



# CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

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### **Sunscreen products tested found to be within permissible limits**

The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) commissioned a test on 20 sunscreen products for three common ultraviolet (UV) filters (i.e. homosalate, oxybenzone and octocrylene) as excessive amounts of UV filters have been associated with skin allergies and other health problems. The test showed that the concentrations of these three UV filters were within the permissible limit of 10% stipulated in the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive administered by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA).

#### Background

The use of sunscreens has been on the rise due to increasing awareness among consumers on the harmful effects of UV rays and the importance of using sun protection. To achieve the intended effects of sun protection, sunscreens in the market generally contain substances known as UV filters. Some UV filters have been associated with allergic skin reactions.

As CASE was concerned about the impact of UV filters on consumers, a test was commissioned to find out if the concentrations of these substances in sunscreens were within the permissible limits.

The ASEAN Cosmetic Directive, administered by HSA in Singapore, stipulates a list of permitted UV filters which sunscreens may contain and their maximum permitted concentrations.

#### Scope and Methodology

The 20 samples for this test were selected by random sampling, with samples purchased from departmental stores, beauty and pharmaceutical stores, and online shopping platforms.

Homosalate, oxybenzone and octocrylene were selected as substances to test for because they are common UV filters used by the industry. The permitted concentrations for these substances are capped at 10%.

The test was conducted using high-performance liquid chromatography with a diode-array detector, referenced against BS EN 16344.

#### Test Results

According to the test results, homosalate, oxybenzone or octocrylene was not detected in 10 samples. For the other 10 samples, the concentrations of three substances were within the permitted concentrations of 10% stipulated in the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive. The test results suggest that despite

the presence of UV filters as ingredients in sunscreens, the amounts of such substances (if any) are generally within the safety threshold for consumer use.

The test results can be found in Annex A.

#### Recommendations

Notwithstanding the test results, we encourage consumers to purchase sunscreens from reliable and reputable sources, and refrain from buying from questionable sources, where little or no information on the manufacturer and/or product is provided. Consumers should be vigilant when purchasing products from online shopping platforms, where the products sold may not satisfy local safety requirements.

As the composition of each product is different, consumers are advised to follow the instructions for use printed on the product packaging. Where a product is used for the first time, consumers should check for allergic reactions by applying the product on a small area on their skin. In the event of any adverse reaction after using a product, consumers should stop using it immediately and seek medical attention.

Lim Biow Chuan  
President  
Consumers Association of Singapore

## Annex A – List of Sunscreen Samples and Test Results

S/No	Name	Distributed By	Manufactured By	Homosalate (% w/w)	Oxybenzone (% w/w)	Octocrylene (as free acid) (% w/w)
S01	Alba Botanica Hawaiian Sunscreen Aloe Vera SPF30 Broad Spectrum 113g	-	The Hain Celestial Group, Inc Lake Success, NY 11042 Product of USA	7.52	Not Detected	5.23
S02	Anessa Perfect UV Sunscreen Aqua Booster SPF50+ PA++++ 60ml	Shiseido Singapore Co (Pte) Ltd 180 Clemenceau Avenue #04-04 Haw Par Centre Singapore 239922	Made in Japan	Not Detected	Not Detected	1.87
S03	Atomy Sunscreen SPF50+ PA+++ 60ml	-	www.atomy.kr	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
S04	Babo Botanicals Clear Zinc Sunscreen SPF30 89ml	Babo Botanicals, LLC 14 Harwood Court Scarsdale, NY 10583	Made in the USA	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
S05	Banana Boat Kids Sunscreen Lotion SPF50+ PA++++ 90ml	DKSH Singapore Pte Ltd 24 Penjuru Road #03-02 CWT Commodity Hub Singapore 609128	Playtex Manufacturing, Inc.	4.78	Not Detected	1.15
S06	BioNike Defence Sun Pro-Repair Complex Dry Touch 50+ 50ml	Xiao Yuan Marketing Pte Ltd 94 Kaki Bukit Industrial Terrace Singapore 416172	ICIM International Via Peloritana, 28 - Garbagnate Milano BioNike France - Paris Made in Italy www.bionike.it	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
S07	Biore UV Perfect Milk SPF50+ PA++++ 40ml*	Kao Singapore Pte Ltd 83 Clemenceau Avenue #16-08 UE Square Singapore 239920	Made in Japan	Not Detected Not Detected	Not Detected Not Detected	Not Detected Not Detected
S08	CeraVe Sunscreen Broad Spectrum SPF50 56g	Valeant Consumer Products A division of Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC Bridgewater, NJ 08807 USA  D.Y.O.N International Pte Ltd 32 Kallang Pudding Road #01-03 Elite Industrial Building 1 Singapore 349313	-	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected

<b>S09</b>	Cetaphil Daylong Kids SPF 50+ PA++++ 150ml	Galderma (S) Pte Ltd 1 Kim Seng Promenade #14-10 Great World City West Tower Singapore 237994	SPIRIG PHARMA AG, CH-4622 Egerkingen	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
<b>S10</b>	Fruit of the Earth Ultra 50 Moisturizing Lotion Sunscreen Broad Spectrum SPF 50 88ml	Alphico Marketing Pte Ltd 48 Toh Guan Road East #02-131/132 Enterprise Hub Singapore 608586	Fruit of the Earth, Inc. 3101 High River Road, Ste. 175 Fort Worth, TX 76155	8.19	4.25	0.86
<b>S11</b>	Guinot Lait Solaire Hydratant Moisturizing Sunscreen SPF FPS 15 150ml	-	Guinot 1 rue de la Paix 75002 Paris Made in France 77190 Dammarie	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
<b>S12</b>	L'oreal Paris UV Perfect SPF 50+ PA++++ 30ml	L'oreal Singapore Pte Ltd 1 George Street #19-01 Singapore 049145	L'oreal Paris 16, Place, Vendome 75001 Paris www.lorealparis.com	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
<b>S13</b>	Manyo Factory Pure Natural Ultra Sunblock SPF50+ PA+++ 50g	-	www.manyo.co.kr Made in Korea	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected
<b>S14</b>	Namu Life Snail White Sunscreen SPF50+ PA++++ 51ml	-	Manufactured by Do Day Dream Co., Ltd Under licence of Namu Life www.namulife.com	Not Detected	Not Detected	1.47
<b>S15</b>	Neutrogena Beach Defense Sunscreen Lotion Broad Spectrum SPF70 198ml	Johnson & Johnson Pte Ltd No. 2 International Business Park #07-01 Tower One, The Strategy Singapore 609930	Made in Canada	9.94	4.02	3.03
<b>S16</b>	Nivea Sun Protect & Moisture Moisturizing Sun & Collagen Protection SPF30 125ml	Beiersdorf Singapore Pte Ltd 11 North Buona Vista Drive #13-09 The Metropolis Tower 2 Singapore 138589	Made in Thailand Under the license of Beiersdorf AG Hamburg Germany	7.04	3.05	Not Detected
<b>S17</b>	Skylake Sunscreen SPF50+ PA+++ 50g	Hebeloft Pte Ltd 71 Ubi Road 1 #06-38 Singapore 408732	www.skylake.kr Made in Korea	Not Detected	Not Detected	0.66
<b>S18</b>	Surf Life Saving Sport Very High Protection Sunscreen SPF 50+ 200ml	Nutrition Asia 16 Purvis Street Singapore 188595	Sunlife Products Pty Ltd Level 1, 923 Bourke Street, Waterloo NSW 2017	7.57	Not Detected	3.62

<b>S19</b>	Vitara Facial Sunscreen SPF50+ 25g*	Berich (Thailand) Co., Ltd 48 Petchburi Rd, Tanonpetchburi, Rajthevee, Bangkok 10400 Thailand	Milott Laboratories Co., Ltd 84/55 Moo 11, Soi Tanasit, Theparak Rd, Bangpla, Bangplee, Samutprakarn 10540 Made in Thailand	Not Detected Not Detected	Not Detected Not Detected	6.14 6.28
<b>S20</b>	自白肌 UV Protective Lotion with Hyaluronic Acid SPF50+ PA+++ 35ml	-	IMEI Chemical Enterprise Ltd 4F, No 274, Sec 3, Beishen Rd, Shenkeng Dist, New Taipei City 222, Taiwan (ROC) Made in Taiwan	Not Detected	Not Detected	Not Detected

\*Samples were taken from two different batches

**Note:**

Limit of detection for homosalate: 0.15% w/w

Limit of detection for oxybenzone: 0.15% w/w

Limit of detection for octocrylene (as free acid): 0.15% w/w