



## How should cosmetics and toiletries be labelled?

### example

Some skin types are highly sensitive to common ingredients in cosmetics and toiletries. Because of this, dermatologists asked that an information standard be introduced to identify these ingredients.

In 1991 a consumer product information standard for cosmetics and toiletries was introduced. It requires products to be labelled with a list of ingredients so consumers can identify ingredients to which they may be allergic or which may cause an adverse reaction.

As we near the Christmas period, many people begin to buy gifts for family and friends. Children's make-up is a common stocking filler with popular items including:

- face paints
- make-up sets
- body crayons
- temporary tattoos

Some of these products have the potential to cause allergic reactions in children and in some cases such reactions can be very serious.

This list of ingredients must be available at point of sale. Usually the goods should carry the list on their container, but the regulation makes sure that the list of ingredients is still available where this is not possible.

The ingredients must be specifically identified and listed in descending order calculated by mass or volume.



## Allergic reaction leads to ACCC action

### ACCC case

In April 2002 a consumer complained to the ACCC's Perth office that she had bought a product manufactured by Private Formula International Pty Ltd and had a strong adverse reaction.

The ACCC investigated and found that Private Formula's Dr Lewinn's Cosmetic Lift Pack, containing A+ Revita Cell, and Dr Lewinn's Cosmetic Lift Powder did not comply with the mandatory information standard.

In resolving this matter with the ACCC, Private Formula provided a court enforceable undertaking to

- stop distributing the product
- implement procedures to re-label all old stock in the marketplace
- publish corrective advertising in newspapers and retail outlets
- implement a trade practices compliance program
- institute an effective complaints handling system.



STANDARDS

## New developments in product safety standards —sunglasses, toys and jacks

### sunglasses and fashion spectacles

A new mandatory standard for sunglasses and fashion spectacles came into effect from 1 October 2003. It is based on AS/NZS 1067:2003 *Sunglasses and fashion spectacles* published by Standards Australia in April 2003.

Suppliers should note that the old mandatory standard can also be used until 31 March 2005. During this 18-month cross-over period sunglasses and fashion spectacles can comply with either the old or new mandatory standards.

### toys

The mandatory standard for toys for children under three has been reviewed and is expected to be gazetted shortly. The new standard is likely to have an 18-month lead time, giving suppliers time to phase out products that comply only with the current standard. During that time, manufacturers will be able to comply with either AS 1647.2:1992 *Children's toys (safety requirements)* or AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002 *Safety of toys, Part 1*.

The proposed standard has been extended to include more than the small parts requirements in the current standard. Items such as pre-school play figures, pompoms attached to toys and small balls will be subjected to additional tests.

### vehicle jacks

The mandatory standard for vehicle jacks is currently being reviewed and is expected to be gazetted before 2004. As with the toy standard, it is expected that the new standard for jacks will have a lead time where suppliers can comply with either AS/NZS 2693:1993 *Vehicle jacks* or the updated 2003 version of the same standard.

There will be some changes, such as new labelling requirements and changes to test procedures, to ensure fail-safe products.

Further information on all new standards and advice on how to obtain documents is available from the ACCC's website under 'product safety/new developments'.