



### **To Whom It May Concern:**

Allegations made by an activist group in the US that commonly used cosmetic products are dangerous and somehow contaminated with harmful levels of carcinogenic chemicals are false and based on no scientific evidence.

The report found level of formaldehyde and 1,4 Dioxane which are extremely low and considered as “trace” and well below established regulatory limits or safety threshold and, certainly are not a cause for safety concerns.

1,4 Dioxane is a by-product that can be formed at infinitely low levels (traces) during the manufacturing process of ingredients used in shampoos or shower gels in order to make them milder. The levels can be minimized using some modifications in the manufacturing process and the extremely low levels reported show that manufacturers have taken all precautionary measures to ensure that the product is safe.

Regulators in the US and in Europe have monitored products since the 70's for their level of 1,4 dioxane using highly sophisticated analytical methods; and have not reported any issue. The US FDA has issued a statement to reassure US consumers: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/cosdiox.html>

Formaldehyde is an approved preservative; its safety has been extensively studied since it was first used over 100 years ago. It is allowed in cosmetic products up to a concentration of 0.2% (2,000 ppm) and all the products tested in the report did show lower levels.

Formaldehyde is a simple compound occurring naturally, present in the air we breath, and is even part of the plant, animal or human metabolism. It is released, for example, by cabbage when it is cooked.

### **Conclusion:**

A lot of work goes into ensuring the safety of cosmetic products and their ingredients. Independent scientific panels like the Cosmetic Ingredient Review Board (CIR) in the US, the Scientific Committee for Consumer

Products (SCCP) in the EU or the ASEAN Cosmetic Scientific Body (ACSB) in ASEAN are constantly reviewing ingredients safety data, technical progress and making recommendations to the National Regulatory Authorities and the Industry in order to ensure that the products available on the markets are safe.

Cosmetic Companies take their legal responsibility for product safety very seriously and work hard to earn and keep the trust of their consumers and their families.

It is regrettable that, from time to time, some Associations of people issue reports which create unnecessary panics and worries to consumers without proper scientific data.

Consumers have to rest assured that Industry and Regulators are working towards ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy of the cosmetic products available to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Khaiat', is written over a solid horizontal line.

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