



16 October 2003

## CTFA Response Statement

### Lead and Cosmetics

There is a rumour on the Internet claiming that long lasting lipsticks are dangerous because of lead. It is BOGUS! The internet rumour on lipsticks started in May 2003 and thanks to internet email circulation continues to pop up.

It has been debunked many times and links to debunking web sites are shown from the CTFA web site [www.ctfa.org.nz](http://www.ctfa.org.nz)

The statement that several major brands of lipstick contain dangerous levels of lead has been made. This is false

The reactions described in the email occur when the test is done with any metal and just using plain wax which is a core component of most lipsticks.

It is impossible to live in a lead-free world. Lead is ubiquitous in the environment. It is in the air, water, soil, in short, it is unavoidable. However, compared to the amount of lead a person would ingest from eating and drinking ordinary foods, the amount expected from the use of cosmetics would be extremely small.

#### **Internationally Cosmetics are extremely tightly regulated.**

In the European Union countries cosmetics are manufactured under the Cosmetic Directive which specifies what dyes and ingredients may be used and at what levels those ingredients are permitted. In lipsticks this is particularly restrictive and permitted levels are constantly monitored.

In the US Cosmetics are just as tightly governed under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has the responsibility to take action if it finds a product to be unsafe and has abundant legal authority to do so. The FDA routinely conducts studies and tests to ensure the safety of all cosmetic products.

In New Zealand our imported cosmetics are required to adhere to the same rules as the EU and US requirements. Locally manufactured cosmetic products, because they are also exported to those markets, must equally adhere and manufacture to the highest safety rules set internationally. This means they are safe.

Cosmetics are safe products that millions of consumers use and enjoy every day. It is alarmist and irresponsible to suggest otherwise.

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