

Section 2: Skin Lightener Regulation



Government Notice R. 1227 of 24 June 1988, amended by Government Notices Nos. R. 1783 of 2 September 1988 and R. 1861 of 10 August 1990, prohibits the sale of any cosmetic purporting to be a skin bleacher, skin lightener or skin Whitener.

22 December 2017, Government Notice No. R. 1469 Regulations relating to Advertising, Labelling and Composition of Cosmetics (Redraft)

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201712/41351rg10790gon1469s.pdf

“Clause 9. Product Claims (f) The words “skin bleacher”, “skin lightener” or “skin whitener” or claims that convey the impression of skin bleaching, skin lightening or skin whitening is prohibited.”

It is recommended that due to the nature of skin brightening actives and their effect on the skin, all products containing such ingredients and sold on the South African market contain UVA and UVB filters.

Should this not be possible, a sun alert: “need to use in conjunction with a sunscreen” should be placed on the product labelling.