

## **Children's cosmetics should not contain any allergenic peanut oil**

BfR Opinion No. 019/2009, 10 October 2008

Peanuts are one of the foods that most frequently cause allergies. Even the minutest amounts can trigger an excessive immune response that manifests in severe health disorders. This can include the life-threatening failure of the cardiovascular system (anaphylactic shock). Peanut oil is also used in cosmetics like face creams or bath oils because of its softening action. Irrespective of how it is processed, the allergenic peanut proteins can still be detected. As no reliable data have been available up to now on the total protein amount that can trigger an allergic reaction, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) cannot - at the present time - indicate an amount below which the use of peanut oil in cosmetics would be safe in terms of the allergic reaction. Hence, BfR is of the opinion that peanut oil in cosmetics generally constitutes a possible risk for people with a peanut allergy.

It is a known fact that there is an association between the sensitisation of children to peanut ingredients and the use of peanut-containing skin oils. Particularly in the case of broken skin, for example in the nappy area, the natural barrier function of the skin no longer functions 100 % effectively. Hence, children may show a very strong allergic reaction to the peanut allergen. Against this backdrop BfR recommends banning the use of peanut oil in children's cosmetics. In all other cosmetics its presence should be indicated on the packaging. BfR advises consumers to refrain from using peanut oil-containing cosmetics for children.

The full version of the BfR Opinion in German is available on [http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/206/kosmetika\\_fuer\\_kinder\\_sollten\\_kein\\_allergie\\_ausloesendes\\_erdnussoel\\_enthalten.pdf](http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/206/kosmetika_fuer_kinder_sollten_kein_allergie_ausloesendes_erdnussoel_enthalten.pdf)