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Advanced Training for Safety Assessors

Interview with **Dr. Rainer Simmering**,
head of the advanced course Microbiological
Product Safety of Cosmetic Products,
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. Rainer Simmering you are the course leader for Microbiological Product Safety of Cosmetic Products. Since when are you leading the course?

I am leading the course since 2022, but I have been a lecturer since 2013.

What are the essential learning contents of the course?

The course generally deals with the microbiology of cosmetics, with two main focuses:

- Microbial stability of cosmetic products, with particular emphasis on:
 - Preservation
 - Challenge tests
 - Raw material quality
- Microbial contamination of cosmetic products:
 - Germ count methods
 - Operational hygiene
 - Contamination cases

Why are these skills important for safety assessors?

The result of the preservation challenge test is an integral part of the safety assessment. Therefore, it is important to understand how it works and how to interpret the results. Additionally, microbial stability is not only ensured through preservation but also through an appropriate microbial specification of the final product. Therefore, this aspect must also be considered in the safety assessment, as production can have a significant impact on the stability and microbial load of a product.

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

A few years ago, we started discussing fictitious “case studies” in the course. We try to find solutions and approaches via an open and interactive discussion with the participants to explain a contamination. This process nicely reinforces the previously taught material, and participants can see why the contents were important and how complex the microbial safety of cosmetic products can be. This part is generally always very well received.

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