

Meyers, Beth

From: Meyers, Beth
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 2:36 PM
To: (b) (6) _____
Subject: FW: Email from salon worker

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for contacting FDA about your health problems following exposure to Brazilian Blowout. We are sorry to hear about your unfortunate experience. Dr. Katz has referred your letter to me for a response.

As background, FDA regulates cosmetics under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Under this law, cosmetic products and ingredients do not have to undergo pre-market approval by FDA, with the exception of color additives. However, cosmetics must be safe for consumers under labeled or customary conditions of use, and they must be properly labeled. Companies and individuals who market cosmetics have a legal responsibility for the safety of their products. FDA can and does take action against cosmetics that do not comply with the law, and against those who market them.

Workplace safety is regulated by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), and in some cases by state and local authorities. As you may be aware, OSHA issued a Hazard Alert for Brazilian Blowout and similar products in April. This Hazard Alert is available online at http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/hazard_alert.html.

Before FDA can take action against a cosmetic product, we need to present scientific evidence showing that it is harmful under the intended conditions of use. We use information from a number of sources, such as our database of adverse event reports and reliable scientific research.

In order to ensure that we have the most complete information possible, we strongly encourage consumers, including professionals like yourself, to report bad reactions related to cosmetics, either by filing a report online through our MedWatch system at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch>, or by phone to the complaint coordinator at your nearest FDA district office. The phone number for the complaint coordinator in New Jersey is (973) 331-4998.

Such reports are an important resource in FDA's efforts to monitor the safety of cosmetics on the market in this country. With more information, we can better understand the problem and determine whether regulatory action by FDA is appropriate. For example, it can be helpful for FDA to know what symptoms you have experienced, as well as whether you sought medical attention, and if so, the diagnosis you received.

We at FDA appreciate and share your concern about the safety of cosmetics on the market in this country.

Sincerely,

Beth R. Meyers
Writer-Editor
Office of Cosmetics and Colors
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) _____
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 3:31 PM
To: Katz, Linda
Subject:

4/9/2013

Dear Dr. Katz

Dear Dr. Linda Katz,

I am a salon worker who now has formaldehyde poisoning and asthma due to over exposure from the Brazilian Blowouts. I am extremely ill and very upset. I now have to leave my job to find another salon, and while I am trying to recover, I am also losing income. I am scared of the possibility of long term health effects.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

