CIR RECLASSIFIES EXTRACTS OF CALENDULA

During the December 2009 session, the CIR (Cosmetic Ingredient Review Expert Panel), of Washington announced a review of the safety record of calendula extracts (Calendula officinalis), at the time listed in the "insufficient data" category. Cosmetic products containing some had to, therefore, bear a special label indicating that their safety was not clearly proven. With the help of UNITIS - European organization of cosmetic ingredients industries and services, particularly specialized in the field of natural ingredients - and of university teams, a huge amount of research work helped improving knowledge on the chemical structure of calendula. Hence nearly 200 molecules were identified from the plant.

By gathering all the toxicological and bibliographic data scattered throughout the world and by crossing checking them, it was then possible to demonstrate that extracts of calendula represented no risks to consumer safety. A full report on the subject was provided by UNITIS to the CIR who, after study and exchanges of additional information, concluded recently in the value of the demonstration by showing that calendula extracts were now considered as safe for use in cosmetics in the United States. «Toxicologists from the CIR demonstrated being truly open-minded. The report on Calendula has been a fruitful exercise in terms of research and discussion. The aim is not to repeat this work, very expensive, for all other natural ingredients placed in the hot seat by the CIR, but to demonstrate the interesting prospects of a methodology based on existing data, which are scattered everywhere «explains Jean-Pierre Barrère, President of UNITS.

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