



## Formaldehyde Releasers: New European Cosmetics Regulation Amending the labelling rules

According to the new amendment, that enter into force on July 31, 2022, the new Cosmetic products in the EU must be labelled “contains formaldehyde” where formaldehyde is present at levels higher than 0.001%

Formaldehyde, classified as a carcinogen (Category 1B) and skin sensitizer (Category 1), is listed in Annex II of Reg. (EC) 1223/2009, so it is forbidden in cosmetic products and cannot be added intentionally. There are, however, preservative substances listed in Annex V of the Cosmetics Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 are known to release formaldehyde to fulfil a preserving function in the finished product.

Currently, cosmetic products with a concentration of released formaldehyde exceeding 0.05% should include a warning “Contains formaldehyde” on the label.

[The Regulation 2022/1181](#), that amends the preamble of Annex V (authorized preservatives) to Cosmetics Regulation 1223/2009, is based on the safety assessment findings of the Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety (SCCS) issued an opinion concluding that **the current 0,05% threshold is insufficient** to protect consumers and the formaldehyde-sensitive subjects and proposed that **the threshold over which the warning should be printed on the label should be decreased to 0.001%**, regardless of whether the finished product contains one or more formaldehyde-releasing substances.

This new restriction calls into question the product formulations containing formaldehyde releaser and therefore new analyzes on free formaldehyde will be necessary.

### Neutron proposal

Neutron experts are ready to help manufacturers selling products in the EU keep their products legal and compliant by carrying out thorough formulation analysis.

The sample is extracted with water in a mechanical stirrer and derivatized with 2,4-dinitro-phenylhydrazine (DNPH). Final determination is performed in HPLC with DAD detector. *LQ: 2,0 - 10 mg/kg.*

