

5TH ASEAN Cosmetic Committee Meeting
7-8 December 2005, Brunei Darussalam

Progress Report on the Implementation of the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme (AHCERS) – PHILIPPINES

1. Issuance of Laws Related to AHCERS

The Philippines have issued the following Administrative Orders (A.O.):

DOH-AO No.1002-0015 – Adoption of the AHCERS and the ASEAN Common Technical Documents. The Objectives and Scope of the AO are 1) Adoption and Incorporation of the AHCERS into the national requirement and 2) Coordinate transitory period for the new regulatory scheme to be implemented.

AO No 2005-0025 – Implementation of the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme and the ASEAN Common Technical Documents. The Objectives and Scope of the AO are: 1) Implementing Details for the incorporation and alignment of the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme; 2) Allow transitory period to shift from the registration policies to notification scheme; and 3) Assist the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) in strengthening the conduct of its post marketing surveillance.

2. Progress in Implementation of Good Manufacturing Practice, Post Marketing Surveillance /Safety Evaluation, Ingredient Listings and Labeling

The ASEAN Cosmetic GMP Guideline has already been incorporated into the local requirement. This is currently being implemented and has served as guide to both the BFAD and cosmetic industry on plant inspections and issuance of License To Operate.

The BFAD is reviewing the existing PMS/SE system and determining opportunity areas to strengthen it. The challenge is to improve the system to be fully functional for the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive (ACD) with minimum resources. Both BFAD and the industry have attended a series of EU-ASEAN PMS trainings from which learnings will be incorporated in the process. The industry has already been informed that PMS will be the focus of the cosmetic regulatory scheme by Year 2008.

The seven (7) Common Technical Documents, including the Ingredient Listings and Labeling, have been cascaded down to the local cosmetic industry. This was the subject of a series of seminars conducted by both the BFAD and the industry associations among cosmetic industry, specifically the Small and Medium Enterprises. The Common Product Registration Technical Document will be implemented starting January 2006. The industry is encouraged to comply with the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive as early as able to ensure compliance when the ACD is fully implemented by January 1, 2008. A.O. No. 2005-0025 allows compliance to the Common ASEAN Labeling Requirements until 31 December 2007. The thrust is to ensure compliance of all cosmetic products with the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive (ACD) by January 1, 2008.

3. Activities on AHCRS

The local cosmetic associations have conducted seminars and workshops among the industry to inform and update them on the AHCRS. Each cosmetic association has set programs in assisting their members in terms of training and capability building to comply with ACD.

The BFAD have undergone workshops among its organization to develop SOPs on new/revised registration and notification processes related to the implementation of the ASEAN Common Product Registration Requirements/Procedure and Product Notification Scheme. Also, two workshops (Nov 14 and Dec 2) on the new AOs and on the ACD were conducted with SMEs as attendees. The industry associations have been duplicating these workshops among their members. Series of this workshop have been scheduled to continue the information dissemination and consultations among the SMEs.

4. Status of the Philippine cosmetic regulatory system

The Philippines will start implementation of the ASEAN Common Product Registration Requirements by January 2006. In this case, we have expressed to the ASEAN Secretariat that we will be ready to accede MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Product Registration Approvals) with interested Member Countries by the same date.

Further, the Philippines will implement the Product Notification Scheme, by the same date, on identified cosmetic categories, mainly general cosmetics and those which have been in the market for a long time without history of safety issues both locally and globally.