

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**TRENDS OF CANCELLATION OF NOTIFIED  
COSMETIC PRODUCTS IN MALAYSIA**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background :** Cosmetic products are being used by all people around the world. Though cosmetic products are applied externally to the human body, the safety of the products has never been investigated in clinical trials and they are not required to undergo poison screening for marketing notification.

**Objective :** The aim of this study was to determine the trends of cancellation of cosmetic products in Malaysia with regard to their claim indications and poison contents.

**Methods :** Data for cancelled cosmetic products in Malaysia and their poison contents within 2008 to 2013 were obtained from the official website of National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB), Ministry of Health Malaysia. Data for claim indications of the cancelled products was obtained at NPCB Cosmetic Unit at Petaling Jaya. A descriptive statistic was applied to the obtained data.

**Results :** The total cosmetic products cancelled in Malaysia from 2008 to 2013 was 60; six in 2008, 12 in 2009, 12 in 2010, five in 2011, 12 in 2012 and 13 in 2013. Skin whitening (16/60), moisturizer (9/60) and UV protector (9/60) were the most commonly cancelled products. Tretinoin (26/67) was the most common poison found in the cancelled products, followed by hydroquinone (19/67) and heavy metals (17/67).

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Cosmetic products are being used by all people throughout the world. Cosmetic products include skin care products, hair care products, oral care products and perfumes (ASEAN Cosmetic Documents, 2003). Though cosmetic products are intended to be applied externally to the human body and considered safer than ingested products, the safety of the majority of cosmetics has never been investigated in clinical trials. In Malaysia, according to Regulation 18A Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984, “*no person shall manufacture, sell, supply, import or possess any cosmetic unless the cosmetic is a notified cosmetic*” (Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulation, 1984). Screening for poison content is not required for the products to be approved for marketing. Thus, one of the ways to monitor the safety of notified cosmetic products in the market is manufacturers of cosmetics must comply with the ASEAN Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for Cosmetic ("Guidelines for Control of Cosmetic Products in Malaysia, 2009).

While cosmetics guideline has been developed and established, there is an increasing concern about the safety of cosmetic products in the market (Piccinini, Piecha, & Torrent, 2013). The concern is partly due to the easy access of the products obtained from online shopping. These buyers may not aware of the notification status and content ingredients of the online cosmetic products (Hamann et al., 2014). Cosmetic products have been reported to contain illegal substances such as hydroquinone and