

- A list of ingredients in descending order of weight. The list must be preceded with the word 'ingredients'.
- Nominal content at the time of packaging, given by weight or by volume (except in the case of packaging containing less than 5g or 5mm, free samples and single application packs).
- The date of minimum durability. This shall be indicated by the words 'best used before end of...' followed by either: the date itself or details where the date appears on the packaging.
- On products with a date of minimum durability less than 30 months, an indication of the period of time after opening for which the product can be used without any harm to the consumer. This shall be indicated by an open jar symbol.
- A batch number or the reference for identifying the goods.
- The function of the cosmetic product, unless it is clear and any particular precautions to be observed in use.



- Where a cosmetic product has no packaging or it is not possible for the list of ingredients to appear on the packaging, the list shall be placed on the container in which the product is exposed for sale or on a notice in immediate proximity to that container.

## OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

A person, who contravenes any provision of the European Communities (Cosmetic Products) Regulations 2004, as amended, shall be guilty of an offence. A person guilty of an offence under these Regulations shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both.

## RAPEX ALERTS

EHOs frequently receive Consumer Alert Notifications regarding cosmetic products from Ireland and the EU via the Department of Health & Children. These alerts relate to products that pose a risk to the consumers due to the presence of certain substances which are banned or the use of which is restricted in cosmetic products under the above legislation. EHOs may visit you in relation to the alerts. To assist with alerts and ensure the rapid removal of these products from the market, retailers should maintain a list of suppliers and the brand of products they supply.

For further information contact your local HSE Environmental Health Officer.

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HSE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH

RETAIL SALES  
OF COSMETIC  
PRODUCTS

## THE ROLE OF THE RETAILER

Under the *European Communities (Cosmetic Products) Regulations 2004* as amended, a cosmetic product shall not be sold by retail or otherwise supplied to a consumer unless it complies with the provisions of these Regulations.



## WHAT IS A COSMETIC PRODUCT?

"Cosmetic product" means any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the human body or with the teeth. e.g. toothpastes, soaps, deodorants, sun protection creams, make-up products.

## THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

The role of the Environmental Health Officer is to ensure that the *European Communities (Cosmetic Products) Regulations 2004* as amended, are complied with. The Environmental Health Officer carries out inspections and takes samples of cosmetic products.

Environmental Health Officers are authorised to:

- enter and inspect a premises at all reasonable times where any trade, or activity connected with the placing on the market, distribution or supply of cosmetic products is or has been carried on;
- require any person in charge of or connected with any premises to produce books, documents or records relating to cosmetic products;
- inspect and take copies of documents or records relating to cosmetic products;
- take (without payment) samples of cosmetic product or substances for test, examination or analysis;
- seize and detain any cosmetic product, substance or article.



## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A person shall not place on the market any cosmetic product which is likely to cause damage to human health when used under normal conditions.

The regulations specify ingredients which are not permitted or the use of which is restricted in cosmetic products



## LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

A person shall not place on the market a cosmetic product unless the container and packaging contains the following information in indelible, easy to read and visible lettering:

- The name and address of the manufacturer or person responsible for placing of a cosmetic product on the market within the EU. The manufacturer or person responsible for placing the product on the market shall have an office in the EU.
- The information shall be in the Irish or in the English language; and shall be in a language easily understood by the consumer.