

Bill S-214: Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act

Cosmetics Alliance Canada and our member companies are supportive of affirming in legislation what is today, in fact, the reality – that the use of animal testing with respect to cosmetics is virtually non-existent in Canada, as well as most of the world.

We appreciate the efforts of Bill S-214's sponsor, Senator Stewart Olsen, the Humane Society, and Animal Alliance, all of whom we have met with regarding the bill. Our goal is the same – to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of animals in safety testing. This is evident in the fact that the cosmetics industry internationally, including ingredient suppliers, have been leaders in the research and development of alternatives to animal testing and have made greater advances in their development and use than other sectors.

Given the complexity of how cosmetics are currently regulated in Canada - under separate *Cosmetic, Drug and Natural Health Product Regulations*, as well as environmental protection and workplace health & safety regulations, we believe that amendments to Bill S-214 are required to ensure clarity and avoid unintended consequences.

Problems with Bill S-214 as currently drafted:

- it ignores the practical reality that most ingredients used in cosmetics are also used in other products, and that there are, in fact, few ingredients used exclusively in cosmetics
- it would not allow for the use of a new ingredient in a cosmetic (for example, a preservative) if animal testing data was required by Health Canada to demonstrate safety or efficacy, but at the same time it would allow the ingredient to be used in other consumer products such as foods, drugs, natural health products, household products, and more
- it prohibits a company who makes animal grooming products from testing, for example, a dog shampoo on a dog to evaluate how well it lathered and cleaned
- it does not clarify who is legally responsible for complying with the bill and inadvertently includes retailers, who are not responsible “manufacturers” as defined in the *Cosmetics Regulations*
- it limits Health Canada's discretion to require or allow testing to protect human health and safety and significantly limits the ability of the Minister to exempt a new substance for use in cosmetics even if it is a safer alternative

We also believe there is opportunity to “get this right” under Health Canada's major “Self-Care Products” regulatory reform now underway. It is critical that any amendments have the full engagement of Health Canada to avoid a host of unintended consequences and further inconsistencies to those that are now part of the current regulatory framework for cosmetics.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with Senator Stewart Olsen, Health Canada, as well as other stakeholders like the Humane Society and Animal Alliance to produce a clear and workable bill that we all support.