

HP54-M

(18)

Mr Murray

From: Dr H Pickles RD1

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BOVINE MATERIAL IN COSMETICS

1. I was asked about revision to our advice. As you say, the geographical aspects have to be updated. The background briefing is not really appropriate in that form (it was not something I had intended should have gone to DTI in any case). The Tyrrell committee remains concerned about excessive contact with specified offal or material derived from them. Apart from abattoir workers, this is the main potential loophole. It could be pointed out that there are potential concerns:

- * for workers in the cosmetic industry who may be exposed frequently to these materials, especially if inoculation injuries might occur and
- * those who by repeated application particularly to thinned, scarified or diseased skin might absorb material including infective agent that way, also
- * there may still be some strange products administered by injection that are trying to evade the Medicines Act by calling themselves cosmetics. If any of those involve bovine ingredients, they need to comply with the CSM guidelines [MCA could give you a copy of these: try asking Mrs B Shersby]

2. The fundamental concerns are well described in previous papers/briefing etc and are essentially unchanged from those expressed in the Southwood report.

3. As well as writing to DTI (which I suggest should come from EHF3 this time) we should ask to be properly informed of what action then follows. We need reassurance that the message has reached the right people. The mainstream cosmetic industry will not use this sort of material. Are the "fringe" companies members of trade associations? If not, are they being reached? Has DTI accepted it is their responsibility to ensure this happens?



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