



# ALLERGENIC SUBSTANCES

## Position paper

The 7<sup>th</sup> amendment of the European cosmetic Directive will impose on the cosmetic industry, from March 2005 onwards, a qualitative and quantitative labeling if one or more of the 26 substances considered as allergenic is present in the product beyond a maximum concentration.

Initially, this new measure was destined essentially to apply to the field of perfumes and those of their raw materials concerned by these substances.

However, it is now implemented for all cosmetic products.

It has consequently an indirect impact on other categories of cosmetic ingredients and especially those from natural origin having a complex chemical structure in which some of the substances considered as allergenic might be found in various proportions, as natural components of the plants of which they are extracted.

The European manufacturers of ingredients from botanical origin, members of UNITIS, are conscious of the necessity to supply their customers of the cosmetic industry with the answers that will enable them to respect their regulatory obligations.

Nevertheless it is a complex problem as:

- Only some of the allergenic substances can be found in nature and this in specific plants only,
- The presence of one allergenic substance in one botanical does not mean, depending on the extraction processes, that it will be found, totally or partially, in the extracts from said botanical.

Within the framework of an ad hoc Working Group, the necessary work has been engaged by the members of UNITIS so as to resolve these problems without having to systematically assay the 26 allergenic substances in all cosmetic ingredients from botanical origin, a measure and cost that would be often superfluous for the cosmetic industry and of no interest to the final consumer.

The members of UNITIS will finalize these activities within a few months in order to be achieved in due time considering the obligations of their customers but they need a reasonable period of time to accomplish it. As a matter of fact, any global answer given rapidly in a so complex field would not be reliable nor credible.

June 2003