



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

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MALAYAAT MALUSOG
NA PAMAYANAN

4 September 2006

BUREAU CIRCULAR

No. 2006- 012

To: **ALL COSMETIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER CONCERNED**

Subject: **MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LIMITS OF HEAVY METALS FOR COSMETIC PRODUCTS**

The ASEAN Cosmetic Directive ("Directive") which was adopted pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2005-0015 and implemented by virtue of Administrative Order No. 2005-0025, mandates every member States to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that only cosmetic products which conform to the provisions of the Directive, its Annexes and Appendices may be placed in the market.

The above mandate notwithstanding, Paragraph 3, Article 4 of the Directive allows the presence of traces of the substances listed in Annex II [Lead (Pb), Arsenic (As), Mercury (Hg), and Cadmium (Cd) included] provided that such presence is technically unavoidable in good manufacturing practice and that it conforms to Article 3 thereof.

It has been noted that the presence of traces of Heavy Metals [*Lead (Pb)*, *Arsenic (As)*, *Mercury (Hg)*, and *Cadmium (Cd)*] are technically unavoidable in the manufacture of cosmetic products despite the establishment's compliance to good manufacturing practice. Hence, pursuant to Paragraph 3, Article 4 of the Directive, the BFAD, after consolidating the data of other ASEAN member countries on their respective allowable limit for heavy metals and proper consideration, will allow the presence of the above-identified heavy metals in cosmetic products but which must strictly conform to the respective maximum levels provided hereunder and subject to compliance with Article 3 of the Directive on Safety Requirements. The results of test analysis for *Lead (Pb)*, *Arsenic (As)*, *Mercury (Hg)*, and *Cadmium (Cd)* conducted on the finished product conforming to the standard allowable limit set hereunder should be submitted at the time of application for registration or notification of cosmetic products, as the case may be.



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Table 1. Maximum Allowable Limits for Cosmetic Products in the Philippines

LEAD (Pb)	ARSENIC (As)	MERCURY (Hg)	CADMIUM (Cd)
20 ppm	5 ppm	0.5 ppm	1 ppm

Cosmetic products containing *Lead (Pb)*, *Arsenic (As)*, *Mercury (Hg)*, and *Cadmium (Cd)* with levels in excess of the aforementioned limits as well as other heavy metals not complying with the condition in Paragraph 3, Article 4 of the Directive shall not be allowed in the market. Otherwise, any cosmetic product found pursuant to Post-Market Surveillance violating with the preceding sentence hereof shall be subject to immediate action by the Bureau in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

For the guidance of all concerned.


PROF. LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, M.S.
Director IV