



Statement

For Immediate Release

April 13, 2012

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ACC COMMENTS ON THE USE OF FORMALDEHYDE IN HAIR SMOOTHING PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, DC (April 13, 2012) — *The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today reissued a statement addressing ongoing comments in the media about the use of formaldehyde in hair smoothing products. The following quote can be attributed to Steve Risotto, senior director of the Formaldehyde Panel at ACC:*

“The use of formaldehyde/methylene glycol in hair smoothing and other cosmetic products in excess of the limits recently established by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) does not align with the responsible formaldehyde stewardship practiced by members of the Formaldehyde Panel of ACC. The Panel is committed to full legal compliance and safe product use and endorses the findings from the [CIR’s September 2011 review](#).¹”

“As a result of violations reported by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the [Cosmetic Ingredient Review’s](#) expert panel concluded that formaldehyde/methylene glycol use is ‘unsafe in the present practice of use and concentration in hair smoothing products.’ The CIR’s conclusion was based on information suggesting that formaldehyde/methylene glycol levels in some hair smoothing products exceeded those that the expert panel determined to be safe and that workplace practices to minimize exposures among salon workers were not uniformly followed.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is one of the nation’s largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.

¹ The CIR expert panel has concluded that the safe concentration of formalin (aqueous solution of 37% formaldehyde) in cosmetics should not exceed 0.2% (equal to 0.74% formaldehyde or 0.118% methylene glycol). The panel determined that formaldehyde/methylene glycol are safe at the levels currently found in nail hardening products (1-2 percent).

