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Advanced Training for Safety Assessors

Interview with Dr. Frederike Wiebel,
head of the advanced course
General and Systemic Toxicology,
DGK/IKW

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The DGK (German Society for Scientific and Applied Cosmetics) and the IKW (Industrial Association for Personal Care and Detergents) have been offering further training courses for safety assessors in collaboration with university experts since 1998.



Dr. Frederike Wiebel

Dr. Frederike Wiebel, you are leading the course for General and Systemic Toxicology. How long have you been leading the course?

I have been leading the course “General and Systemic Toxicology” since 2019. The topic of toxicology has fascinated me throughout my entire professional career. For example, one focus of my work is to ensure the safe use of cosmetic products for human health and the environment. In this

regard, I value the collaboration with experts from various disciplines, such as analytical chemistry, microbiology, or ecology. This collaborative work is necessary to ensure the quality and safety of the products.

What are the essential learning contents of the course?

Toxicology deals with the harmful effects of substances on the organism – effects that we definitely want to avoid in the context of cosmetic products. Therefore, during the course, we first

convey the basics of toxicology and explain the mechanisms of toxic effects. Toxicological testing methods play a significant role, which are used to detect the harmful effects of substances. In this context, we also address the fundamental principles of risk assessment and focus on the safety assessment of cosmetic ingredients in particular.

Why are these skills important for safety assessors?

Knowledge of toxicology is extremely important for safety assessors. It serves as the basis for interpreting toxicological data, which they deal with in the safety assessment of cosmetic products.

Proper understanding of toxicological data is a prerequisite for a product-specific risk assessment.

Do you have a special experience from your course that you would like to share?

I greatly appreciate the personal exchange within the course modules, and I have the impression that course participants also see it as an added value to be able to ask questions directly. I have found that sometimes questions only arise during the discussion, so everyone benefits from the shared knowledge.

<https://safetyassessor.info/training-courses/>

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