
SILOXANES

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WHAT ARE SILOXANES?

Siloxanes are low-molecular weight compounds widely used in numerous industrial sectors (household cleaning products, medical articles, cosmetic products, etc.). This group consists of a number of substances of which volatile cyclic siloxanes such as cyclotetrasiloxane (D4), cyclopentasiloxane (D5) and cyclohexasiloxane (D6).

These raw materials are endowed with unique physicochemical properties (no odor or color) enabling various cosmetic performances to be achieved (non-oily and silky feel, ease of product application on the skin and hair, rapid product drying). Siloxanes D4, D5 and D6 are also widely used in a large variety of cosmetic products (skin care, makeup, hair care).

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS?

Siloxane D4 is considered by the European authorities responsible for chemicals as liable to present risks for human health due to its toxic potential with respect to reproduction. The international regulatory authorities (Canada and Europe) therefore assessed the specific risk associated with the substance in cosmetic products on several occasions and in all cases confirmed the absence of risk for consumers. The European Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety is currently reviewing the dossier on siloxane D4.

The international regulatory authorities consider that siloxane D5 may be used in its various cosmetic applications without risk for consumers. The safety assessment on siloxane D5 in cosmetic products was recently submitted to the European Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety by the cosmetics industry.

With regard to siloxane D6, the risk assessment conducted by the Canadian authorities concluded that the substance was not associated with any risk for human health.

Siloxanes D4 and D5 are also the subject of special attention insofar as they are suspected of accumulating and persisting in the aquatic environment, as defined by the European criteria. On that basis, some international regulatory authorities are considering restricting the use of siloxanes D4 and D5 to cosmetic products that are not rinsed off after use. The evaluations of siloxane D6 conducted by the international authorities did not identify any particular risk for the environment.

WHY ARE THE L'OREAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING SILOXANES SAFE?

We never compromise on the quality and safety of our products. In the context of our policy of anticipation, we evaluate the intensity and pertinence of numerous weak signals relating to certain groups of ingredients such as siloxanes. In the innovation dynamic, we were able to discontinue use of siloxane D4 as a raw material in all of our products more than 10 years ago.

We monitor with particular attention all the new scientific findings relating to the human and environmental safety of siloxanes. Our knowledge is systematically incorporated in the safety assessments of products containing those substances in order to ensure that consumers can use our products in every confidence. Although there is no risk for the health of consumers, we are shortly to incorporate in our innovation dynamic the objective of only using siloxane D5 in cosmetic products that are not rinsed off after use.

L'ORÉAL