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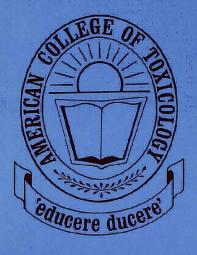
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Final Report on the Safety Assessment of Polyquaternium-10

Polyquaternium-10 is a polymeric quaternary ammonium derivative of hydroxyethyl cellulose that is used in cosmetics as a conditioner, thickener, and emollient at concentrations of $\leq 0.1\%-5\%$. Polyquaternium-10 has, at most, only a low potential to penetrate the stratum corneum but is adsorbed by keratinous surfaces. The oral LD₅₀ of Polyquaternium-10 was not obtained at 16 g/kg in rats. Inhalation, dermal, and ocular animal test data indicated, at most, only a low degree of toxicity at test concentrations of Polyquaternium-10 greater than that used in cosmetic products. Polyquaternium-10 with and without metabolic activation was not a mutagen in three separate assay systems. Polyquaternium-10 was neither an irritant nor a human sensitizer when tested at 2.0%. Cosmetic products containing up to 1% Polyquaternium-10 were not human irritants, sensitizers, or photosensitizers. On the basis of the information presented, it is concluded that Polyquaternium-10 is safe as a cosmetic ingredient in the present practices of use.

INTRODUCTION

Polyquaternium-10 is a cationic form of hydroxyethyl cellulose that adsorbs and sorbs well to proteinaceous surfaces. It is used in cosmetics as a conditioner, thickener, and emollient in hair care products, lotions, and makeup.

CHEMISTRY

Definition

Polyquaternium-10, also known as Quaternium-19, is a polymeric quaternary ammonium salt of hydroxyethyl cellulose reacted with a trimethyl ammonium substituted epoxide. There are various grades of Polyquaternium-10 with different average molecular weights generally ranging from 250,000 to 600,000. Polyquaternium-10 has three CAS numbers: 53568-66-4, 54351-50-7, and 55353-19-0. (1-3)

Chemical and Physical Properties

Polyquaternium-10 is a white granular powder with a characteristic amine odor. It is soluble in water and insoluble in alcohol and nonpolar organic sol-



vents. Polyquaternium-10 used in cosmetics has 0.5% maximum water insolubles, 1.7 to 2.2% nitrogen-containing components, 2% maximum ash (NaCl), and 6% maximum volatile material. The particle size specifications are 95% minimum through a 20 mesh filter and 85% minimum through a 40 mesh filter. The viscosity of a 2% aqueous solution (25°C) is between 60 and 150 centipoises. (4)

Polyquaternium-10 alters the surface tension of aqueous solutions of anionic surfactants. Addition of 1% and 2% Polyquaternium-10 lowered the surface tension of aqueous solutions of sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium tridecylben-

zenesulfonate, and potassium laurate. (5)

Reactivity

Polyquaternium-10 is a cationic, surface-active polymer that is adsorbed by keratinous surfaces, such as hair and skin (stratum corneum). The adsorption of the polymer was not readily affected by pH in the range of 4 to 10. It undergoes slow hydrolytic cleavage outside this pH range. Sorption of Polyquaternium-10 to keratinous surfaces was decreased by the addition of electrolytes (salts), such as aluminum, iron, calcium, or sodium. Polyquaternium-10 is biologically degradable. The presence of ethyl alcohol or propylene glycol adds to the stability of Polyquaternium-10. (6-9)

Analytical Methods

The most common analytical method for quaternary ammonium compounds is colorimetric testing following separation by acid extraction. (10)

Method of Manufacture

Polyquaternium-10 is generally produced by reacting hydroxyethylcellulose with epichlorhydrin, followed by quaternization using trimethylamine. It is stable within a pH rane of 4 to 8.

Impurities

Inorganic impurities of Polyquaternium-10 used in cosmetics include water (up to 0.5%), nitrogen (1.7 to 2.2%), and ash (NaCl up to 2%). Information was not available on organic impurities of Polyquaternium-10. (4) Epichlorhydrin was not detected in any of six different Polyquaternium polymers analyzed with an average detection limit of about 0.5 ppm. (11) A maximum of 10.8 ppm Trimethylamine was detected in lots of Polyquaternium-10 that were produced and sold during 1985. (12)

USE

Purpose in Cosmetics

Polyquaternium-10 is used as a conditioner, emollient and viscosity controlling agent in cosmetics (3,13,14)



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