II of REG 1223/2009 on 3rd November 2021 with the Omnibus ACT IV (REG 2021/1902), despite the efforts made by the cosmetic companies to defend it.[3,4,5]

Since 2nd March 2022, the use of Zinc Pyrithione in cosmetics (principally shampoos, but also other hair and, more rarely, skin products) is not allowed anymore in Europe, and all the cosmetic products containing Zinc Pyrithione had to be retired and not placed anymore on the market.

Anyway, Zinc Pyrithione is prohibited in UE but not in other countries outside Europe.
In August 2023, RAPEX reported that in Lithuania a Brazilian hair conditioner was withdrawn from the market as it contained this molecule.[6]

On the face of it, it is important that importers and distributors pay attention not to import antidandruff cosmetic products containing Zinc Pyrithione. It is advisable that also manufacturers which produce cosmetics destined to global market check potential cross contamination of Zinc Pyrithione in their antidandruff haircare products intended for Europe, if they still use it for outside Europe.

NEOTRON PROPOSAL

Neotron performs the analysis of Zinc Pyrithione by HPLC-DAD technique, according through an internal method.

Do you want to know if your cosmetic products comply with Annex II of REG 1223/2009?
Contact us to receive your dedicated offer and more information.

Neotron, part of the Cotecna Group, is a global player in analytical services on food and feed products, supplements, materials in contact with food (FCM), cosmetics, and pharmaceutical products.

Neotron Spa, Stradello Aggazzotti 104, 41126 Modena, Italy

Contact us www.neotron.it

References:
1.https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/26041#section=Structures
2.Zinc Pyrithione: A Topical Antimicrobial With Complex Pharmaceutics. Schwartz JR Journal of Drugs in Dermatology : JDD, 01 Feb 2016, 15(2):140-144 PMID: 26885780
3.https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/sccs_o_236.pdf
4.https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2166400/RAC-46finalAgenda.pdf/89c9bd00-d1e5-bb1f-2a3a-f795db8d26a4?t=1536649595540
5.https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1902
6.https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate-alerts/screen/webReport/alertDetail/10009962?lang=en