

Methylisothiazolinone (MI) contained in cosmetics may cause allergies

BfR opinion Nr. 020/2013 , 22 January 2013

During the 10th meeting of the BfR Commission for Cosmetic Products an increase in allergic reactions in connection with methylisothiazolinone (MI) was reported and discussed. This rise is caused by the increasing use of the substance as an ingredient of cosmetics as well as aqueous consumer products such as dispersion paint in which it is used as a preservative.

Due to this development, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has assessed the substance with regard to its allergenic potential. In the view of the BfR, consumers currently come into contact with products containing MI more frequently than in the past. The risk of sensitisation to the substance is therefore higher, meaning that it could potentially pose a health risk to consumers.

The full version of this BfR Opinion is available in German on
<http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/allergien-durch-methylisothiazolinon-mi-in-kosmetika-moeglich.pdf>