



Unilever
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May 3, 2010

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy & Environment
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in response to your April 13, 2010, letter to Unilever Chairman Michael Treschow requesting the discontinuation of the antimicrobial ingredient triclosan in "consumer soaps, products intended to come into contact with food, and products marketed specifically to children." Mr. Treschow asked me to reply because I am responsible for research and development of our products in North America.

The human and environmental safety of our products is Unilever's first priority. Consumers trust us to provide them and their families with products that are safe and effective. For that reason, we take very seriously any safety or efficacy concerns regarding our products, including the use of specific ingredients.

We are confident in the safety of triclosan for its intended use in our products. Although the safety and efficacy of triclosan has been well established through scientific studies conducted to support the use of the ingredient in consumer products, we welcome the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to fully and transparently evaluate the most up-to-date scientific data on the use of this ingredient in consumer products. While we do not plan to discontinue its use at this time, we continue to carefully monitor all global scientific research and regulatory developments, including the FDA and EPA's ongoing review.

Let me also clarify that in the United States, Unilever does not manufacture or market products containing triclosan in the categories you have specified ("consumer soaps, products intended to come into contact with food, and products marketed specifically to children"). The use of triclosan in Lever 2000® is limited to liquid hand wash that is manufactured and sold by a licensed third-party to professional, industrial and institutional markets, and not to consumer retail markets. Also, two of the products cited in your letter, Vaseline® antibacterial lotion and Suave® antibacterial hand wash, were discontinued a few years ago.

Thank you for contacting Unilever about this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephan Habif".

Stephan Habif, Ph.D.
Vice President, Research & Development, North America

cc: Mr. Michael Treschow
The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Fred Upton