

Isopropyl Lanolate

Monice Fiume*, Wilma F. Bergfeld, Donald V. Belsito**,
Ronald A. Hill***, Curtis D. Klaassen**, Daniel C. Liebler***,
James G. Marks***, Lisa A. Peterson***, Ronald C. Shank***,
Thomas J. Slaga**, Paul W. Snyder**, and Bart Heldreth†**

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Abstract

The Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety reviewed updated information that has become available since their original assessment from 1980, along with updated information regarding product types, and frequency and concentrations of use, and reaffirmed their original conclusion that Isopropyl Lanolate is safe as a cosmetic ingredient in the practices of use and concentration as described in this report.

Keywords

Safety, Cosmetics, Isopropyl Lanolate

The Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety (Panel) first published the safety assessment of Isopropyl Lanolate in 1980. The Panel concluded that “on the basis of the information available, which the Expert Panel believes to have been accumulated in a reasonable manner, it is concluded that Isopropyl Lanolate is safe as currently used in cosmetic products.”¹ In 2001, following a review of data published since the 1980 publication and of updated use data, the Panel published a re-review summary affirming the original conclusion.² This current re-review is the result of an extensive search of the literature on Isopropyl Lanolate since 1998, in which no new relevant information was identified. The Panel did consider updated information regarding product types and ingredient use frequencies as reported in the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program (VCRP) database,³ and the maximum use concentrations provided by the Personal Care Products Council.⁴ The Panel again determined to not re-open this safety assessment, reaffirming the original conclusion that Isopropyl Lanolate is safe as in cosmetics in the present practices of use and concentration, as given in [Table 1](#).

The frequency and maximum concentrations of use have decreased since the initial re-review of Isopropyl Lanolate was considered. According to VCRP data, Isopropyl Lanolate was reported to be used in 415 formulations in 2001² but was only reported to be used in 122 formulation in 2019.³ The maximum reported concentration of use decreased from 26% in 2001² to 14.5% in 2019.⁴ Additionally, the maximum concentration of use in products that could result in incidental ingestion (lipsticks) has remained basically the same (~14%); but, for products that result in dermal contact, that

concentration has decreased from 26% (in foundations; 2001) to 6% (in eyeliners; 2019). It should also be noted that when compared to the use data included in the 1980 assessment, the decreases are even more significant; at that time, Isopropyl Lanolate was reported to be used in 1194 formulations at concentrations up to 50%.¹

Author’s Note

Unpublished sources cited in this report are available from the Director, Cosmetic Ingredient Review, 1620 L Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036, USA.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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*Cosmetic Ingredient Review Senior Director

**Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety Member

***Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety Former Member

†Cosmetic Ingredient Review Executive Director

Corresponding Author:

Bart Heldreth, Executive Director, Cosmetic Ingredient Review, 1620 L Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036, USA.

Email: cirinfo@cir-safety.org

Table 1. Current (2019) and Historical (2001) Frequency and Maximum Concentration of Use of Isopropyl Lanolate According to Duration and Exposure.

	# of Uses		Max Conc of Use (%)	
	2019 ³	2001 ²	2019 ⁴	2001 ²
Totals*	122	415	0.005 – 14.5	0.4 – 26
<i>Leave-On</i>	118	393	0.05 – 14.5	1 – 26
<i>Rinse-Off</i>	4	21	NR	0.4 – 6
<i>Diluted for (Bath) Use</i>	NR	1	NR	NR
Eye Area	35	41	6	2 – 10
Incidental Ingestion	19	183	2.7 – 14.5	2 – 14
Incidental Inhalation-Spray	3; 4 ^a ; 13 ^b	27 ^a ; 25 ^b	4 ^a	10; 1-15 ^a ; 1-5 ^b
Incidental Inhalation-Powder	11; 13 ^b	13; 25 ^b ; 1 ^c	1.5 ^c	3-6; 1-5 ^b
Dermal Contact	100	226	0.5 – 6	1 – 26
Deodorant (underarm)	1 ^a	NR	NR	NR
Hair - Non-Coloring	1	4	4	2
Hair-Coloring	NR	NR	NR	0.4
Nail	1	2	NR	1 – 9
Mucous Membrane	19	188	2.7 – 14.5	2 – 14
Baby Products	NR	1	NR	NR

*Because this ingredient may be used in cosmetics with multiple exposure types, the sum of all exposure types may not equal the sum of total uses.

^a It is possible these products are sprays, but it is not specified whether the reported uses are sprays.

^b Not specified whether a spray or a powder, but it is possible the use can be as a spray or a powder, therefore the information is captured in both categories

^c It is possible these products are powders, but it is not specified whether the reported uses are powders.

NR – no reported use

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