Cocamide DEA

What is it?
Cocamide DEA, Lauramide DEA, Linoleamide DEA and Oleamide DEA are viscous liquids or waxy solids. These ingredients are fatty acids derivatives of diethanolamine (DEA). In cosmetics and personal care products, these ingredients are used in the formulation of shampoos, hair dyes, bath products, and lotions.

Safety Information
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) includes Fatty Acid Diethanolamides on its list of indirect food additives. For example, Fatty Acid Diethanolamides may be used in paper and paperboard in contact with dry food.

The safety of Cocamide DEA, Lauramide DEA, Linoleamide DEA and Oleamide DEA has been assessed by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) Expert Panel. The CIR Expert Panel evaluated the scientific data and concluded that these ingredients were safe as cosmetic ingredients. To prevent the formation of possibly carcinogenic nitrosamines, these ingredients should not be used in cosmetics and personal care products containing nitrosating agents.

Since the original review, the CIR Expert Panel considered available new data on Cocamide DEA and clarified its original conclusion. The CIR Expert Panel concluded that Cocamide DEA was safe as used in rinse-off products and safe at concentrations of less than or equal to 10% in leave-on products. The CIR Expert Panel reaffirmed that Cocamide DEA should not be used as an ingredient in cosmetics and personal care products containing nitrosating agents.

Why is it used in cosmetics and personal care products?
Cocamide DEA, Lauramide DEA, Linoleamide DEA, and Oleamide DEA increase foaming capacity and/or stabilize foam. They are also used to thicken the aqueous (water) portion of cosmetics and personal care products.

Scientific facts:
Cocamide DEA, Lauramide DEA, Linoleamide DEA and Oleamide DEA are produced from naturally occurring fatty acids. Cocamide DEA is derived from the fatty acids of coconut oil, Lauramide DEA is derived from lauric acid, Linoleamide DEA is derived from linoleic acid, and Oleamide DEA is derived from oleic acid.

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