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## **Opinion on Triclosan in Cosmetic Products**

Triclosan is commonly used in certain cosmetic products as a preservative to protect cosmetic products from spoilage in use or as an antibacterial agent. It is contained in a variety of consumer products such as toothpaste, mouthwash, antiseptic hand-wash and body wash.

Under the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive, Triclosan is permitted for use in cosmetic products, as a preservative up to 0.3% in toothpastes, hand soaps, body soaps, shower gels, non-spray deodorants, face powders, blemish concealers, nail cleansers, shampoos, hair conditioners, facial cleansers and up to 0.2% in mouthwashes. The same concentration-type of products is permitted as an antibacterial agent.

The use of Triclosan with these recommended restrictions has been reviewed by various regulatory agencies around the World, including the European Union and the ASEAN Cosmetic Scientific Body, and has been considered it to be safe.

There are laws and regulations established by governments to ensure that the companies will only produce and market safe products. The industry associations around the world including in ASEAN are working very hard to promote safety and quality standards among their members and make sure that companies take compliance seriously and work hard to earn and keep the trust of their consumers and their families.

Consumers have to rest assured that Industry and Regulators are working towards ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy of the cosmetic products available to them. In case unsafe products are found in the market, Regulators keep the public informed of their decisions and actions.

The ASEAN Cosmetic Committee has issued the ASEAN Consumer Information Handbook on Cosmetic Product. This is available on the ASEAN Secretariat web site as well as the ACA web site (<http://aseancosmetics.org/>). The Handbook answers many of the questions commonly asked by consumers or ingredients or products safety.