

PRESS RELEASE

CONSUMERS CAUTIONED AGAINST USING COSMETIC PRODUCT CONTAINING SCHEDULED POISON

The public is advised to avoid buying and using the following cosmetic product:

No.	Product Name	Notification Number	Scheduled Poison Detected	Name of Product Notification Holder	Name of Manufacturer
1.	Cellnex Anti-Sensitive Essence Treatment	NOT120905219K	Betamethasone	Europe Cosmeceutical Industries Sdn. Bhd.	Centre De Recherches Biocosmetiques S.A, Switzerland
2.	Natural 99 Night Cream	NOT120300526K	Mercury	Auraqu Enterprise	CV Raja Kosmetik, Indonesia
3.	Natural 99 Day Cream	NOT120300524K	Mercury	Auraqu Enterprise	CV Raja Kosmetik, Indonesia
4.	SF Beauty Night Cream (Facial)	NOT120602462K	Mercury	SF Infinity Resources	Yamni Industries Sdn Bhd
5.	SF Beauty Day Cream (Facial)	NOT120602461K	Mercury	SF Infinity Resources	Yamni Industries Sdn Bhd

The cosmetic products as mentioned above have been tested and detected to contain scheduled poison **betamethasone** and **mercury**. All mentioned products as above are no longer allowed to be sold in Malaysia.

The usage of betamethasone and mercury in cosmetic products are prohibited.

Betamethasone is a type of corticosteroid that is usually used in the treatment of skin conditions such as eczema, serborrhoeic dermatitis, psoriasis and allergic skin conditions. Preparations containing betamethasone can only be supplied by medical doctors and registered pharmacists. Prolonged unsupervised use of betamethasone on facial skin can cause thinning and skin can be easily irritated, stretch marks, acne, changes in skin pigmentation and increase risk of systemic absorption that may cause undesirable effects.

Cosmetic products adulterated with mercury in products marketed for skin lightening and anti ageing treatments such as freckles, blemishes and wrinkles are not allowed and can cause harm to human health. Exposure to mercury can cause damage to the kidneys and the nervous system. It may also interfere with the development of the brain in unborn children and very young children. Furthermore, exposure to mercury is not only limited to the person using the skin cream containing mercury but also to others especially children as mercury can get into their bodies from breathing in the mercury vapours. Infants and children can ingest mercury when they touch the cosmetic products containing mercury or their parents who have used these products. Using products containing mercury can also cause skin rashes, irritation, and other changes to the skin.

The company responsible for placing the product in the market have been instructed to immediately halt the sale and supply of the product mentioned and remove all physical stocks from the market within 72 hours.

Anyone who is in possession of this product is advised to immediately cease selling/distributing/using it. Sellers are reminded that **possession** of this product is an offence under the Control Of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984. Any individual who commits an offence under these Regulations can be fined up to a maximum of RM25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or both, and for a second or subsequent offence he shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding RM50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both. A company found guilty can be fined up to RM50,000 for the first offence and fined up to a maximum of RM100,000 for a subsequent offence.

Consumers are advised to contact the National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB) at 03-78835532/5534 if they experience any allergic reactions or adverse events from use of cosmetic products.

DATO' EISAH BINTI A. RAHMAN
Senior Director of Pharmaceutical Services
Ministry of Health Malaysia

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