Evaluating What Will Work in Regulating the Safety of Nano-Cosmetics

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Abstract

Evaluating the type of legislation suitable for products that contain nanomaterial is very topical because of the heightened concern over their safety. This is especially important with products that are becoming essential for consumers such as cosmetics. There is still uncertainty about the safety of nanomaterials in cosmetics; it is imperative to rely on the law and regulation to provide an answer. This article discusses the best way of regulating nanotechnology in cosmetics. Within this it should not be forgotten that they remain the subject of considerable research as their safety has not been ascertained.

Introduction—nanotechnology and its application in cosmetics (nano-cosmetics)

Nanotechnology has been claimed as a new revolution in technology and a significant economic development for the 21st century. The development of nanotechnology promises wide-ranging benefits on a global scale; from medical advances, to more effective use of energy resources, next generation electronics and even improvements in water quality. As both a science and an application, nanotechnology is on the verge of creating a global revolution for many industries. Consumer products containing nanomaterials have been entering and continue to enter the market at a steady pace, including cosmetics. According to Brumfiel the cosmetic sector has been a leading area for the commercialisation of nano-products. Cosmetic products that contain nanomaterial are known as nano-cosmetics. Nano-cosmetics are present in many skin creams, especially sunscreen, as well as hair care products. One of the brands that is well-known for using nanotechnology in its products is L’Oreal. It was reported to rank sixth in the USA in the number of nanotech related products patented. From the 1970s L’Oreal has been patenting Niosomes. These have been used in its liposome-based anti-ageing products, such as

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2 Ibid.