

CED PRESS RELEASE

BORATES BANNED IN THE EU WITHOUT EXCEPTION

Products of the borate family are frequently used in beauty salons for the purpose of tooth whitening. The Council of European Dentists warns the public about the dangers of borate products. Furthermore, to safeguard public health, the Council of European Dentists urges the National Authorities in Member States to take initiative to ensure that no such cancerogenic products are utilised for tooth whitening nor available on the market.

Sodium perborate and perboric acid have been banned in cosmetic products by EU legislation and no exception to the ban has been granted.

These substances have been classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic for reproduction (CMR), category 1B of Regulation (EC) 790/2009 amending Regulation 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation), as a result of being included in Part 3 of Annex VI of the CLP Regulation. This classification is applied since 1 December 2010.

Once a substance is classified as CMR 1B, independently from its concentration, its use in cosmetic products is prohibited (Article 15(2) of the [Cosmetics Regulation 1223/2009](#)). It is an automatic ban for which no implementing measures (such as amending Annexes to the Cosmetics Regulation) are needed. Exceptions may however be granted if the conditions laid down in Article 15(2) of the Cosmetics Regulation are met.

As the conditions to authorise the use of these substances in cosmetic products were not met, the Commission did not grant an exception. Consequently, sodium perborate and perboric acid are considered banned in the EU as of 1 December 2010.

For further information please see [here](#).

Want to know more about banned substances and ingredients, please see [CosIng](#).

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 340,000 practising dentists through 32 national dental associations and chambers from 30 European countries. Its key objectives are to promote high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred professional practice across Europe, including through regular contacts with other European organisations and EU institutions.

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