



New York State Governor Approves Bill Banning Mercury in Cosmetics

Governor Hochul of New York State signed a bill that prohibits the sale of any cosmetic product or personal care product containing mercury. This bill amends section 37-0117 of the environmental conservation law and takes effect June 1, 2023.

Definitions in the Act

“Cosmetic product” is any article intended to be rubbed, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering the appearance and intended for use as a component of any such article. It shall not include any personal care products.

“Personal care product” is any product intended for cleaning or cleansing any part of the body, such as the skin and hair including but not limited to, hair shampoo, hair conditioner, soap, bath gels and other bath products.

“Mercury” shall mean elemental mercury Hg, mercuric iodide, mercury oxide, mercurous chloride, ethyl mercury, phenyl mercuric salts, ammoniated mercury, amide chloride of mercury, mercury sulfide or cinnabaris, or mercury iodide.

Additional Information

Certain skin-lightening creams and medicated soaps may contain high levels of mercury, even if mercury is not listed as an ingredient on the label. Products may include those marketed as “anti-aging” treatments intended to fade dark spots, freckles, blemishes and fine lines.

Mercury has a high absorption rate that can cause kidney damage, skin rashes, psychosis, skin discolorations and peripheral neuropathy.

For full details of the bill:

https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A08630&term=&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y

Addition information on the following NY and FDA websites:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mercury-in-soaps-and-creams.page>

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/mercury-poisoning-linked-skin-products>

How Does this Impact You? Contact Us to Discuss

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