



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS**  
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City  
Alabang, Muntinlupa City  
Tel. No.: 807-0721  
Website: www.bfad.gov.ph



5 September 2006

BUREAU CIRCULAR  
No. 2006- 013

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

Subject: **AMENDMENT TO BUREAU CIRCULAR 17 S. 2005 FURTHER UPDATING THE ACCEPTED WHITENING AGENTS FOR COSMETICS**

Below is an updated list of accepted whitening agents in their International Nomenclature for Cosmetic Ingredients (INCI) name and their respective levels of concentration. Said agents being **used individually** have been found safe and effective at the stated levels of concentration for the intended use of whitening or brightening the skin and thus, can undergo the notification process. However, cosmetic products containing whitening agents not found in the list and/or even if listed but the concentrations are either below or above the approved level shall be evaluated for initial registration and should demonstrate effectiveness and safety through the submission of clinical studies. Similarly, a combination of two or more whitening agents listed in this Bureau Circular should comply with the preceding sentence hereof.

In both cases, 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 for Heavy metals set by this Bureau should be submitted at the time of application.

Establishments who wish to introduce into the market cosmetic products containing new whitening agent with its corresponding level of concentration of skin whiteners, should be able to provide evidence of purity, safety, effectiveness, and quality of the product.

WHITENING AGENTS	LEVEL OF CONCENTRATION
Alpha- Arbutin	1.0%
L- Ascorbic Acid	0.2 – 5.0%
<i>Bearberry Extract</i> , Magnesium Ascorbyl Phosphate	3.0 – 10%
Caprylic/capric Triglyceride and Diacetyl Boldine	1.0 – 4.0%
<i>Carica Papaya</i> Enzyme	0.2 – 0.5%
<i>Carica Papaya Extract</i>	1.0 – 5.0%



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Citric acid, Gluconic acid and Ferulic acid	0.5 – 2.0%
Citrus Peel Extract	1.0%
Kojic acid	2.0%
Kojic acid, Acetyl tyrosine, Aminopropyl Ascorbyl Phosphate, <i>Saxifraga sarmentosa</i> Extract, Arbutin, <i>Paeonia suffruticosa</i> root Extract, <i>Scutellaria</i>	2.0 – 4.0%
Lactic acid	1.0 – 10%
Leukocyte extract	2.0 – 4.0%
Licorice Extract	0.0003 – 1.0%
Magnesium Ascorbyl Phosphate (MAP)	0.01 – 18.5%
<i>Malva sylvestris</i> (Mallow) extract, <i>Mentha piperita</i> (Peppermint) leaf extract, <i>Primula veris</i> extract, <i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> extract, <i>Veronica officinalis</i> extract, <i>Melissa officinalis</i> leaf extract, <i>Achillea millefolium</i> extract	0.2 - 5.0%
Mulberry Extract	0.5 - 5.0%
Niacinamide	0.1 – 3.0%
Octadecenedioic Acid	0.1%
Sodium Citrate Lemon extract and Cucumber extract	5.0%
Sodium lactate	10 – 12%
Undecylonyl Phenylalanine	1.0%
Wheat Germ extract and <i>Triticum vulgare</i>	3.0%

For the guidance of all concerned.

  
**PROF. LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS**  
 Director IV