

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

www.SafeCosmetics.org



Steering Committee

October 31, 2011

Alliance for a
Healthy
Tomorrow

William C. Weldon
Chief Executive Officer
Johnson & Johnson Companies
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08933

Breast Cancer
Fund

Commonweal

Dear Mr. Weldon:

Environmental
Working Group

Friends of
The Earth

Massachusetts
Clean Water
Fund

We are health care professionals, nursing associations, parents and environmental health and justice organizations once again writing to express concerns about personal care products made by Johnson & Johnson. We appreciate that representatives of your company have been willing to meet with the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and our allies several times to discuss our coalition's concerns about the toxicity of some of the chemicals used in Johnson & Johnson's baby products. However, we are disappointed that after two years of meetings, the company has not yet reformulated Johnson's Baby Shampoo to remove chemicals of concern in the American market and other markets, even though J&J is already selling safer formulations in other countries.

Massachusetts
Breast Cancer
Coalition

As you know, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics released a report in March 2009 detailing the findings of laboratory tests that detected two carcinogenic contaminants – formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane – in Johnson's Baby Shampoo.ⁱ

Women's
Voices for the
Earth

In May 2009, you received a letter signed by 45 healthcare professionals, health groups, parents' and environmental organizations representing more than 1.7 million people, detailing our concerns about the findings of this report.ⁱⁱ

In September 2009, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics followed up with another letterⁱⁱⁱ to your company raising concerns specifically about its use of quaternium-15, a chemical preservative that releases formaldehyde into products. The letter urged your company to act fast to remove quaternium-15 from Johnson's Baby Shampoo in light of growing concerns about the toxicity of this chemical. The letter cited a June 2009 peer-reviewed article in the *Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association*, stating that quaternium-15 "is the most sensitizing formaldehyde-releasing preservative and has been repeatedly shown to be a strong allergen that can cause contact dermatitis."^{iv}

In June 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services added formaldehyde to its list of known human carcinogens.^v The International Agency for Research on Cancer has identified it as a known human carcinogen. Recently, the National Academy of Sciences confirmed the Environmental Protection Agency's determination that formaldehyde causes cancer in humans.^{vi} The National Cancer Institute, the World Health Organization and the National Toxicology Program have all identified a possible

link between formaldehyde exposure and leukemia.^{vii,viii,ix}

An analysis conducted by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in October 2011 indicates that while J&J is still using quaternium-15 in Johnson's Baby Shampoo sold in the U.S., Australia, Canada, China and Indonesia, J&J is already successfully using non-formaldehyde-releasing preservatives for its baby shampoos in several other countries, including Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the U.K.

We are asking Johnson and Johnson to make a public commitment by November 15, 2011 to remove formaldehyde-releasing preservatives from all of its personal care products worldwide, and to replace them with ingredients known to be safe for vulnerable populations, taking into account repeated exposures. We also ask that Johnson & Johnson respond in writing to the concerns raised in our letter dated May 26, 2009, including the use of ethoxylated chemicals that are likely to be contaminated with 1,4-dioxane, undisclosed fragrance chemicals and other issues of concern (see full list of concerns in attached letter).

We appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to J&J's decision to protect our most vulnerable population – children – in all the markets it serves.

Sincerely,

Lisa Archer
Director, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Jeanne Rizzo, RN
President and CEO, Breast Cancer Fund

Amy Garcia, MSN, RN, CAE
Chief Programs Officer, American Nurses Association

Jane Houlihan
Senior Vice President for Research, Environmental Working Group

Peter Wilk, MD
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Pamela Miller
Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN
Chair, Board of Directors, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Wayne C. Shields
President and CEO, Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Karuna Jaggar
Executive Director, Breast Cancer Action

Rosanne Cohen
Executive Director, Breast Cancer Action Montreal

Laurie Meadoff
CEO, CancerSchmancer

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Erin Switalski
Executive Director, Women's Voices for the Earth

ⁱ March 2009, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. “No More Toxic Tub: Getting Contaminants Out of Children’s Bath and Personal Care Products.” http://safecosmetics.org/downloads/NoMoreToxicTub_Mar09Report.pdf

ⁱⁱ Letter to Johnson & Johnson, May 2009. http://www.safecosmetics.org/downloads/JNJ-sign-on-letter_May09.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Letter to Johnson & Johnson, Sept. 2009. http://www.safecosmetics.org/downloads/JNJ_quaternium-15-letter_Sep09.pdf

^{iv} Moennich, J., Janna, D., Jacib, S. et al. Formaldehyde Releasing Preservatives in Baby and Cosmetic Products; Health risks related to exposure during infancy. *Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association*; May June 2009.

^v National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences press release, June 10, 2011. New Substances Added to HHS Report on Carcinogens. <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsroom/releases/2011/june10/>

^{vi} National Academy of Sciences 2011. Review of the Environmental Protection Agency's Draft IRIS Assessment of Formaldehyde. Available: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13142

^{vii} National Cancer Institute, 2011. Formaldehyde and Cancer Risk. Available: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/formaldehyde>

^{viii} Baan, Robert, et al on behalf of the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer Monograph Working Group (WHO/IARC). A review of human carcinogens—Part F: Chemical agents and related occupations. *The Lancet Oncology*, Volume 10, Issue 12, Pages 1143 - 1144, December 2009.

^{ix} Mackay, Robin. Expert Panel Recommends Listing Formaldehyde as Known Human Carcinogen. *Environmental Factor*, December 2009. Available: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsletter/2009/december/spotlight-expert.cfm>