Appendix B. Written Comments

Overview

We accepted formal comments on the proposed rule during the 64-day public comment period that closed on April 11, 2025. During the 64-day comment period, we received 39 comment submissions including verbal testimony (see Appendix C) provided during the March and April hearings. Some submissions included multiple comments, and several submissions represented many individuals or organizations. We accepted formal comments via:

- The online comment tool on Ecology's webpage.
- United States mail.
- The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act email.
- Two online public hearings were held on March 31 and April 1, 2025.

The following are written comment submissions we received during the 64-day formal public comment period.

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to our information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of state and federal laws.

To request an ADA accommodation, email HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 to call us through the Washington Telecommunication Relay for services such as TTY. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

Pam Johnson

Please see Hazardous Waste Management Program comments on proposed rule and implementation plan in uploaded files.

Hazardous Waste Management Program

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 6300, Seattle, WA 98104
www.kingcountyhazwastewa.gov

April 11, 2025

Ms. Stacey Callaway
Washington State Department of Ecology
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Callaway,

RE: Formal comments on proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC Cosmetics Products Restrictions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide formal comments on the Department of Ecology's proposed rule restricting formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics.

The Hazardous Waste Management Program (Haz Waste Program) is a multi-jurisdictional local government program in Washington State. The Program works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County, Washington. We do this by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

The Haz Waste Program testified in support of the 2023 legislation, SHB 1047, recognizing that toxic chemicals in cosmetics harm human health and the environment**.** We also have a deep commitment to racial equity, which directs attention to policies that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Formaldehyde, a known human carcinogen, has long been used in many chemical hair products disproportionately marketed to Black women. Taking products off the market that include formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers is imperative to reducing this harm that has increased severe health risks including certain cancers and respiratory issues.

We support the language in proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC including:

- The definition of "intentionally added," which broadly includes chemicals intended to serve a function in the product, in the manufacturing of the product or an ingredient in the product.
- The list of formaldehyde releasers that targets those found in cosmetics and those known to disproportionately impact workers and women of color.
- A compliance schedule that is urgent yet realistic for manufacturers, retailers, cosmetologists and consumers.

- The assumption that, if Ecology detects formaldehyde in a product, then it or a formaldehyde releaser has been intentionally added unless manufacturer can prove otherwise.

We encourage the Department of Ecology to work with consumers, retailers and cosmetologists that use or sell the newly restricted products to better understand the harm from formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers, to find safer alternatives, and to comply with the restrictions.

Thank you again for your work to implement the Toxic Free Cosmetics Act. If you have any questions please contact Pam Johnson, Hazardous Waste Liaison and Policy Advisor at pam.johnson@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

Maythia Airhart, Director
Hazardous Waste Management Program

Hazardous Waste Management Program

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 6300, Seattle, WA 98104
www.kingcountyhazwastewa.gov

April 11, 2025

Ms. Stacey Callaway
Washington State Department of Ecology
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Callaway:

Re: Comments on Draft Cosmetics Implementation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Ecology's Draft Cosmetics Implementation Plan.

The Hazardous Waste Management Program (Haz Waste Program) is a multi-jurisdictional local government program in Washington State. The Program works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County, Washington. We do this by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

The Haz Waste Program testified in support of the 2023 legislation, SHB 1047, recognizing that toxic chemicals in cosmetics harm human health and the environment**.** We also have a deep commitment to racial equity, which directs attention to policies that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Part 1: Chapter 173-339 WAC Cosmetic Products Restrictions
Overall, we support Ecology's approach to informing those impacted by this rule, and the strategies to ensure compliance. We support the prioritization of chemicals and cosmetic products used by overburdened communities and have appreciated efforts to date to engage those communities in the rulemaking process. We have made direct comments on the contents of the proposed rule under in a separate letter.

We have the following specific comments:

Definition of regulated entities (pg. 5) We encourage Ecology to further define regulated entities by naming those explicitly included in statute: manufacturers, distributors, retailers, cosmetology businesses, etc...

Identifying formaldehyde releasers (pg. 11) Please include a reference for the following sentence: *Ninety-nine percent of cosmetic products that use formaldehyde releasers contain one of the chemicals listed as items 1 through 7 in the proposed rule*.

Who may be affected (pg. 12) Please add consumers and cosmetologists to the list of those impacted by this rule. It is ultimately consumers and cosmetologists who:

- will see changes to the availability and formulation of products
- have first-hand knowledge of use and performance of products
- are directly impacted by the benefits and harms of products

Agency partners and Ecology staff (pg. 14) We suggest this section be removed from the implementation plan. It does not provide useful knowledge to the public, and the relevant staff contact information and Ecology resources are included at the end of each section… Although it is good to know Ecology will train their own staff internally, this external facing document would benefit from treating Ecology as one entity.

If it is included, please remove the reference to the Haz Waste Program. We consider our participation as one of many interested parties. As resources allow, we will continue to work with impacted businesses, cosmetologists and consumers in King County to implement TFCA. It is our intention that our programs will complement and leverage the work Ecology is doing, and we commit to coordinate our efforts throughout.

Evaluating the Rule (pg. 17) We agree that it is important to seek evaluation input from the full list of groups included in the implementation plan. It is especially important to get feedback from the public and people who live and work in communities that may have higher exposure to toxic chemicals. We know there are resource limitations for this work, so this section would benefit from more detail about how to get feedback regarding effectiveness, cost, and other potential barriers from those who might use those products. A safer product also may work less well, cost more, be unfamiliar, or be not widely available. This information can help inform what steps need to be taken to incentivize better product manufacturing, cost management, availability, and education efforts that can explore with consumers whether the product is essential in the first place.

Part 2: Efforts to Reduce Toxic Chemicals in Cosmetic Products

Overall, the Haz Waste Program supports the implementation efforts detailed in this plan. We appreciate the inclusion of the Environmental Justice Assessment as part of the plan; however, it is even more important that racial equity be used as a lens for all the work Ecology is doing to reduce the impacts of toxic chemicals on workers and consumers in Washington. This includes understanding the history and culture of product use in some communities. For example, choosing to prioritize chemicals in hair relaxers because of the disproportionate health impacts to Black women must be informed by the long history and current culture of what hair styles are acceptable in white dominant social systems. Black women have had to use these toxic products to gain access to jobs, household wealth, education, and general societal acceptance. Banning a product or chemical that has been a social necessity is complex, and we look forward to working with Ecology on moving through the implementation process with this complexity in mind.

Sell-through date (pg. 22) The sell-through date should be for existing inventory is January 1, 2026 for everything except formaldehyde releasers. Only formaldehyde releasers should have a sell-through date January 1, 2028. This should be clarified in this section.

Cosmetics toolkit (pg. 31)

- In the first paragraph it would be more accurate to say: "Lead-containing eyeliners are a source of lead exposure and have been linked to elevated blood lead levels in some communities in WA State."
- We support the expansion of the cosmetic toolkit beyond the lead in eyeliner project. Even if resources do not allow for full replication, please prioritize products used by communities that are disproportionately impacted, have language barriers, and/or have cultural ties to products.

Informing and Engaging (pg. 37) In the list of interested parties, we request that the specific reference to the Haz Waste Program be removed and replaced with local governments and public health departments. We plan to work with impacted businesses, cosmetologists and consumers in King County to implement TFCA. It is our intention that our programs will complement and leverage the work Ecology is doing and commit to coordinate our efforts in the future. We recommend that Ecology develop a more robust network of local governments, community-based organizations, and businesses to expand outreach and education efforts. We would be happy to explore various ways to do this including an external implementation committee; issue-based meetings; networking events; community-specific information toolkits, etc.

Engagement

- **(pg. 39)** We support commitment to co-developing equitable and meaningful engagement approaches with people who live and work in communities that may have higher exposure to toxic chemicals or who experience other environmental and health disparities. We strongly encourage Ecology to use the language below that was included in the preliminary draft rule language (and has since been removed) to guide those efforts and remove barriers to participation:

  Examples of strategies to remove barriers include:
  - *Covering costs related to childcare and food.*
  - *Complying with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*
  - *Accommodating other accessibility needs.*
  - *Compensating community members for lived experience and expertise.*

- **(pg. 40)** Please remove the bullet that commits the Haz Waste Program to leveraging our mini contracts with CBOs. Again, we are exploring many ways to work with Ecology on education and outreach but cannot commit future resources at this time.

Agency partners and Ecology staff (pg. 40) Again, since this is a public facing document, we do not believe this section outlining how Ecology will communicate internally and with agency partners is necessary.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this draft Implementation Plan, and do not hesitate to reach out to me or Pam Johnson, Hazardous Waste Liaison & Policy Advisor, pjohnson@seattle.gov with questions or to clarify any comments.

Sincerely,

Maythia Airhart, Director
Hazardous Waste Management Program

Anonymous Anonymous

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!

n/a Anonymous

thank you for caring for those who don't have the tools or the right information to know about the toxics that we put in our bodies on a daily basis. This is a topic that is close to my heart since I have lost people to cancer that could have prevented in the right information would have been provided. my question is... why are corporations able to poison us? Is there anything we can do? I feel so powerless.

Sarah Anonymous

I own a small handmade nail polish business selling directly to consumers online. Almost my entire line is made using colorants containing melamine plastic. These are very common in the color cosmetics industry. I have concerns about the effect of completely banning an entire set of colorants from the cosmetic marketplace. Melamine is used in many everyday applications including children's toys and casual dining. There must be some way to protect our people from excessive exposure while still allowing manufacturers to sell color cosmetics to Washington consumers.

Marie Bolster

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!

Dear Department of Ecology,

Thank you for Washington's leadership in prioritizing public health by banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics. The state's commitment to protecting consumers and workers, particularly salon professionals, is commendable.
Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in making products used on our skin, in our hair, and those that get flushed down the drain safer for everyone. WVE has a long history of calling on the Food and Drug Administration to take action on its proposed ban on formaldehyde in hair straighteners products. Given that agency's repeated delays and reduced capacity, state-level action is urgently needed.

Formaldehyde is linked to cancer, respiratory issues, and other chronic health conditions. It has no place in the products we use daily or in our workplaces. Salon workers, particularly Black, Latina, and immigrant women, are disproportionately affected by long-term exposure to formaldehyde, putting them at higher risk for health problems. We strongly support Washington's bold action to protect both consumers and these vulnerable workers.

We would like to specifically highlight and strongly support the following aspects of the proposed rule:

- The ban on the list of 28 formaldehyde releasers is set to take effect on January 1, 2027. This list will be instrumental in reducing widespread exposure to these harmful chemicals.
- The clear definition of "intentionally added" formaldehyde, which ensures that formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasers added at any point in the production process will be covered under the rule, thereby closing potential loopholes.
- The strong enforcement provisions, which stipulate that there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser has been intentionally added if formaldehyde is detected during sampling. This proactive stance is crucial for ensuring compliance and protecting public health.

We especially appreciate that several ingredients were included as formaldehyde releasers "when used in heat-activated hair straighteners." We would like to offer information on additional chemicals used in hair products commonly exposed to high heat flat irons that also release formaldehyde.

(406) 543-3747 www.womensvoices.org womensvoices@womensvoices.org 1031 33rd Street
Denver, Colorado 80205

Specifically, we recommend that cyclopentasiloxane and dimethicone be added to the WA State list of formaldehyde releasers "when used with high heat styling tools." Concerns about these ingredients were first brought to our attention by hairstylists whose health had been affected by formaldehyde-containing hair straightening products, who later discovered they experienced similar adverse respiratory and neurological symptoms to flat iron sprays (also known as thermal protection sprays) even though these products did not list formaldehyde as an ingredient. Flat iron sprays (also called thermal protection sprays) are designed to be sprayed on wet or dry hair immediately before use of a high heat flat iron or curling iron, with the intent to protect the hair shaft from adverse effects from the heat. Flat irons and curling irons commonly heat at temperatures up to 450 degrees F.

Flat iron sprays commonly include cyclopentasiloxane and dimethicone as major ingredients. Both of these ingredients are known to emit formaldehyde when heated over 300 degrees F. We refer to the following manufacturer Safety Data Sheets, which clearly state the formaldehyde-releasing hazards of exposing these chemicals to heat above 300 degrees F.

- GE Silicones Material Safety Data Sheet for Cyclopentasiloxane: *"Attention: This product contains methylpolysiloxanes which can generate formaldehyde at approximately 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150'C) and above, in atmospheres which contain oxygen. Formaldehyde is a skin and respiratory sensitizer, eye and throat irritant, acute toxicant, and potential cancer hazard."* Source: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/air/non-perc-ge-silicones-sb-32-green-earth-cleaning-safety-sheet.pdf

- MakingCosmetics Dimethicone 500 Safety Data Sheet:*"Precautions for safe handling: When heated to temperatures above 150°C (304°F) in the presence of air, product can form formaldehyde vapors. Formaldehyde is a potential cancer hazard, a known skin and respiratory sensitizer, and an irritant to the eyes, nose, throat, skin and digestive system. Keep vapor concentrations within the OSHA permissible exposure limit for Formaldehyde."* Source: https://www.makingcosmetics.com/on/demandware.static/-/Sites-makingcosmetics-master/default/dwf99e3fb4/msds/sds-dimethicone-500.pdf

- GE Silicones also issued a report in 1999 titled "Regarding the Evolution of Formaldehyde from Polydimethylsiloxanes." https://web.archive.org/web/20240615215854/https://imageserv5.team-logic.com/mediaLibrary/99/Formaldehyde_Generation_-_GE_Silicones.pdf

Despite these warnings from ingredient manufacturers, these chemicals are commonly included in flat iron and thermal protection sprays and recommended to be used with high heat. For example, marketing materials for these products state:

- *"Silk Elements MegaSilk™ Olive Heat Protection Spray helps to protect hair from damage caused by heat styling, leaves hair soft and silky, while providing incredible shine. How to use: Spray on damp hair prior to drying, or spray on dry hair prior to using a heat styling appliance. Ingredients: **CYCLOPENTASILOXANE** ,NEOPENTYL GLYCOL*

*DIETHYLHEXANOATE ,**AMODIMETHICONE** ,DIISOPROPYL ADIPATE ,FRAGRANCE ,OLEA EUROPAEA (OLIVE) FRUIT OIL ,WATER ,HYDROLYZED SILK ,POTASSIUM SORBATE ,SODIUM BENZOATE ,ALPHA ISOMETHYL IONONE ,AMYL CINNAMAL ,BENZYL BENZOATE ,BENZYL SALICYLATE ,BUTYLPHENYL METHYLPROPIONAL ,CITRONELLOL ,LINALOOL ,BENZYL ALCOHOL"* https://www.sallybeauty.com/hair-care/shop-by-solution/heat-protection/megasilk-olive-heat-protection-spray/SBS-373268.html

- *"With just a quick spritz of Not Your Mother's All Eyes On Me™ 10-in-1 Hair Perfector you've already managed to control frizz, detangle, moisturize, and protect your hair from 450°F heat." Ingredients: Water (Aqua), **Cyclopentasiloxane**, Cetearyl Alcohol, Isopentyldiol, Behentrimonium Chloride, Quaternium-80, Glycerin, Punica Granatum Fruit Extract, Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein, Salvia Hispanica Seed Extract, Trehalose, Xylitol, Caprylyl/Capryl Glucoside, Ethyl Linoleate, Ethyl Oleate, Sorbitan Oleate, Polyquaternium-37, Sodium Phosphate, **Dimethicone, Dimethiconol, Dimethicone/Vinyl Dimethicone Crosspolymer, PEG-10 Dimethicone**, Tetrasodium Glutamate Diacetate, Fragrance (Parfum), Phenoxyethanol, Ethylhexylglycerin, Citric Acid.*
https://notyourmothers.com/products/all-eyes-on-me-10-in-1-hair-perfector?srsltid=AfmBOoqhFviXyysOysbnmQsu0yzmCp5fA80qtUO8gqImeNyGKE5OTnlx

Cyclopentasiloxane and dimethicone would be appropriate additions to the list of formaldehyde releasers **"**when used with high heat styling tools." Additionally, we strongly encourage the state to implement clear and transparent labeling requirements for cosmetic products. These labeling requirements will provide consumers with critical information to make informed decisions about the products they purchase. We also encourage clear compliance requirements for manufacturers and distributors, as it is essential that businesses, including those operating online, are held accountable for distributing products that meet health and safety standards.

We appreciate the inclusion of worker protections in the draft implementation plan, particularly for salon workers, who face repeated and high levels of exposure. But we also urge you to ensure that there are provisions for education and outreach efforts that engage beauty professionals, small businesses, and communities most impacted by toxic exposures. These efforts should ensure that those who will be most affected by the ban are well-informed about safer alternatives and how they can transition smoothly without undue economic burden.

Moreover, we strongly support the idea of incentives for businesses to transition to safer alternatives. It would be equally beneficial, however, if the state could also consider providing incentives directly to beauty professionals. By doing so, Washington would ensure that these workers are not economically disadvantaged by the shift toward safer practices. It would also be valuable for the state to consider collaborating with beauty professionals and perhaps forming an advisory committee to ensure that their needs, concerns, and expertise are integrated into the implementation strategies.

We also urge the state to partner with public health and environmental justice organizations to ensure that implementation efforts prioritize communities that are most affected by toxic exposures, including low-income communities and communities of color. This collaboration will help ensure that Washington's efforts to protect public health are as effective and equitable as possible.

Finally, we advocate for ongoing monitoring and reporting to assess the effectiveness of the rule in reducing harmful exposures over time. It is essential to evaluate whether the rule is successfully protecting public health and adjust as needed.

In conclusion, we strongly support the proposed rule to restrict formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing agents in cosmetic products. We also encourage the Department of Ecology to expand the list of formaldehyde releasers to include cyclopentasiloxane and dimethicone. We thank the Department of Ecology for its commitment to consumer and worker safety, and we urge the state to continue working closely with stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of this crucial policy.

Sincerely,

Jayla Burton MPH, MS
Director of Programs
Women's Voices for the Earth

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION ACTION EDUCATION FUND

April 8, 2025

Stacey Callaway
Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Ms. Callaway,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input during the Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Formal Public Comment Period. Washington Conservation Action Education Fund (WCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1967 as Washington Environmental Council. Our mission is to develop, advocate for, and defend policies that ensure environmental progress and justice by centering and amplifying the voices of the most impacted communities. We are committed to eliminating health disparities that communities of color face due to disproportionate exposure to toxic chemicals.

WCA strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step towards making the products that we use on our skin, in our hair, and wash down the drain safer. As you know, formaldehyde exposure has been linked to certain cancers, can irritate eyes and skin, increase the risk of asthma, and harm brain function.

Products that are marketed towards people of color and particularly Black women, such as chemical hair relaxers, often contain formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasers. An estimated 89 percent of Black women have used chemical hair relaxers, starting as early as childhood, putting them at increased risk for adverse health outcomes.

We commend Ecology for proposing to restrictions. Specifically, we support:

1. The ban of the listed 28 formaldehyde releasers that will take effect on January 1, 2027;

2. The definition of intentionally added, which will ensure ALL formaldehyde releasers added to the final product, during the manufacturing of the product, or that are an ingredient in the final product will be covered; and,

3. The strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is found during sampling.

(206) 631-2600 1417 4th Ave Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98101 www.wcactionef.org

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION ACTION
EDUCATION FUND

Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement.

Thank you,

Katie Byrnes
Toxics & Stormwater Policy Senior Manager
Washington Conservation Action Education Fund

USA TBT Enquiry Point

These comments are submitted on behalf of Yu-Lun HUANG,
Technical Regulatory & International Affairs Manager
Cosmetics Europe - The Personal Care Association

BY EMAIL
Department of Ecology, State of Washington

USA WTO TBT Enquiry Point
Email: usatbtep@nist.gov

Brussels, 11 April 2025

Response to G/TBT/N/USA/2187 Chapter 173-339 WAC Cosmetic Products Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics)

Dear Madam, Sir,

Since 1962, Cosmetics Europe has been the voice of Europe's cosmetic, toiletry and perfumery industry with a representative membership consisting of more than 20 major international cosmetic companies and 27 cosmetic associations from the EU member states representing more than 5000 cosmetic companies. Cosmetics Europe is the recognised industry stakeholder in policy discussions on the development and practical implementation of the harmonised EU legislation affecting cosmetics.

Cosmetics Europe is aware that the proposed rule will ban total 28 substances to be used as cosmetic ingredients due to their identified formaldehyde releasing properties, ten of which have been evaluated as safe at certain concentration by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) in the European Union (EU).

These ten preservatives are legally approved ingredients in the EU for their preserving function for the cosmetic products (in the table below). Banning these ingredients creates technical barriers to trade. It is not justified to ban these ingredients when their use is demonstrated as safe.

Note that banning these ten preservatives also reduces the preservatives palette for cosmetics and personal care products. Consumers in Washington State would likely have higher exposure to the remaining preservatives than before. From a consumer safety perspective, it is better to spread the exposure patterns, meaning it is better to expose to smaller amounts of various substances than expose to higher amounts of fewer substances.

Item	Chemical name	CAS RN	Maximum concentration in ready for use preparation in EU Cosmetic Product Regulation (CPR) Annex V
1	DMDM Hydantoin	6440-58-0	0,6 %
2	Diazolidinyl Urea	78491-02-8	0,5 %
3	Imidiazolidinyl Urea	39236-46-9	0,6 %
6	2-Bromo-2-Nitropropane-1,3-Diol (Bronopol)	52-51-7	0,1 %
7	Sodium Hydroxymethyl-glycinate	70161-44-3	0,5 % (Not to be used if the maximum theoretical

			concentration of releasable formaldehyde, irrespective of the source, if the mixture as placed on the market is ≥ 0,1 % w/w)
11	5-Bromo-5-Nitro-1,3-Dioxane (Bronidox)	30007-47-7	0,1 % in Rinse-off products
12	7-Ethylbicyclo-oxazolidine (Bioban CS1246)	7747-35-5	0,3 % (Not to be used in oral products and in products applied on mucous membranes)
13	Benzylhemiformal	14548-60-8	0,15 % in Rinse-off products
17	Dimethyl Oxazolidine	51200-87-4	0,1 % pH > 6
21	Methenamine	100-97-0	0,15 %

Other substances proposed to be banned in this draft rule may contain or generate during use negligible levels of formaldehyde that are of no toxicological relevance. Hence their ban would constitute a disproportional measure if the objective is to protect human health.

Those include for example Tosylamide/Formaldehyde resin, which is a large molecular weight polymer, hence not even bioavailable when applied through topical applications which is the case of cosmetics. The potential presence of minimal amounts of formaldehyde leads to negligible exposures in the context of cosmetic uses.

Another example is “glyoxylic acid when used in heat-activated hair straighteners”. These products do not contain formaldehyde, but very small amounts can be released into the air from the heated hair, that are equivalent to the amounts released without the product being used, and orders of magnitude lower than the air concentrations established to be safe as workplace exposure levels. For example, by the US occupational safety and health administration[1], and well within the guideline for indoor air quality from the WHO[2].

Note that formaldehyde is formed endogenously in humans by oxidative metabolism (EFSA, 2014). Formaldehyde can also occur naturally in some foods (e.g. fruits, vegetables, fish, and meat).

These ten preservatives that have been demonstrated as safe should not be banned. They are not equal to formaldehyde and there is actually a way for Washington State to regulate them safely. We strongly encourage Washington State to consider regulating these ten preservatives with another approach, for which specific concentration and use conditions can be referenced.

Definition of ‘’intentionally added’’
The draft rule proposes:

> **"Intentionally added chemical"** or **"intentionally added"** means a chemical that serves an intended function in:
>
> - The final product.

[1] Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA):29 CFR 1910.1048 / OSHA 1992
[2] World Health Organization (WHO): WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Selected Pollutants 2010

- The manufacturing of the product.
- An ingredient in the final product.

This definition applies to the chemicals restricted in chapter 70A.560 RCW. This definition takes effect January 1, 2027.

We think the definition of **"Intentionally added chemical"** or **"intentionally added"** is too broad to be applicable. For instance, a substance banned for use as cosmetic ingredient (e.g., formaldehyde) may be used in one of steps during the manufacturing process, and such use is not intended to be present in the final product. Nevertheless, a trace quantity of this substance may still be present in the final product as impurity even when cosmetic good manufacturing practices (cGMP) is complied.

It is necessary to include the following exclusion criteria in this rule to clarify the scope of ban of unintended substances:

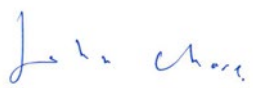
Exclusion: The distribution, sale or offering for sale of a cosmetic product in this State does not violate the prohibition in subsection 1 if the cosmetic product contains a technically unavoidable trace quantity of a substance identified in subsection 1 and that trace quantity is present due to:

A. Impurities or contamination:
(1) From a natural or synthetic ingredient used in the manufacture of the cosmetic product;
(2) From the manufacturing process; or
(3) From the storage of the cosmetic product; or
B. Due to migration of the ingredient from the packaging of the cosmetic product into the cosmetic product.

The non-intended presence of a small quantity of a prohibited substance should be permitted, when companies can demonstrate compliance of good manufacturing practice (GMP) and the presence of trace is technically unavoidable, and such presence is demonstrated as safe for human health. This approach is in line with international practice on managing non-intended presence of substance in the finished cosmetic product.

Cosmetic Europe and its experts stand ready to answer any question that you should have in relation to our comments.

Yours sincerely,



John Chave

Director General
Cosmetics Europe

Ashland™
always solving

RE: Comments to proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC – Cosmetic Product Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics)

Ashland respectfully submits the following comments on the Washington State proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC restricting formaldehyde in cosmetics, in which glyoxal (CAS No. 107-22-2) has been identified. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and provide technical evidence regarding this proposal.

Ashland has a vested interest in this proposal due to potential impact to our and our customer's product portfolios.

Based on the currently available information described below, Ashland would like to respectively recommend that: (1) the definition of 'intentionally added' be further clarified, and (2) glyoxal (CAS No. 107-22-2) to be excluded from the proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC – Cosmetic Product Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics).

Definition of 'intentionally added'

The current proposed definition of intentionally added which includes *any chemical that serves a function in the final product, manufacturing of the final product or an ingredient in the final product* broadens the scope of what is typically defined as intentionally added. Two examples to refer back to are guidance from the FDA on 'processing aids and incidental ingredients' and European Cosmetic Regulations which allow exceptions for impurities in raw materials and the manufacturing process.

The FDA defines ingredient as "any single chemical entity or mixture used as a component in the manufacture of a cosmetic product." 21 CFR 700.3(e). The FDA defines the following-

1. Incidental ingredient - substances that have no technical or functional effect in the cosmetic but are present by reason of having been incorporated into the cosmetic as an ingredient of another cosmetic ingredient.

2. Processing aids –

   i. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during the processing of such cosmetic but are removed from the cosmetic in accordance with good manufacturing practices before it is packaged in its finished form.

   ii. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during processing for their technical or functional effect in the processing, are converted to substances the same as constituents of declared ingredients, and do not significantly increase the concentration of those constituents.

   iii. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during the processing of such cosmetic for their technical and functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished cosmetic at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that cosmetic.

We would like to propose the State of Ecology modifies the definition and use of 'intentionally added' to align with those above provided by the FDA; allowing for 'incidental ingredients' and 'processing aids'. This allows Ashland and our customers the opportunity to continue and utilize products which comply with existing regulations.

For Ashland specifically, glyoxal is used as a processing aid in the manufacturing process. Any amounts of glyoxal remaining are residual and do not serve a purpose in the final product.

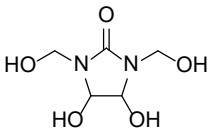
Exclusion of glyoxal (CAS No. 107-22-2) from the proposed Chapter 173-339 WAC – Cosmetic Product Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics)

It is our understanding glyoxal was determined to be a formaldehyde releaser based on a review of literature, including *ECHA's Investigation Report on Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde Releasers* dated 15 March 2017. Ashland's team of Research and Toxicology experts have reviewed this literature and are structuring our comments from a health risk approach and misidentification of glyoxal in the referenced literature.

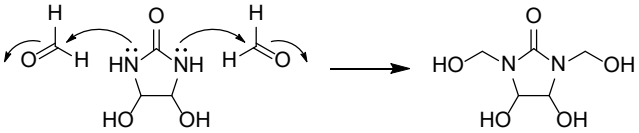
Comments on inclusion of Glyoxal (CAS 107-22-2) as a Formaldehyde Releasing Agent

Table 6 of the ECHA investigation report lists formaldehyde releasers with 'glyoxal' in their name. However, every one of them is a glyoxal compound further reacted with formaldehyde to generate "methylol" or "hydroxymethyl" groups attached to a heteroatom (O or N). Those methylol or hydroxymethyl moieties are the source of formaldehyde, not the glyoxal moiety.

For example, the first appearing compound, dihydroxydimethylolethyleneurea, methylated (CAS 68411-81-4, aka dimethylolglyoxalurea, methylated) has the structure:



It is made by adding two equivalents of formaldehyde to glyoxalurea:

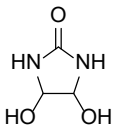


This reaction is done deliberately to make the molecule as an antimicrobial formaldehyde releaser. Over time, the reverse of the synthetic reaction occurs. The formaldehyde released reacts with something else or diffuses away, and more formaldehyde is slowly released, driven by equilibrium, until all the formaldehyde attached has been released, leaving behind glyoxalurea.

All the other "glyoxal" compounds, except one, listed in Table 6 are reaction products of glyoxal, formaldehyde and other things. As above, the source of the formaldehyde is the formaldehyde in the original synthetic reaction, not the glyoxal:

> Urea, reaction products with urea and glyoxal, CAS 296-664-6
> Urea, reaction products with urea, glyoxal and methanol, CAS 296-665-1
> Reaction product of urea, formaldehyde, glyoxal and diethylene glycol, CAS 939-056-4

The only "glyoxal" molecule listed in Table 6 that does not have formaldehyde in its synthesis is glyoxalurea (CAS 3720-97-6), which has the structure:



Over time, this molecule can equilibrate, dissociating to one molecule of urea and one molecule of glyoxal. It is our opinion that this molecule is not a source of formaldehyde and is incorrectly included in Table 6.

Comments on the perceived health risk of Glyoxal as a Formaldehyde Releasing Agent

The level (or rate) of formaldehyde being released from cosmetics containing glyoxal or formaldehyde releasing agent is very low (or toxicologically insignificant)[1] and does not have any impact to the safety/health of consumers using cosmetics containing glyoxal based on the following documented scientific facts: (1) the abundance of endogenous formaldehyde in biological systems[2, 3], (2) the rapid metabolic detoxification of formaldehyde to less hazardous chemicals[2], and (3) the efficient DNA interstrand cross-link repair system to maintain genomic stability (formaldehyde is known to cause DNA interstrand cross-link due to its highly reactive properties)[4,5].

Furthermore, it has been recently shown that formaldehyde is involved in a fundamental metabolic process in cells that enables the synthesis of nucleotides and amino acids and is present in all forms of life[6,7]. These findings change our view of formaldehyde as a toxic chemical and highlight the importance of maintaining cellular formaldehyde homeostasis to promote healthy cell growth.

Ashland is not aware of any (public) data on (1) the level of formaldehyde being released while using cosmetics containing glyoxal and (2) the consumer health risk or the adverse environmental impact due to the released formaldehyde while using cosmetics containing glyoxal.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Ashland strives to comply and support those regulations promoting safer cosmetics ingredients. We do request your consideration in reviewing our comments and recommendation related to the proposed regulation on

formaldehyde releasers in light of both the perceived health risk (of glyoxal as a formaldehyde releaser) and language used defining 'intentionally added'.

Yours sincerely,

Meghan Clark
EHS Specialist Sr

Ashland Inc.
1005 US 202/206
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

meghan.clark@ashland.com

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1. Kim ST, Shao K, Oleschkewitz C, Hamilton R. 2023. Margin of exposure to free formaldehyde in personal care products containing formaldehyde-donor preservatives: Evidence for consumer safety. *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*, 145, 105519 · Dec 1, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105519.

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Jamie Clausen

I read the agency's research on costs and benefits. While it is clear that the benefits outweigh the costs economically, it would also seem that many of the benefits in terms of reduced cancer cases, reduced childhood asthma, and improved fertility results are the kind of benefits in terms of protecting life and quality of life that in my opinion are a much greater value than merely their economic impacts. As someone who suffers from asthma and the mother of a child with asthma, I strongly support the adoption of this rule.

Patricia Coffey

I support this rule as a critical step in protecting our health and the health of the environment here in Washington.

Salonvironment

Thank you for Washington's leadership banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics.
Salonvironment strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in making products used on our skin, in our hair, and that get flushed down the drain safer.
Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day.
As a licensed cosmetologist, I have worked around chemicals for over 13 years. The salon I worked at had a standing rule that we could only do certain chemical services on specific days, so they wouldn't be done around women who were pregnant. I've watched my coworkers slowly stop using certain products because they started to become allergic or had their hands become severely irritated (from products such as shampoo). I even had a coworker who had to retire early because she became silently ill (with no known cause for over a year) and eventually let go. Her doctor figured out it was because of her consistent exposure to various chemical treatments. I have personally felt ill just from working around certain chemical services. I love my career, as do most of the beauty professionals I know. It is disheartening to not be sure if we will cause our clients to get sick, how long I can stay in the industry, and if I can even get good health insurance - as hair professionals are usually not provided with affordable and strong healthcare options.
Specifically, I support:
The ban on the list of 28 formaldehyde releasers that will take effect on January 1, 2027;
The definition of intentionally added, which will ensure ALL formaldehyde releasers added to the final product, the manufacturing of the product, or is an ingredient in the final product will be covered; and,
The strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is found during sampling.
Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement.
Thank you!

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Please see comments from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control attached.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
https://dtsc.ca.gov/

Gavin Newsom
Governor

April 11, 2025

DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RULE TO RESTRICT INTENTIONALLY ADDED FORMALDEHYDE-RELEASING CHEMICALS IN COSMETICS

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

On behalf of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Safer Consumer Products (SCP) Program, we are writing in support of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) work involving intentionally added formaldehyde-releasing chemicals (FRCs) in cosmetics.

Our mission at SCP is to advance the design, development, and use of products that are chemically safer for people and the environment. We see the work being done at Ecology concerning FRCs as mission-aligned and want to voice our support for your efforts to promote safer products. Ecology's work serves as an inspiration and we will be following Washington's rulemaking, given its alignment with California's work to study hazardous chemicals in personal care products. In particular, we find your focus on the disproportionate impacts of FRCs on communities of color and beauty professionals to be of great importance and we congratulate you all on your excellent work.

Sincerely,

Anne Cooper Doherty

Anne-Cooper Doherty, PhD
Supervisor, Chemical Evaluation Unit, Safer Consumer Products Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Printed on Recycled Paper

April 11, 2025

Stacey Callaway
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Proposed Cosmetic Products Restrictions Rule (Chapter 173-339 WAC); Restrictions on Intentionally Added Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde Releasers

Dear Ms. Callaway,

The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) strongly supports the Washington Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics pursuant to Washington State's Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act (Ch. 70A.560 RCW).

CEH is a national non-profit organization headquartered in Oakland, California, dedicated to protecting the public from environmental and public health hazards, including harmful chemicals in air, food, water, and everyday products. CEH envisions a world where everyone lives, works, learns, and plays in a healthy environment.

Formaldehyde has been classified as a Group One human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.[1] Despite its widespread presence in beauty products, many consumers remain unaware of formaldehyde's dangers. In addition to causing cancer, formaldehyde in beauty products can cause allergies and asthma, skin burns, serious eye damage,

[1] IARC, *IARC Classifies Formaldehyde as Carcinogenic to Humans.* Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer (2004); Protano, Buomprisco, Cammalleri, Pocino, Marotta, Simonazzi, Cardoni, Petyx, Iavicoli, Vitali, *The Carcinogenic Effects of Formaldehyde Occupational Exposure: A Systematic Review*, Cancers (Basel) (Dec. 29, 2021), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8749969/#:~:text=The%20International%20Agency%20for%20Research,all%20published%20before%20that%20year>, [as of Apr. 10, 2025].

and hormonal harm. This is particularly concerning for cosmetologists, their clients, and other people who use these cosmetics frequently. Numerous hair and beauty products advertised to Black women contain formaldehyde, "which has been linked to increased risks of hormone-related cancers, including uterine and breast cancer."[2] Studies show that these products disproportionately affect Black women, who already experience higher rates of aggressive breast cancer before age 45 as compared to White women,[3] and who have the highest likelihood of receiving uterine cancer diagnoses compared to other racial and ethnic groups.[4]

Now, Washington State is leading the way with a strong rule to ban all intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This sets a powerful national precedent—pushing safer products for everyone, no matter where you live or shop. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.

Respectfully,

Thomas R. Fox
Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health
tom@ceh.org
703-832-2233

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[2] Jasmine Smith, Medically Reviewed by Dr. Bayo Curry-Winchell, BlackDoctor.org, *Cancer-Causing Hair Products? Why Black Women Are at the Highest Risk!* (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://blackdoctor.org/cancer-causing-hair-products/>, [as of Apr. 10, 2025].

[3] Yedjou, Sims, MMiele, Noubissi, Lowe, Fonseca, Alo, Payton, Tchounwou, National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine, *Health and Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer*, Adv. Ex. Med. Biol. 2019, 1152:31-49, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6941147/, [as of Apr. 10, 2025].

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Independent Beauty Association

The attached is submitted by the Independent Beauty Association.

INDEPENDENT BEAUTY ASSOCIATION®

April 11, 2025

Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE,
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking

The Independent Beauty Association (IBA), a non-profit trade association representing over 600 companies spanning the North American beauty industry, respectfully submits the following comments in response to the rulemaking to develop Cosmetic Product Restrictions (Chapter 173-339 WAC) – Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking.

IBA was founded in 1974 with the mission to foster the success of entrepreneurial companies in the independent cosmetic and personal care industries operating in the U.S. market. IBA's membership represents a broad cross-section of the independent beauty industry including brands, raw material and packaging suppliers, finished product manufacturers and retailers, as well as providers of essential business services such as legal, regulatory, technical, operational, and business advice.

IBA has been serving small to medium-sized businesses since its launch as Independent Cosmetic Manufacturers and Distributors (ICMAD) in 1974. We are pleased to support the Washington State Department of Ecology's rulemaking efforts on draft restrictions on intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers.

Formaldehyde releasers have historically played a critical role in cosmetic product preservation, helping extend shelf life and prevent harmful microbial growth in cosmetic products. They are cost-effective, well-researched, and have been widely used within safety limits defined by regulatory agencies. For many small businesses, they offer a practical way to ensure product safety without significantly driving up costs. That said, IBA recognizes the growing concern among consumers regarding potential formaldehyde exposure, and IBA strives to collaborate with the Department to achieve a reasonable balance between formaldehyde releaser restriction, and finished products that are safely and sufficiently preserved to protect consumers from the risks associated with microbial contamination.

IBA provides the following commentary for consideration in regards to the Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking Proposed Rule:

Clarification of "Intentionally Added"

The language of "intentionally added" in the proposed legislation is inconsistent with existing federal and state level regulated definitions of cosmetic "ingredient," including the US FD&C Act and current US state definitions; furthermore, the proposed language is excessively broad and unclear on what is not considered an "intentionally added ingredient." This is likely to lead to inconsistent interpretation, misapplication, and uncertainty of what constitutes adequate substantiation for compliance.

The proposed rule contains three qualifiers:

- *Serves an intended function in the product.*
    - This is consistent with current definitions by other regulatory bodies.
- *Serves an intended function in the manufacturing of the product.*
    - This qualifier is less clear. Does it include cleaning and sanitization of equipment, contamination from raw material packaging or finished product packaging?
- *Serves an intended function in an ingredient in the final product.*
    - This qualifier is less clear and creates potential conflicts with ingredient suppliers as they are not obligated to divulge trade secrets. There are also residual ingredient precursors, monomers and reactants present as impurities, processing aids, anti-microbial agents, stabilizers and growth media. How far back in the supply chain is it reasonable to expect data exchange?

There appears to be no exclusion for incidental trace substances which may be present in ingredients, packaging and finished products. This is also inconsistent with current regulated definitions of cosmetic "ingredient."

Regarding the justification that is being used to extend the proposed "intentionally added ingredient" definition; the section of regulation *Preliminary Regulatory Analyses: Chapter 173-339 WAC, Cosmetic Products Restrictions Section 2.2.2 of the Preliminary Regulatory Analysis for the proposed rule 173-339 WAC* states that the WA Safer Products Restrictions

and Reporting Rule (default.aspx) "restricts intentionally added chemicals in cosmetic products." That is not exactly accurate. It restricts a specific set of substances (ortho-phthalates) which are intentionally added as solvents or fixatives of fragrance ingredients to be used in specified consumer products. Other uses of phthalates in the products in scope are explicitly exempted from the "intentionally added" restriction.

Data Availability

It should also be noted that most companies receive information from their vendors or suppliers and rely upon that information as the guide to determine whether or not a product is compliant with the requirements. Recognizing that there are situations in which information may not have been provided to the company, e.g. the vendor preserves a raw material with a potential formaldehyde donor preservative but fails to disclose this to the manufacturing company, there should be an exemption for companies who obtain and review the requisite data to determine that there is no reason to believe that the product has any formaldehyde or formaldehyde donor chemicals contained therein. Even without the exemption envisioned here, the use of a raw material with a small amount of a preservative that is otherwise problematic would lead many to the interpretation that the ingredient, especially at lower than active levels for functionality within the formula, would be "intentionally added". We recommend that the Department consider this as part of a reasonable system within which to best manage the needs of both the safety of consumers within Washington State as well as the needs of industry to have a workable and concrete regulation that can best inform the industry of their responsibility under this new requirement.

Safety In Use

For decades, formaldehyde releasers have been subjected to rigorous toxicological studies, and these studies consistently demonstrate that when used in low concentrations—as is standard in the cosmetic industry—these ingredients do not pose a risk to consumers.

Glyoxal is a dialdehyde that occurs naturally in the human body and in food. In the body, it is produced by a variety of non-enzymic oxidation reactions such as sugar autooxidation, DNA oxidation and peroxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids.[i] It is also produced by the microsomal oxidation of glycolaldehyde, ethylene glycol and other chemicals. Its

concentration in blood plasma of healthy individuals ranges between 13 and 67 ng / ml, of which approximately 90% is bound to proteins. Glyoxal is readily metabolized by GSH dependent glyoxalase I and II. In patients with diabetes or end stage kidney disease, blood plasma concentrations of glyoxal are much higher.

The main routes of human exposure to glyoxal are through ingestion, inhalation and for some occupations, dermal exposure. People may ingest more than 10 mg glyoxal per day from food.[ii] Sources include coffee, toast, stir fried meals that include rice, soy source, beer, fermented foods such as dairy products and vegetables. This is the primary route of exogenous exposure except in cases of occupational exposure, especially to disinfectants. Glyoxal is also approved for use in food packaging in the USA and the EU. However, maximum levels are set due to safety concerns.

In the EU, in Annex III (restricted ingredients, no. 194) the EU has set a maximum level of 100 ppm (100 ug /ml) glyoxal in cosmetic products.[iii] If a consumer uses 18 grams of cosmetics a day and each product contains 100 ppm glyoxal (a very unlikely quantity) then exposure would be 1.8 mg of glyoxal per day.[iv] This is much less than potential exposure from food (see below).

In the USA, the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) has found that glyoxal is safe up to 1.25% in nail products.[v] However, there was insufficient data for all other cosmetic products. In Australia, NICNAS reported that glyoxal could be used in consumer products as long as appropriate usage instructions were provided and followed. Stricter guidelines should be provided for occupational usage.

Glyoxal also has been used as a processing aid to support cold-process dispersion of starches like hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC). Without the addition of glyoxal to the cellulose, the manufacture must heat the product to disperse the starch. HEC is often used at 0.5% or less, but no more than 1% in cosmetic products. As the level of glyoxal in HEC is approximately 0.01%, this yields a final concentration of 1 ppm glyoxal in the final product. If all the glyoxal converts into formaldehyde at one time, which is highly unlikely, then the formaldehyde level in the final product would be 1.03 ppm. This compares with 16 ppm in bananas and between 30 and 60 ppm in pears.[vi]

Preservatives may be another source of formaldehyde in cosmetics products, notably DMDM hydantoin, which has been used for decades to preserve cosmetic products. It's use in extremely small quantities for a preservative, typically less than 0.20% by weight in a formulation. DMDM Hydantoin is included in EU Cosmetic Regulations Annex V, that relates to approved preservatives[iii]. Its maximum use level is restricted to 0.6 %.

In the US, the Cosmetic Ingredient Review has found that DMDM Hydantoin is safe up to the practices and conditions of use in cosmetic products, as of 2008, i.e. up to 0.8%.[vii] At that DMDM Hydantoin level, the concentration of free formaldehyde in the cosmetic product is unlikely to exceed 200 ppm.

The enclosed Table shows the toxicological profile of glyoxal and compares it was that of the formaldehyde donor preservative most commonly used in cosmetics - DMDM Hydantoin: according the FDA's Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program (VCRP). In 2017, glyoxal was used as an ingredient in 2 products whereas DMDM Hydantoin was used as an ingredient in more than 1,500 products.

Like glyoxal, only a minute amount of formaldehyde is present. In DMDM Hydantoin, only 2% maximum of the molecule exists as free aldehyde in equilibrium with the hydantoin. If all 2% converts to formaldehyde at one time, which is highly unlikely, and the average use level of DMDM Hydantoin is 0.25%, only 0.005% would exist as formaldehyde. This is an extremely small quantity.

Conclusion:

IBA believes in enabling innovation and helping companies meet the evolving needs of the beauty and personal care consumer, while ensuring safe products are brought to market. IBA also supports the growth and success of independent beauty businesses, as the cosmetic and personal care sector offers opportunity and access to entrepreneurism in ways that many other industries cannot—many of the small business founders in the beauty industry represent diverse backgrounds and create products and services unique to their specific consumer or community needs. The businesses that make up the independent beauty industry are also employment generators, employing many people across the state in development, retail, manufacturing, professional services, and more. IBA supports practical legislative and regulatory policies that preserve innovation and free enterprise across the industry, and that are based on common sense and sound science.

IBA is thankful for the forum to submit these comments on the Proposed Rule and welcomes further opportunity to engage with the Department of Ecology to foster a better understanding of the beauty industry and to provide additional context and perspective on

the interpretation, implementation, and impact of this potential regulation on independent businesses in the sector.

After careful review, our recommendation is to maintain the intentionally added formaldehyde requirement included in the Proposed Rule, but provide an accommodation for cosmetic products that contain formaldehyde donors as they contribute negligible quantities of formaldehyde to cosmetic products, in quantities less than a piece of fruit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Frey
President & CEO
Independent Beauty Association

Table Comparing the Toxicological Profiles Relating to Human Safety of Glyoxal and DMDM Hydantoin.

	Glyoxal			**DMDM Hydantoin**	
CAS Number	107-22-2			6440-58-0	
EC Number	203-474-9			229-222-8	
Other name(s)	Ethandial, oxaldehyde			Glydant, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethylimidazolidine-2,4-dione	
Human Safety					
Toxicological Endpoint	**Value**	**Data Source**		**Value**	**Data Source**
Acute Toxicity (Oral: LD_{50})	> 2,000 but < 5,000 mg / kg bw (rats) 3,300 mg / kg bw	ECHA Registration Portal[viii]		1752 mg / kg bw (rats)	ECHA Registration Portal[ix]
Acute Toxicity (Dermal LD_{50})	> 2,000 mg / kg bw (rats)	ECHA Registration Portal		> 1052 mg / kg bw (rabbits)	ECHA Registration Portal

Skin Irritation / corrosivity	Category 2 irritant based on GHS criteria (rabbit)	ECHA Registration Portal		Slightly irritating in rabbits but officially designated as “not classified”.	ECHA Registration Portal
Eye Irritation	Variable results in rabbits – pure glyoxal or depending on solvent produced transient irritation that had disappeared with 8 days (GHS: not classified). Technical grade glyoxal – GHS Category 2.	ECHA Registration Portal		Slightly irritating in rabbits but officially designated as “not classified”,	ECHA Registration Portal
Skin Sensitization	Sensitizer in all studies (LLNA, GPMT and Buehler)	ECHA Registration Portal		Non-sensitizing in Buehler test. Confirmed in LLNA and GPMT assays.	ECHA Registration Portal
Repeated Dose Toxicity (Oral)	In a 90-day study: NOAEL = 72 mg / kg bw / day in male rats (93 mg / kg bw/ day in female rats).	ECHA Registration Portal		DMDMH readily undergoes hydrolysis to DMH and therefore in long term testing, the data on DMH is considered more relevant. In a 90-day study with DMH in rats, the NOAEL was >1000 mg/kg. For DMDM Hydantoin, the NOAEL exceeded 220 mg / kg bw / day.	ECHA Registration Portal

Repeated Dose Toxicity (Dermal)	Data from a dosage estimation for Dermal carcinogenesis study (mice). Systemic NOAEL = 125 mg / kg bw / day for systemic effects but 63 mg / kg bw / day for local effects (skin lesions).	ECHA Registration Portal		In 9- day dermal study the NOEL was 390 mg/kg (limited by solubility) in rats.	ECHA Registration Portal
Genotoxicity	In *in vitro* tests as the Ames test and the in vitro chromosomal aberration assay, glyoxal was genotoxic. However, in the higher-level *in vivo* studies, such as the Transgenic Rodent Somatic and Germ Cell Gene Mutation Assays (OCED TG 488) and Unscheduled DNA Synthesis (UDS) Test with Mammalian Liver Cells in vivo (OECD TG 486) glyoxal was non-genotoxic.	ECHA Registration Portal		DMDM Hydantoin gave mixed results in the in vitro testing. In the higher-level *in vivo* testing (micronucleus and a DNA strand break assay), the results were negative. DMDM Hydantoin's breakdown product DMH, produced negative results in the in vitro testing.	ECHA Registration Portal
Carcinogenicity	Glyoxal was reported to be non-carcinogenic in a 2-year	ECHA Registration Portal		DMDM Hydantoin readily undergoes	ECHA Registration Portal

	carcinogenicity study run in rats. The NOAEL for oral administration was 300 mg / kg bw / day. Separately in mice, a NOAEL of 63 mg / kg bw / day was observed for dermal exposure.			hydrolysis to DMH so long-term studies on this compound are more relevant. DMH did not demonstrate a carcinogenic response in either the rat or the mouse.	
Reproductive Toxicity	Neither developmental toxicity and teratogenicity nor effects on fertility and reproductive performance was seen up to the highest dose tested in rats. (NOAEL > 400 mg/kg bw/day). OECD TG 416 was used	ECHA Registration Portal		Again DMH (the breakdown product of DMDMH) was judged to be the more appropriate test material for this long-term study. Using OECD TG 416, the NO(A)ELs in rats were: Parent males = 20000 ppm (~1395 mg/kg bw/day) Parent females = 20000 ppm (~1774 mg/kg bw/day) F1 males = 6000 ppm (~379 mg/kg bw/day) F1 females = 6000 ppm (~475 mg/kg bw/day) F2 males = 6000ppm	ECHA Registration Portal

				F2 females = 6000ppm.	

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[i] Concise International Chemical Assessment Document 57: Glyoxal (2004). https://www.inchem.org/documents/cicads/cicads/cicad57.htm Accessed March 26, 2025.

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Sherrill Futrell

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. THANK YOU!

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Exposing The Cause Is The Cure

415 346 8223
1388 Sutter Street STE 900
San Francisco, CA 94109
BCPP.org

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing breast cancer by eliminating exposure to harmful chemicals linked to the disease. Our work is grounded in rigorous, peer-reviewed science demonstrating the connection between toxic chemical exposure and increased breast cancer risk. Through our Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, we educate the public, advocate for stronger laws, and work to transform the beauty industry. For over 20 years, we have led efforts to remove carcinogens and other toxic ingredients from personal care products to protect both human and environmental health.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Department of Ecology's proposed rule regulating formaldehyde-releasing preservatives (FRPs) in cosmetics, and we commend your leadership in advancing protections for public health. We respectfully offer the following recommendations to strengthen the rule, particularly in light of the disproportionate exposures faced by vulnerable populations.

Formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen. Even at low levels, it is associated with significant health harms, including allergic reactions, skin irritation, and respiratory problems. In cosmetics, formaldehyde is often not added directly but is instead released slowly over time from a group of intentionally added preservatives known as formaldehyde-releasing preservatives (FRPs). These ingredients often do not appear transparently on product labels, leaving consumers unaware of their exposure. This lack of transparency disproportionately affects salon workers, children, communities of color, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions, who may experience higher cumulative exposures. More information can be found at: Formaldehyde And Formaldehyde-Releasing Preservatives.

The Washington State Department of Ecology proposed rule would:

- Identify chemicals used in cosmetics that release formaldehyde.
- Establish formaldehyde releaser restrictions and compliance schedule.
- Define what constitutes an "intentionally added" ingredient.

1. Expand the List of Formaldehyde-Releasing Preservatives
   Issue: The current proposed rule (WAC 173-339-110) identifies 28 specific formaldehyde-releasing chemicals. While this is a strong starting point, the chemical-by-chemical approach falls short of fully protecting public health.

   Recommendation: We strongly urge the Department to adopt a *class-based ban* on all FRPs in cosmetics. A class-based approach is necessary to:

- Prevent regrettable substitutions, where one hazardous FRP is replaced with another similar compound.
- Acknowledge that *any* exposure to formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, is unsafe, with science showing harm even at low levels.
- Address the fact that consumers, manufacturers, and regulators have no reliable way of quantifying how much formaldehyde is released from FRPs in cosmetics.

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San Francisco, CA 94109
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- Encourage innovation, as safer alternatives are widely available and already used in natural and organic products.
- Align Washington's regulation with international leadership. FRPs are banned in cosmetics and toiletries in countries like Japan and Sweden.
- Future-proof the rule by capturing new or modified FRPs before they enter the market.

2. Proposed Definition of "Intentionally Added" Ingredients

Issue: The current proposed definition of "intentionally added" may not adequately cover all scenarios in which FRPs are used.

Recommendation: We suggest the rule's proposed definition of "Intentionally added chemical" or "intentionally added" be strengthened to read:

> An "intentionally added chemical" or "intentionally added" means a chemical that serves an intended function *that a manufacturer or upstream supplier has added to:*
> • The final product;
> • The manufacturing of the product; or
> • An ingredient in the final product.

This definition would include chemicals that would be considered incidental by the FDA *or are released by or are the intentional breakdown products of the added chemical.*

The purpose of the suggested changes to the proposed rule is to capture a FRP ingredient that is intentionally added to a cosmetic product to release another chemical (formaldehyde) to preserve the product. It is not clear that DOE's proposed definition would capture FRPs because, for example, the Quaternium-15 that is added to a cosmetic product does not itself "serve an intended function in the final product," it is the formaldehyde released by the Quaternium-15 that "serves an intended function in the final product." Another problem with the proposed definition is it does not name the entities that are prohibited from intentionally adding a prohibited chemical to a cosmetic product. By naming the manufacturer, as well as any upstream supplier, the definition captures entities who should be accountable for complying with this regulation.

Our proposed definition of "intentionally added" is based on California AB2771 (Friedman), enacted in 2022, which bans the class of PFAS chemicals from cosmetic products sold in California.

However, we *support* the Proposed Rule's intention to capture "intentionally added chemicals that would be considered incidental by the FDA." We know that for some chemicals, especially endocrine disrupting compounds, low level exposures can cause harmful effects.

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San Francisco, CA 94109
BCPP.org

3. Require Regular Updates to the FRP List
   Issue: Preservative use evolves rapidly. Without regular updates, the list of regulated FRPs could become outdated.

   Recommendation: We urge the Department to:

   - Require biennial reviews of the FRP list,
   - Establish a transparent process that allows third parties (such as academic institutions and NGOs) to petition for new chemicals to be added, and
   - Encourage or require manufacturers to conduct alternatives assessments and adopt safer preservatives whenever feasible.

   A growing number of effective, safer preservatives, such as those based on benzyl alcohol, salicylic acid, glycerin, and sorbic acid, are available and widely used in products certified by COSMOS and Ecocert. These options provide broad-spectrum protection and are compatible with consumer demand for cleaner, more transparent products.

We strongly support Washington's efforts to reduce toxic chemical exposure in cosmetics. By adopting a class-based ban on FRPs and strengthening key rule provisions, Washington can set a national precedent in public health and environmental justice.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Laura Gillan, MPH
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP)

Debra Hare-Bey, CEO Oh My Heavenly Hair, Licensed Cosmetologist, Master Braider and EVP Board of Director Natural Hairstyle and Braid Coalition

What I Support and What I Disagree With:

I support the use of clean, safe, plant-based products that prioritize the health and wellness of consumers. I am strongly in favor of restricting intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing agents in cosmetic and personal care products. I disagree with the continued allowance of ingredients that are known to be harmful—particularly those linked to cancer, hormone disruption, and skin or respiratory damage. Cosmetic products should never contain carcinogenic or hormone-disrupting ingredients, especially those marketed toward women and children.

Suggested Language:

I recommend using specific language that emphasizes safety and transparency, such as:

- "Formulated with plant-based, botanical ingredients that nourish the scalp, skin, and hair."
- "Free from carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and harmful preservatives."

- “Tested for safety to support holistic wellness and long-term health.”

Examples and Concerns:

A major concern is the widespread use of synthetic ingredients in products that target vulnerable communities. For example, synthetic hair used for braiding often contains known carcinogens such as formaldehyde and other toxic chemicals. These ingredients are not only absorbed through the skin but also inhaled during wear and styling.

Another example includes preservatives like DMDM Hydantoin, which release formaldehyde over time and are still found in some shampoos, conditioners, and styling products. These pose significant risks, particularly for long-term users.

Supplemental Information:

Numerous studies and regulatory bodies—including the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the Environmental Working Group (EWG), and the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics—have flagged many commonly used cosmetic ingredients as unsafe. Research has shown that prolonged exposure to toxic chemicals in cosmetics is linked to higher rates of hormone-related cancers, autoimmune disorders, and reproductive harm,

especially among women of color who use these products more frequently.

Sales data shows a growing consumer demand for clean beauty, with the global clean beauty market expected to reach $22 billion by 2024. Brands that lead in transparency and safety are not only protecting consumers but also gaining long-term loyalty and market advantage.

Suggested Solutions:

- Implement stricter testing and safety standards for all cosmetic and personal care products.
- Prohibit the use of ingredients that are proven to cause cancer, disrupt hormones, or damage the skin and respiratory system.
- Require clear, easy-to-understand labeling for any potentially harmful ingredients.
- Mandate warning labels for ingredients linked to endocrine disruption and cancer.
- Provide funding and incentives for research and development of safe, plant-based alternatives.
- Include feedback from community-based wellness professionals and small brands already leading in clean, natural beauty.

Jacquelyne Hendry-Dragich

Statement for Public Meeting or Written Comment

"Hello, my name is Jacquelyne Dragich-Hendry, and I am a licensed Master Esthetician in Washington. I want to address concerns regarding the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Law and its oversight by the Department of Ecology. While I fully support eliminating harmful chemicals in cosmetic products, I have questions about whether Ecology is the right agency to regulate this area alone.

Typically, cosmetic regulations—especially those affecting professionals, salons, and consumer safety—fall under agencies like the Department of Licensing (DOL), which oversees the cosmetology industry, or the Department of Health (DOH), which manages public health concerns. While I understand Ecology's role in regulating environmental toxins, I'm concerned about how these new regulations will be enforced in professional salon settings and whether the specific needs of licensed professionals are being considered.

I'd like to ask:
1. Why is the Department of Ecology the primary regulator for this law, instead of or in partnership with the Department of Licensing or Department of Health?
2. How will these regulations be enforced in salons and professional settings?
3. Has there been collaboration with the Board of Cosmetology to ensure that professional-use products and industry standards are considered in these regulations?
4. Would it be possible to form a joint regulatory effort between Ecology, DOL, and DOH to ensure both environmental safety and proper industry oversight?

It's important that these regulations protect both consumers and professionals while also ensuring enforcement is practical within licensed salons. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing how these concerns will be addressed.

Jacquelyne

Jacquelyne Hendry-Dragich

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

As you consider the Washington State Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, I urge you to explore a balanced approach regarding the regulation of formaldehyde in cosmetics.

Washington would be the first state to enact a complete ban on formaldehyde in personal care products. While the intent to protect consumers and workers is commendable, an outright ban may have unintended consequences—such as limiting product availability, creating regulatory discrepancies with federal standards, and placing undue strain on small businesses in the beauty industry.

Instead, I propose a pragmatic and protective alternative:
• Require clear labeling on all cosmetic products that contain formaldehyde or formaldehyde-releasing agents.
• Mandate hazard warnings and proper handling instructions, especially for professionals in salons and cosmetology schools who are most at risk.
• Ensure that disposal guidance and PPE recommendations are included to minimize exposure and protect public health.

This regulatory approach promotes transparency, empowers consumer and worker choice, and encourages manufacturers to pursue safer alternatives—without immediately disrupting the marketplace or isolating Washington from broader national standards.

I ask you to consider this path forward—one that prioritizes health, safety, and economic practicality.

Respectfully,
Jacquelyne Dragich-Hendry
Licensed Master Esthetician,MA-P,EMT

Via Electronic Submission

Washington State Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Wella Company Comments on the Toxic Free Cosmetics Act – CR-102, Draft Restrictions on Intentionally Added Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde Releasers; Public Comment Period: 05/06/2025 – 04/11/2025

April 10, 2025

Dear Stacey Callaway:

On behalf of WELLA COMPANY. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking for Restriction on Intentionally Added formaldehyde and Formaldehyde Releasers.

WELLA COMPANY is an innovative global beauty leader with a portfolio of iconic hair, nail, and beauty tech brands for both industry professionals and consumers. With a 140+ year legacy of creating legendary beauty, our vision is to empower individuals to look, feel, and be their true selves. Our portfolio includes leading professional and retail brands such as Wella Professionals, O·P·I, ghd, Briogeo, Nioxin, Sebastian Professional, and Clairol. Wella Professionals is the No. 1 Salon Color Brand in the World, and O·P·I is the No. 1 Salon Nail Brand in the World. With over 5,000 employees, we operate in more than 127 countries.

WELLA COMPANY holds sacred the trust families have put in the safety of its products. We invest tremendous resources in scientific research and safety processes to ensure our products comply with applicable laws and regulations while providing safe products to consumers.

Consumers are increasingly seeking effective hair straightening treatments that improve hair texture and reduce frizz. As demand for these products grows, there is a critical need for innovative solutions that provide straightening benefits while ensuring safety. This includes the development of products that use alternatives to formaldehyde, with a focus on protecting the health of consumers, professional stylists, and the environment.

We respectfully request Washington State Department of Ecology to consider amending the proposed ban on **glyoxylic acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)** to allow its usage with specific restrictions. Additionally, there may be other chemicals on the Part B - Chemical in Cosmetic Products list that are used by manufacturers, which may warrant allowing with restrictions, provided there is sufficient substantiation to support such a determination. e.g., glyoxylol carbocysteine (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners).

Formaldehyde Releasers in the Proposed Rule

Item	Chemical Name	CAS RN
18	Glyoxylic Acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	298-12-4

WELLA COMPANY's human and environmental toxicologists and product developer chemists reviewed Washington Ecology's *Proposed Rulemaking for Restriction on Intentionally Added formaldehyde and Formaldehyde Releasers.* In furtherance of WELLA COMPANY'S request for reconsideration of the proposed ban for glyoxylic acid, we respectfully submit for your consideration the following comments:

The OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) for airborne formaldehyde is 0.75ppm (~0.92 mg/m^3) for healthy adult workers during a typical workday. We propose setting formaldehyde emissions limit at 9-fold below the OSHA PEL to protect vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly, children and individuals with asthma), aligning with the World Health Organization (WHO) safe's limit of 0.1 mg/m^3. Extensive research indicates that the WHO's safety limit is sufficiently protective against sensory irritation and nasal cancer, ensuring no health concern for stylists, clients, and bystanders, including vulnerable populations (WHO, 2010; Nielson et al., 2012).

Glyoxylic acid is the active ingredient in some hair straightening treatments. Its primary function is to bond directly with hair proteins, resulting in a unique hair restructuring process distinct from traditional formaldehyde-based hair straighteners (Boga et al., 2014). In fact, glyoxylic acid-based products do not contain formaldehyde and their efficacy on hair does not involve formaldehyde at any stage. At the stage of heat activation by flat ironing, traces of formaldehyde may be formed on the surface of the heated metal plate at temperatures above 197°C that are dispersed into the ambient air.

Formaldehyde emissions can be mitigated to levels below broadly accepted safe limits (29 CFR 1910.1048 OSHA 1992; WHO, 2010) through the implementation of standardized application protocols (e.g., hair rinsing) that reduce residual glyoxylic acid levels on hair prior to heat activation. Simulation studies modeling worst-case scenarios (e.g., small room volume, no ventilation, no air exchange during measurements, high heat) for glyoxylic acid-based hair straightening treatments measured formaldehyde emissions collected from relevant breathing zones and room air zones throughout the hair straightening process. The averaged formaldehyde emission levels were eight-fold lower than the WHO safety limit of 100 $\mu g/m^3$. These data have been peer reviewed and will be published soon.

To ensure the safe use of glyoxylic acid-based hair straightening products, we recommend the following measures:

- Restricting the use of these products to professional use only, as qualified professionals are trained in safe practices and protocols. Implementing safe practice standards in product protocols, such as "Rinse before heat application."
- Setting maximum formaldehyde release levels to **thresholds 9-fold below the OSHA PEL** to also protect vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly, children and individuals with asthma), aligning with the **WHO's safe's limit of 0.1 mg/m^3**.

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Currently, there are no specific regulatory limits or guidance on acceptable formaldehyde emission levels for hair straightening services. Establishing limits of formaldehyde emission that are not hazardous and that manufacturers must take into account when developing their products will be protective for human health. Moreover, it is important to note that the glyoxylic acid and formaldehyde released into the environment from hair straightening treatments are not hazardous to the environment (U.S. EPA 2024; ECHA).

Lastly, to provide perspective, formaldehyde lehas been detected in a variety of food commodities including coffee (~16 ppm) and produce (~35 ppm) (EFSA, 2014). Formaldehyde emissions from fragrance candle have been measured up to 323 μg/m³, yet average indoor formaldehyde concentrations in American residential homes are reported to be around 23 μg/m³ (Petry et al., 2014; U.S. EPA 2024k).

Proposed Amendment (redlines - Exhibit A)

PART B - CHEMICALS IN COSMETIC PRODUCTS
WAC 173-339-110 Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers

(2)(a)(ii) No person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, or distribute a cosmetic product described in WAC 173-339-015(2) that contains intentionally added formaldehyde releasers,-including any chemical name aliases or Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS RN) aliases, unless the formaldehyde is released as a by-product without a technical or functional effect, the product is restricted to professional use, and emissions remain at least nine-fold below the permissible exposure limit as established by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Table: Formaldehyde Releasers

Item	Chemical name	CAS RN
18	Glyoxylic Acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	298-12-4

For all the reasons outlined above, WELLA COMPANY respectfully requests that you incorporate the proposed amendment language. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be more than pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Virginia Hill

Virginia Hill, M.S., DrSC, ABD, RAC (US)
Director, Product Safety & Regulatory Affairs | Virginia.Hill@wella.com
Wella Company

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Exhibit A

PART B - CHEMICALS IN COSMETIC PRODUCTS

NEW SECTION

WAC 173-339-110 Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers.

(1) **Compliance schedule.**

(a) Formaldehyde.

(i) The restriction in subsection (2)(a) of this section takes effect January 1, 2025, in accordance with RCW 70A.560.020 (1)(c).

(ii) An in-state retailer in possession of cosmetic products on the date the restriction in subsection (2)(a) of this section takes effect may exhaust their existing stock through sales to the public until January 1, 2026, in accordance with RCW 70A.560.020(3).

(b) Formaldehyde releasers.

(i) The restriction in subsection (2)(b) of this section takes effect on January 1, 2027.

(ii) An in-state retailer in possession of cosmetic products on the date the restriction in subsection (2)(b) of this section takes effect may exhaust their existing stock through sales to the public until January 1, 2028.

(2) Restriction.

(a) Formaldehyde.

(i) No person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, or distribute a cosmetic product described in WAC 173-339-015(2) that contains intentionally added formaldehyde, in accordance with RCW 70A.560.020 (1)(c).

(ii) Applying the definition of "intentionally added" in WAC 173-339-020 that takes effect on January 1, 2027:

Formaldehyde is intentionally added to a cosmetic product or ingredient when it functions as an antimicrobial, a preservative, a denaturant, a cross linker, or serves another purpose. This includes the direct addition of formaldehyde, or the addition of a chemical selected to release formaldehyde, to the product or ingredient over time.

(b) Formaldehyde releasers.

(i)No person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, or distribute a cosmetic product described in WAC 173-339-015(2) that contains the intentionally added formaldehyde releasers, including aliases of the chemical name and aliases of the CAS RN, in the following table.

Table: Formaldehyde Releasers

Item	Chemical name	CAS RN
1	DMDM Hydantoin	6440-58-0
2	Diazolidinyl Urea	78491-02-8
3	Imidiazolidinyl Urea	39236-46-9
4	Quaternium-15	4080-31-3; 51229-78-8
5	Tosylamide/Formaldehyde Resin (PTSAF)	25035-71-6
6	2-Bromo-2-Nitropropane-1,3-Diol (Bronopol)	52-51-7
7	Sodium Hydroxymethyl-glycinate	70161-44-3
8	Polyoxymethylene Urea	9011-05-6; 68611-64-3
9	Glyoxal	107-22-2
10	Polyoxymethylene Melamine	9003-08-1
11	5-Bromo-5-Nitro-1,3-Dioxane (Bronidox)	30007-47-7
12	7-Ethylbicyclo-oxazolidine (Bioban CS1246)	7747-35-5
13	Benzylhemiformal	14548-60-8
14	Dimethylhydantoin formaldehyde (DMHF)	26811-08-5; 9065-13-8
15	Dimethylol Glycol	3586-55-8
16	Dimethylol Urea	140-95-4
17	Dimethyl Oxazolidine	51200-87-4
~~18~~	~~Glyoxylic Acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)~~	~~298-12-4~~
19	Glyoxylol Carbocysteine (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	1268868-51-4
20	MDM Hydantoin	116-25-6; 27636-82-4; 16228-00-5
21	Methenamine	100-97-0
22	Methylal	109-87-5
23	Paraformaldehyde	30525-89-4
24	Polyoxymethylene	9002-81-7
25	Tetramethylol-glycoluril	5395-50-6
26	Timonacic (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	444-27-9
27	Tris (hydroxymethyl) nitromethane	126-11-4
28	Urea, polymer with formaldehyde, isobutylated	68002-18-6

(ii) No person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, or distribute a cosmetic product described in WAC 173-339-015(2) that contains intentionally added formaldehyde releasers, including any chemical name aliases or Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS RN) aliases, unless the formaldehyde is released as a by-product without a technical or functional effect, the finished good product is restricted to professional use, and emissions remain within the permissible exposure limit as established by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Table: Formaldehyde Releasers

Item	Chemical name	CAS RN
1	Glyoxylic Acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	298-12-4

(a) Compliance.

(i) Ecology may infer from any of the following actions that a formaldehyde, a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added.

Reviewing ingredient lists.

(A) Sampling for formaldehyde in cosmetic products.

(B) Considering other relevant information.

(ii) Manufacturers may rebut this inference by submitting a statement to ecology that includes the following information.

(A) The name and address of the person submitting the statement.

(B) A statement that neither of the following were intentionally added to a cosmetic product or ingredient.

- Formaldehyde.
- A chemical known to release formaldehyde.

(C) Credible evidence supporting that statement. Include information, data, or sources relevant to substantiate that statement. Ecology determines what qualifies as "credible evidence" on a case-by-case basis.

(D) The following certification……

Kathy Jeman

I am just wondering WHY it has taken this long to ban this in cosmetics that are primarily used by women? This has been a known carcinogen for how many years??

The Cosmetic, Toiletry & Fragrance Association of Singapore (CTFAS)

Comments from CTFAS on the proposed rule to restrict formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasers intentionally used in cosmetic products by the Department of Ecology in the state of Washington, USA.

The Cosmetic, Toiletry & Fragrance Association of Singapore (CTFAS) would like to submit the following comments on Washington State Department of Ecology's ("Ecology") WAC-173-339-10 to WAC-173-339-110, released February 6, 2025.

CTFAS was established in October 1991and serves as a representative body for companies involved in the beauty and personal care industries in Singapore. CTFAS is dedicated to promoting and supporting the interests of these industries by advocating for fair regulations, facilitating industry growth, and ensuring consumer safety. Our members are impacted by the proposed regulation, and we have some comments for the Department of Ecology's consideration.

Formaldehyde-releasers (FRs) have important technical functions in cosmetic and personal care products. Other than functioning as preservatives, there ingredients may also be used as anti-static/straightening agents and pH adjusters. It is important to note that FRs are not equivalent to formaldehyde. FRAs do not present the same CMR toxicity concerns associated with formaldehyde. **It is important to highlight to the Department of Ecology that formaldehyde occurs naturally in some foods (e.g. fruits, vegetables, fish, meat) and is *naturally* formed endogenously in mammals, including humans, by oxidative metabolism**. In addition, non-occupational exposure to formaldehyde from combustion processes, like emissions from motor vehicles and incinerators, can also occur. Formaldehyde may be released from building materials, carpets, paints and varnishes, during the cooking of some foods, and during its use as a disinfectant. It is also released in tobacco smoke.

Our key comments:

1) The proposed rule defines "intentionally added" as "a chemical that serves an intended function in the final product, the manufacturing of the product, or an ingredient in the final product." This definition of "intentionally added" is too broad and lacks clarity, which may cause further confusion with the finished product manufacturers as it does not account for incidental or trace contaminants of formaldehyde or FRs, which may be an inevitable part of the manufacturing process. The proposed definition does not align with any preexisting definition. We urge the Department of Ecology to align with existing definitions of "intentionally added" that address incidental or trace contaminants, which can be found in other regulations of other regulatory bodies such as the European Union and the US Food and Drug Administration. In order not to impose an onerous burden on the industry, which would be difficult to comply and potentially lead to uncertainty in compliance obligations, it is recommended that the Department of Ecology revise the definition of "intentionally added" to exclude incidental or trace contaminants that have no function in the finished product.

2) The proposed compliance section of the bill allows for the Department of Ecology to infer that formaldehyde or FRs were intentionally added to a product based on a positive sample

test or “other methods.” The industry is concerned that the inferences from a positive test do not account for the advanced testing methods that can detect even the smallest amount of formaldehyde down to ppm levels. In addition, due to the ubiquitous nature of formaldehyde and formaldehyde formation, it is possible that sometimes the testing methods themselves cause cross-contamination leading to a positive test. Lastly, the text in the proposed rule concerning “other relevant information” is extremely broad and vague. The industry would like to request for additional clarification on that point.

3) CTFAS would like to request that the Department of Ecology clarify whether packaging is included in the “final product.” This is because certain packaging e.g., plastic packaging, may be another source of potential formaldehyde contamination. Some water-based products such as lotions and creams in plastic tubes coated with melamine- or carbamide-formaldehyde resin may absorb formaldehyde and both substances will release formaldehyde over time.

CTFAS sincerely hopes the industry’s concerns would be addressed by the Department of Ecology. Should any additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@ctfas.org .

Sincerely,

Alain Khaiat, PhD.
Chairman
The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association of Singapore

Washington Retail Association

Dear Department of Ecology,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rule regarding formaldehyde restrictions in cosmetic products sold in Washington. After review of the most recent draft language, there are a few areas we are highlighting to either seek further clarification or to offer for your consideration from the retail perspective:

• Sell-Through Provision
We appreciate the inclusion of the sell-through provision, which offers necessary flexibility for retailers during the transition period.

• Clarification of "Knowingly Sell"
Further guidance is needed on what constitutes "knowingly" selling a noncompliant product, particularly given the limited visibility many retailers have into product formulation details.

• Complexity of Chemical Listings
The list of banned formaldehyde releasers includes 28 chemicals and their CAS numbers, with restrictions extending to aliases of those chemicals. The presence of multiple chemical names may make compliance verification difficult for non-technical retail staff. We are raising this for your awareness as the process continues.

• Confidential Business Information (CBI) Concerns
While CBI protections are acknowledged in the rule, there is some concern that they may not fully safeguard proprietary formulations, and unintentionally result in some vendors hesitancy to supply products in the state or complicate partnerships involving private-label products.

• Testing and Threshold Levels
There is concern about how product testing will be used in compliance, particularly the potential for test results to indicate the presence of restricted substances at trace levels that may not reflect intentional formulation. We ask for clarity on which testing methods will be used and how results will be evaluated as well as consideration for inclusion of a reasonable trace level threshold.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments on this draft rulemaking. We look forward to working with you as the process continues to develop.

philippe letourneau

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!

Personal Care Products Council
Committed to Safety, Quality & Innovation

April 11, 2025

Via Electronic Submission
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Attn: Stacey Callaway

Re: Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking (173-339 WAC)

The Personal Care Products Council ("PCPC") is pleased to submit the following comments on Washington State Department of Ecology's ("Ecology") WAC-173-339-10 to WAC-173-339-110, released February 6, 2025. Founded in 1894, PCPC is the leading national trade association representing the cosmetic and personal care products industry. PCPC is dedicated to promoting product safety, quality, and innovation, serving as a unifying voice that champions science-based standards and responsible practices to support health, well-being, and economic growth. PCPC's global members are some of the beloved and trusted brands in beauty and personal care today, providing millions of consumers with the diverse products they rely on every day –from sunscreens, toothpaste and shampoo to moisturizers, makeup, and fragrance.

Our members are therefore impacted by Ecology's implementation of the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act ("TFCA"). We have a strong interest in the scope and applicability of Ecology's proposed rule on formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasing agents ("FRAs"). FRAs have important technical functions in cosmetic and personal care products. This includes functioning as preservatives, antistatic and straightening agents, and pH adjusters. FRAs are not equivalent to formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is not added to cosmetics or personal care products, and FRAs do not present the concerns associated with breathing formaldehyde.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide Ecology, and other stakeholders, with critical information on the safety and technical functionalities of ingredients and manufacturing processes of formaldehyde and FRAs, as discussed below.

General Comments

1. Definition of "Intentionally Added"

Ecology "defined 'intentionally added' to clarify restrictions on the toxic chemicals in the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act." The proposed rule defines "intentionally added" as "a chemical that serves an intended function in: [t]he final product[,] [t]he manufacturing of the product[, or a]n ingredient in the final product." Ecology described their definition as "more protective" than other definitions of intentionally added because it "includes chemicals that serve an intended function in the manufacturing of the product or in an ingredient in the final product."

Rather than being protective, the proposed definition of intentionally added is problematic and lacks clarity. The definition as currently written is too broad and does not account for incidental or trace contaminants, which are an inevitable part of the manufacturing process.

Existing definitions of "intentionally added" that address incidental or trace contaminants can be found in other regulatory bodies such as the European Union ("EU") and the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA").[1] The current definition used by Ecology does not align with any pre-existing definition. The FDA defines ingredient as "any single chemical entity or mixture used as a component in the manufacture of a cosmetic product." 21 CFR 700.3(e). The FDA defines "incidental ingredients" as

1. Substances that have no technical or functional effect in the cosmetic but are present by reason of having been incorporated into the cosmetic as an ingredient of another cosmetic ingredient.
2. Processing aids, which are as follows:
    i. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during the processing of such cosmetic but are removed from the cosmetic in accordance with good manufacturing practices before it is packaged in its finished form.
    ii. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during processing for their technical or functional effect in the processing, are converted to substances the same as constituents of declared ingredients, and do not significantly increase the concentration of those constituents.
    iii. Substances that are added to a cosmetic during the processing of such cosmetic for their technical and functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished cosmetic at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that cosmetic.

[1] European Union Cosmetic Regulation No 1223/2009 defines ingredient as "any substance or mixture intentionally used in the cosmetic product during the process of manufacturing." However, "impurities in the raw materials used" and "subsidiary technical materials used in the mixture but not present in the final product" are considered "incidentals" and not ingredients.

21 CFR 701.3(l). The Food and Drug Administration's definitions have been incorporated into state regulations in California and Maine.[2]

PCPC strongly encourages Ecology to revise the definition of "intentionally added" to align with pre-existing definition of "ingredient" and "incidental ingredient" as defined by the FDA. By proposing a new, broad definition of intentionally added, rather than aligning with a pre-existing definition of intentionally added that companies are already complying with, Ecology is imposing a burden that would be difficult for industry to comply with and lead to uncertainty in compliance obligations. For example, in section 2.a.ii the proposed rule states:

> Applying the definition of "intentionally added" in WAC 173-339-020 that takes effect on January 1, 2027:
> Formaldehyde is intentionally added to a cosmetic product or ingredient when it functions as an antimicrobial, a preservative, a denaturant, a cross linker, or serves another purpose. This includes the direct addition of formaldehyde, or the addition of a chemical selected to release formaldehyde, to the product or ingredient over time.

When formaldehyde is used in the manufacturing of an ingredient as a cross linker the intent often is that the formaldehyde becomes chemically bonded during the cross-linking process and is no longer present in the ingredient or the final cosmetic product. Therefore, any formaldehyde remaining would be a residual impurity with no function in the ingredient or any final cosmetic product in which the ingredient may be used. In this example the formaldehyde used to create the ingredient is not intentionally added to the finished product and any remaining is as an impurity.

In sum, the current scope of the definition of "intentionally added" is too broad. Ecology should revise the definition of "intentionally added" to exclude incidental or trace contaminants that have no function in the finished product.

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[2] The California State Cosmetic Act states that ingredient "has the same meaning as that term is defined in subdivision (e) of Section 700.3 of Part 700 of Chapter 1 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and does not include any incidental ingredient as defined in subdivision (*l*) of Section 701.3 of Part 701 of Chapter 1 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 2005 Cal ALS 729; 2005 Cal SB 484; 2005 Cal Stats. ch. 729.

In February 2025, legislators in Maine introduced an "Act to Enact Safe Cosmetics." The proposed legislation defines ingredient as "a single chemical entity or mixture used as a component in the manufacture of a cosmetic product. "Ingredient" does not include an incidental ingredient as described in 21 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 701.3(l)." 2025 Bill Text ME LD 317, HP 217. The legislation further specifies that an "intentionally added ingredient" means an ingredient added during the manufacture of a cosmetic product or a component of a cosmetic product to provide a specific characteristic, appearance or quality or to perform a specific function.

2. Compliance

Currently Ecology "may infer" from "reviewing ingredient lists[,] sampling for formaldehyde in cosmetic products[, or] considering other relevant information" that formaldehyde or FRAs were intentionally added to a product.

First, any inference that formaldehyde or FRA is intentionally added to a product because the product tests positive for even the smallest amount of formaldehyde is an inappropriate conclusion. Formaldehyde is an easy molecule to be made as a byproduct or an impurity. Formaldehyde impurities which show up on tests in trace amounts cannot be considered as evidence that formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing preservatives were intentionally added to a cosmetic product, but rather a more appropriate conclusion would be that there is an unavoidable impurity which is part of the product which is measurable due to the use of advanced tests which can measure very low levels of formaldehyde. Finally, the current inference of intentionally added formaldehyde or FRAs does not account for false positive tests that could occur because of cross-contamination during the testing process. The testing method itself could cause false positive results, rather than formaldehyde or FRAs being present in the actual product.

Second, allowing Ecology to infer intentionally added formaldehyde or FRAs by "considering other relevant information" is extremely broad and extremely vague. PCPC strongly urges Ecology to build in greater flexibility on test methodology used to measure FRA in finished products and to narrow the scope of "other relevant information."

3. Formaldehyde Releasing Agents (FRAs)

PCPC recommends that Ecology apply the restriction limits placed on FRA ingredients by regulatory and expert panels (see below and Appendix 1). FRAs, which are intended to release minimal amounts of formaldehyde through chemical reactions over time, have been used for many decades as a well-studied product preservative method, resin and antistatic/smoothing agent that are internationally recognized as safe. The safety of FRAs is supported by extensive scientific data and regulatory reviews – these agents have been evaluated by multiple independent bodies, including the Cosmetic Ingredient Review ("CIR"), EU's European Commission and the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme ("AICIS"), which have confirmed their safety under specified conditions of use. FRAs used to preserve product integrity are widely considered not only safe but also effective in protecting consumer personal care products against a broad spectrum of microbial contamination.

Chemical Name	**CIR**	**Other Regulatory Agencies**
Preservatives		
DMDM Hydantoin	Safe in the present practices of use up to 1%	EU Annex V-33 Preservatives: 0.6%
Diazolidinyl Urea	Safe in the present practices of use up to 0.5%	EU Annex V-46 Preservatives: 0.5%

Imidiazolidinyl Urea (Should be Imidazolidinyl Urea)	Safe in the present practices of use at concentration ranges of ~0.1, >0.1 to 1, and >l to 5%	EU Annex V-27 Preservatives: 0.6%
Quaternium-15	Safe in the present practices of use up to 0.2%	EU Annex II-1385 Prohibited
2-Bromo-2-Nitropropane-1,3-Diol (Bronopol)	Safe in the present practices of use up to 0.1%	EU Annex V-21 Preservatives 0.1% avoid formation of nitrosamines Canada Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist: restricted 0.1%; not permitted in cosmetics that contain amines or amides
Sodium Hydroxymethylglycinate	Not reviewed	EU Annex V-51 0.5%
Polyoxymethylene Urea	Safe in the present practices of use up to 0.2%. It cannot be concluded that Polyoxymethylene Urea is safe for use in cosmetic products intended to be aerosolized	
Glyoxal	Safe for use in products intended to be applied to the nail at concentrations <1.25%. The available data are insufficient to support the safety for other uses	EU Annex III-194 restricted 100 mg/kg maximum concentration
Polyoxymethylene Melamine	CIR: [Insufficient data] (it had no uses in past VCRP data)	
5-Bromo-5-Nitro-1,3-Dioxane (Bronidoz)	Safe as a cosmetic ingredient at concentrations up to and including 0.1% except under circumstances where its action with amines or amides can result in the formation of nitrosamines or nitrosamides	EU Annex V-20 Preservatives limited to rinse-off products 0.1%; avoid formation of nitrosamines Canada Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist: restricted 0.1%; not permitted in cosmetics that contain amines or amides
7-Ethylbicyclooxazolidine (Bioban CS1246)	Not reviewed	EU Annex V-49 Preservatives 0.3%; not to be used in oral products and in products applied on mucous membranes
Benzylhemiformal	Not reviewed	EU Annex V-55 Preservatives 0.15% rinse-off products
Dimethyl Oxazolidine	Not reviewed	EU Annex V-45 Preservatives 0.1% pH >6
Methenamine	Safe for cosmetic use at concentrations not to exceed 0.16% in formulation. It cannot be concluded that Methenamine is safe for use in cosmetic products intended to be aerosolized	EU Annex V-30 Preservatives 0.15%
Heat-activated hair straighteners		
Glyoxylic Acid	Not reviewed	AICIS EVA00110 evaluated for human health at a use concentration up to 12% (sold in hair straighteners at concentrations up to 50%)
Miscellaneous		
Tosylamide/Formaldehyde Resin (PTSAF)	Safe in the present practices of use up to 10%	

Of the 28 FRAs identified, 11 have been fully reviewed by the Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety (CIR Expert Panel) and determined to be safe under the conditions of use and concentrations indicated (see above and Appendix 1). The CIR Expert Panel is an independent panel of experts that assesses the safety of individual ingredients as used in cosmetic products through critical consideration of publicly available information and submitted, unpublished data. The CIR was established in 1976 by PCPC (then the Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association), with the support of the U.S. FDA and the Consumer Federation of America. CIR and the Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety operate under a set of procedures defining their purpose, responsibilities, relative expertise of panelists, liaison representation, etc. General policy and direction are given by a 7-member Steering Committee chaired by the President and CEO of the PCPC, with a dermatologist representing the American Academy of Dermatology, a toxicologist representing the Society of Toxicology, a consumer representative representing the Consumer Federation of America, an industry scientist, Chair of the Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety, and the PCPC's Executive Vice President for Science.

The members of the CIR Expert Panel are recognized experts in their fields of medicine and scientific study. The CIR Expert Panel includes multiple dermatologists, toxicologists, and pharmacologists. Additional information regarding the biographies and curriculum vitae of the CIR Expert Panel members is publicly available and can be found here. CIR Expert Panel members are subject to the same conflict of interest rules as USFDA advisory committee members.

Selection of the ingredients the CIR reviews is based on several factors. These factors include the frequency with which an ingredient is used, reports of potential adverse effects, or nomination of an ingredient by a stakeholder. Ingredients are also systematically re-reviewed after a fifteen-year period. Draft priority lists for ingredient review are made available for public comment and are discussed in open Expert Panel meetings before finalization.

The CIR review process involves comprehensive review of the published scientific literature. Unpublished reports or data are accepted to inform the overall assessment, and are made available on the CIR website or by request. Four meetings of the CIR Expert Panel are held each year, and the meetings are open to the public. The CIR Expert Panel members vote and determine the overall conclusions for the reviewed ingredient. Following this, the CIR Expert Panel issues a tentative report which is then subject to a public comment period. At the conclusion of the comment period, there is an opportunity for revisions after which there is a final review by the CIR Expert Panel. The CIR Expert Panel then typically issues a final report. Historically, the CIR Expert Panel provides final reports to the US FDA and submits the final reports for publication in the *International Journal of Toxicology.* Additional information regarding the CIR, the CIR Expert Panel, and its process are available in the Boyer et al. (2017) publication, available here.

In the EU, cosmetic preservatives must be safe for use within the required concentration limits. Cosmetic preservatives must comply with stringent evaluation to conform to the EU safety standards. Preservatives must undergo rigorous evaluation, including safety assessments and quality testing, before they are approved for use in the EU market.

Cosmetic products are regulated by the EC under the Cosmetics Regulation EC No. 1223/2009, and preservatives used in cosmetics must also comply with the EU Regulatory guidelines. The list of substances that can be used as preservatives in cosmetics marketed in the EU is included in Annex V of the regulation. The list contains maximum concentration limits along with other restrictions for preservatives. It also contains specific warnings for product labeling and 60 unique substances permissible for use in the EU as preservatives for cosmetics.

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) oversees the import and manufacture of chemicals in cosmetics. The guidelines include registration, categorization, record-keeping, and compliance with government standards. AICIS evaluated glyoxylic acid in 2022, noting it is not only safe under intended usage conditions, but necessary when used as a semi-permanent hair straightener, a pH adjuster and an anti-static agent. Based on the available data the chemicals, AICIS determined that glyoxylic acid and its monohydrate have low acute and dermal toxicity, are not expected to cause systemic health effects following repeated oral exposure and are not expected to cause specific reproductive or developmental toxicity effects.

In addition, a number of these ingredients have also been reviewed under The United Kingdom Office for Product Safety & Standards Scientific Advisory Group on Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products (SAG-CS) – Final Opinion on Formaldehyde Releasing Substances. In addition, many of these ingredients are regulated under the European Union's Cosmetic Products Regulation (Annex V – Allowed Preservatives) including maximum concentration limits and other restrictions. In light of these safety assessments, we would recommend that Ecology reevaluate their restriction under the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act. Our review also revealed a number of identified FRAs are not currently used in products. This information can also be found in Appendix 1.

FRAs are important preservatives, antistatic and straightening agents, and pH adjusters, which are not equivalent to formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is not added to cosmetics or personal care products, and FRAs do not present the concerns associated with breathing formaldehyde. Products are formulated so that the releases are minimal and controlled, and that the risk associated with exposure to formaldehyde in cosmetic products is significantly lower than that associated with direct inhalation exposure to formaldehyde gas. The cosmetics industry follows the science on these ingredients: as example, when the CIR Expert Panel concluded an unsafe use of methylene glycol in hair straighteners, the industry suspended its presence in these products.

FRAs are formulated into thousands of cosmetic products including hair shampoos, conditioners and rinses, eye lotions, bubble bath, makeup foundations, makeup bases, nail products (basecoats, undercoats, polish and enamels), skin moisturizers, eyeliners, eye shadows, mascaras, eyebrow pencils, etc.

Preservatives such as FRAs prevent the growth of mold, yeast, bacteria, fungi, and other contaminants. Products without adequate preservative protection could become moldy or discolored, develop an unpleasant smell, or even cause serious health problems like irritation or infection. Preservation Efficacy Testing (PET) also known as Antimicrobial Effectiveness

Testing (AET), or more specifically for the cosmetics industry, the Cosmetic Challenge Testing, are used to test the efficacy of the preservation system for controlling microbial growth which is a critical measure for safety and quality assurance for manufacturers. We encourage Washington Ecology to become familiar with the current procedure for validating a preservation system following the application of good manufacturing practices (GMPs), the control of the raw material, and the verification of the preservative effect by suitable methodologies, including the challenge test (Halla et al. 2018).

Formaldehyde is a chemical that naturally occurs in the environment. According to the Centre for Food Safety (Hong Kong), formaldehyde is present at low levels in most living organisms as a metabolic intermediate. Formaldehyde can be found naturally in food up to the levels of 300 to 400 mg/kg including fruits and vegetables, meats, fish, crustaceans, etc. (Foods Known to Contain Naturally Occurring Formaldehyde).

Consumer safety is a top PCPC priority, and we strongly encourage the Department of Ecology to reconsider banning these ingredients that are not only safe but necessary when used as preservatives to maintain product stability and shelf life and deliver performance when these ingredients are used as hair-straightening products.

PCPC would like to sit down virtually with Washington Ecology to discuss these ingredients further.

Conclusion

Thank you for your continued opportunity to engage in this process and provide comments on the proposed draft. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above points with us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Emily Manoso
Executive Vice President, Legal & Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel
Personal Care Products Council

Kathleen Stanton
Senior Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Personal Care Products Council

Appendix 1.

Formaldehyde Releasing Agents (Washington State – Toxic-Free Cosmetic Act)

Chemical Name	CAS RN	CIR Report	Comments
Preservatives			
DMDM Hydantoin	6440-58-0	CIR: [S]1988 confirmed in a rereview published in 2008 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=2c52792c-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 80 references	2023 VCRP 936 2024 RLD 5728 EU Annex V-33 Preservatives: 0.6% AICIS 2023 evaluation statement EVA00149 for Hydroxymethylated imidazolidinones (this is an environmental assessment) https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/EVA00149%20-%20Evaluation%20statement%20-%2014%20December%202023.pdf Conclusion: The Executive Director is satisfied that the identified risks to the environment from the introduction and use of the industrial chemicals can be managed.
Diazolidinyl Urea	78491-02-8	CIR: [SQ up to 0.5%] 1990 confirmed in a rereview published in 2008 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=9bda0d14-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 47 references	2023 VCRP 1219 2024 RLD 3372 EU Annex V-46 Preservatives: 0.5% AICIS 2023 evaluation statement EVA00149 for Hydroxymethylated imidazolidinones (this is an environmental assessment) (see description under DMDM Hydantoin for more details)
Imidiazolidinyl Urea Should be Imidazolidinyl Urea	39236-46-9	CIR [S] 1980 confirmed in rereviews published in 2003 and 2023 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=370cd0b0-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6	2023 VCRP 210 2024 RLD 1358 EU Annex V-27 Preservatives: 0.6% AICIS 2023 evaluation statement EVA00149 for Hydroxymethylated imidazolidinones (this is an environmental assessment) (see description under DMDM Hydantoin for more details)

		Conclusion reached from review of 49 references	
Quaternium-15	4080-31-3; 51229-78-8	CIR: [SQ up to 0.2%] 2010 confirmed in a rereview published in 2017 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=5b307d65-8e74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 112 references	2023 VCRP 6 2024 RLD 64 EU Annex II-1385 Prohibited
Tosylamide/Formaldehyde Resin (PTSAF)	25035-71-6	CIR: [S] 1986 confirmed in a rereview published in 2006 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=b1b96d44-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 62 references	2023 VCRP 16 2024 RLD 0
2-Bromo-2-Nitropropane-1,3-Diol (Bronopol)	52-51-7	CIR: [SQ up to 0.1%] 1984 confirmed in a rereview published in 2006; this report is currently being rereviews (the report is open) https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=ba229680-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 40 references	2023 VCRP 36 2024 RLD 167 EU Annex V-21 Preservatives 0.1% avoid formation of nitrosamines Canada Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist: restricted 0.1% Not permitted in cosmetics that contain amines or amides AICIS Evaluation statement 2022 EVA00058 (environmental assessment) https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/EVA00058%20-%20Evaluation%20statement%20-%2014%20January%202022%20%5B1801%20KB%5D.pdf Conclusion: "The Executive Director is satisfied that the identified environment risks can be managed within existing risk management frameworks. This is provided that all requirements are met under environmental, workplace health and safety and poisons legislation as adopted by the

			relevant state or territory."
Sodium Hydroxymethylglycinate	70161-44-3	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 33 2024 RLD 172 EU Annex V-51 0.5% AICIS included in EVA00063 January 2022 Chemicals unlikely to require further regulation to manage risks to environment
Polyoxymethylene Urea	9011-05-6; 68611-64-3	CIR: [SQ free formaldehyde not exceed 0.2%. It cannot be concluded that Polyoxymethylene Urea is safe for use in cosmetic products intended to be aerosolized] 1995 confirmed in a re-review published in 2011 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=7d211ed5-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 73 references	2023 VCRP 1 2024 RLD 6
Glyoxal	107-22-2	CIR: [SQ safe for use in products intended to be applied to the nail at concentrations <1.25%. The available data are insufficient to support the safety for other uses] 2000 confirmed in a rereview published in 2023 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=307fc8b6-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6	2023 VCRP 11 2024 RLD 230 EU Annex III-194 restricted 100 mg/kg maximum concentration NTP has a 3-month study in rats and mice; data are available, but the final report is not yet available

		Conclusion reached from review of 96 references	
Polyoxymethylene Melamine	9003-01-8	CIR: [Insufficient data] (it had no uses in past VCRP data) 1995 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=64201ed5-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 39 references	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 125 (this may be an underestimate as it may also be listed without a space between the two words)
5-Bromo-5-Nitro-1,3-Dioxane (Bronidoz)	30007-47-7	CIR: [SQ safe as a cosmetic ingredient at concentrations up to and including 0.1% except under circumstances where its action with amines or amides can result in the formation of nitrosamines or nitrosamides] 1990 confirmed in a rereview published in 2011 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=7e98591a-8d74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 30 references	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 1 EU Annex V-20 Preservatives limited to rinse-off products 0.1%; avoid formation of nitrosamines Canada cosmetic ingredient hotlist restricted 0.1% not permitted in cosmetics that contain amines or amides AICIS Evaluation statement 2022 EVA00058 (environmental assessment) https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/EVA00058%20-%20Evaluation%20statement%20-%2014%20January%202022%20%5B1801%20KB%5D.pdf See 2-Bromo-2-Nitroproane-1,3-Diol for more details
7-Ethylbicyclooxazolidine (Bioban CS1246)	7747-35-5	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0 EU Annex V-49 Preservatives 0.3% Not to be used in oral products and in products applied on mucous membranes
Benzylhemiformal	14548-60-8	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0

			EU Annex V-55 Preservatives 0.15% rinse-off products
Dimethylhydantoin formaldehyde (INCI name: DMHF)	26811-08-5;9065-13-8	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0
Dimethylol Glycol	3586-55-8	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 1
Dimethylol Urea	140-95-4	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 3
Dimethyl Oxazolidine	51200-87-4	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0 EU Annex V-45 Preservatives 0.1% pH >6
MDM Hydantoin	116-25-6; 27636-82-4: 16228-00-5	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 1 2024 RLD word search picks up MDMD AICIS 2023 evaluation statement EVA00149 for Hydroxymethylated imidazolidinones (this is an environmental assessment) (see description under DMDM Hydantoin for more details)
Methenamine	100-97-0	CIR: [SQ safe for cosmetic use at concentrations not to exceed 0.16% in formulation. It cannot be concluded that Methenamine is safe for use in cosmetic products intended to be aerosolized] 1992 confirmed in a rereview published in 2011 https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=5678eaf5-8c74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6 Conclusion reached from review of 64 references	2023 VCRP 1 2024 RLD 8 EU Annex V-30 Preservatives 0.15%
Methylal	109-87-5	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 9 2024 RLD 89
Paraformaldehyde	30525-89-4	Not reviewed	NOT AN INCI NAME 2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0

Polyoxymethylene	9002-81-7	Not reviewed	NOT AN INCI NAME this is polyformaldehyde and is a part of other polymers in the Dictionary (2 (not listed below) are listed in this table) Butylated Polyoxymethylene Urea Calcium Polyoxymethylene Pyrrolidone Methoxypolyoxymethylene Melamine Polyacryloyldimethyltaurate Polyoxymethylene Melamine Polyoxymethylene Cyanoguanidine Urea Polyoxymethylene Glycol Urea Polyoxymethylene Melamine Urea Polyoxymethylene Resorcinol 2023 VCRP the word Polyoxymethylene is in one ingredient in the 2023 VCRP Polyoxymethylene Urea with one use 2024 RLD 135 Polyoxymethylene (but 125 are Polyoxymethylene Melamine)
Tetramethylolglycoluril	5395-50-6	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0 AICIS 2023 evaluation statement EVA00149 for Hydroxymethylated imidazolidinones (this is an environmental assessment) (see description under DMDM Hydantoin for more details)
Tris-Hydroxymethylnitromethane	126-11-4	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0
Urea, polymer with formaldehyde, isobutylated	68002-18-6	Not reviewed	NOT AN INCI NAME 2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD not searched
Heat-activated hair straighteners			
Glyoxylic Acid (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	298-12-4	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 19 (5 hair straighteners) 2024 RLD 176 French Authorities concerned about the use of Glyoxylic Acid in hair straighteners because of kidney effect (oxalic acid crystals) AICIS EVA00110 evaluated for human health at a use concentration up to 12% (sold in hair straighteners at concentrations up to 50%) https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-12/EVA00110%20-%20Evaluation%20statement%20-%2022%20December%202022.pdf
Glyoxylol Carbocysteine (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	1268868-51-4	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 0
Timonacic (when used in heat-activated hair straighteners)	444-27-9	Not reviewed	2023 VCRP 0 2024 RLD 6

The Introduction to Annex V of the EU cosmetic regulations states: “All finished products containing substances which are listed in this Annex and which release formaldehyde shall be labelled with the warning "releases formaldehyde" where the total concentration of formaldehyde released in the finished product exceeds 0.001% (10 ppm), irrespective of whether the finished product contains one or more substances releasing formaldehyde.”

2023 VCRP indicates the number of cosmetic products reported to FDA’s Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program (VCRP) containing a particular ingredient.

2024 RLD (Registration and Listing Data) (December 18, 2023-July 10, 2024) was a name search; the search results were not checked to see if the ingredient declarations contained the search word as part of another ingredient.

Robert Marraro

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!

G2G Ventures, PBC

Comments on State of Washington Department of Ecology Proposed Rule on Formaldehyde in Cosmetics, Chapter 173-339A

Submitted: April 11, 2025

G2G Ventures, PBC dba Beautycounter (G2G Ventures) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the State of Washington Department of Ecology (WA DoE) on the proposed draft rule restricting the use of formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals (formaldehyde releasers) in cosmetics products (proposed rule). G2G Ventures supports the proposed rule and recommends that WA DoE act swiftly to finalize the rule.

We are a leading clean beauty manufacturer—innovating, developing, and selling cosmetics products across North America. Our varied portfolio of skin care and color cosmetics includes products ranging from skin creams, cleansers, and serums to lip glosses, eye shadows, and blushes. G2G Ventures proudly employs an extensive, rigorous ingredient selection process to formulate safe and effective products that exceed regulatory minimums while delivering on consumer demands and expectations. Our commitment to continuously innovate products using science-based, safer options means that we disallow the use of several conventional cosmetic ingredients with unfavorable safety profiles. As it pertains to the proposed rule, our formulators are prohibited from selecting formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasers to create our formulas.

Formaldehyde is a well-established human carcinogen, irritant, and associated with increased risk of asthma.[1] Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasers are not necessary to formulate cosmetics products, and as mandated Washington state's Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act (RCW 70A.560.020) and further directed in the proposed rule, should not be intentionally added to cosmetics products.

In finalizing the rule, G2G Ventures recommends that WA DoE explicitly indicate that formaldehyde releasers include "but are not limited" to the identified chemicals; institute a process by which the list of formaldehyde releasers may be expanded; and add greater clarity regarding section WAC 173-339-110(a)(ii). With respect to clarifying section WAC 173-339-110(a)(ii), we recommend WA DoE further define "in-state retailer" and "in possession of" including whether an "in-state retailers" is limited to retailers with a physical presence in Washington and whether "in possession of" extends to product held outside the state (e.g., distribution centers).

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[1] [1] https://iris.epa.gov/ChemicalLanding/&substance_nmbr=419, https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/ntp/roc/content/profiles/formaldehyde.pdf

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Thank you for Washington's leadership in banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics.

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CHNSC) strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in making products used on our skin, in our hair, and that get flushed down the drain safer.

Our organization strongly supports this rule for many reasons, but especially because formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, irritate eyes and skin, and impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day.

Licensed manicurists are often exposed to these harmful chemicals through the cosmetics and nail polish products they use for their services. Studies have shown the harmful effects on licensed manicurists and their children, where they experience reproductive or respiratory complications and skin or cognitive impairments, respectively.

Specifically, we support:

The ban on the list of 28 formaldehyde releasers will take effect on January 1, 2027;

The definition of intentionally added, which will ensure all formaldehyde releasers added to the final product, the manufacturing of the product or is an ingredient in the final product will be covered; and,

The strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is found during sampling.

Please finalize this draft rule that bans all formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement.

Sincerely,
Mary Nguyen
Policy and Research Manager
CA Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Daniel Parkhurst

Toxic-Free Future submits the attached petition and additional comments on behalf of the 678 individuals who signed in favor of the proposed rule.

Toxic-Free Future's Petition to the Washington Department of Ecology Regarding the TFCA Proposed Rule

678 people signed the petition supporting the draft rule from the Washington Department of Ecology. 113 of these people provided additional comments and stories.

Petition Text

I strongly support Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don't belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.

Highlighted Comments

As a cosmetologist of 30 years and as someone that suffered an acquired brain injury as the result of the inhalation of formaldehyde releasing ingredients, and experienced profound disability as well a loss of tolerance to nearly all personal care products, I implore you to adhere to the banning of the use of FRAs to the strictest possible standards. I know too many beautiful and talented hairstylist that are also suffering and/or fighting for their life because they have been I injured from workplace exposures and/or developed extreme hypersensitivity to chemicals and cosmetics after years of doing hair. And much like second-hand smoke, someone doesn't have to be the immediate person using a harmful product to have adverse reactions- just being near the plume of VOCs from someone else's product use and sharing the airspace can be enough exposure to harm someone. Allowing people to be harmed for the sake of profit and vanity is all too common, but should be unacceptable.
Meredith P., Bellingham, WA

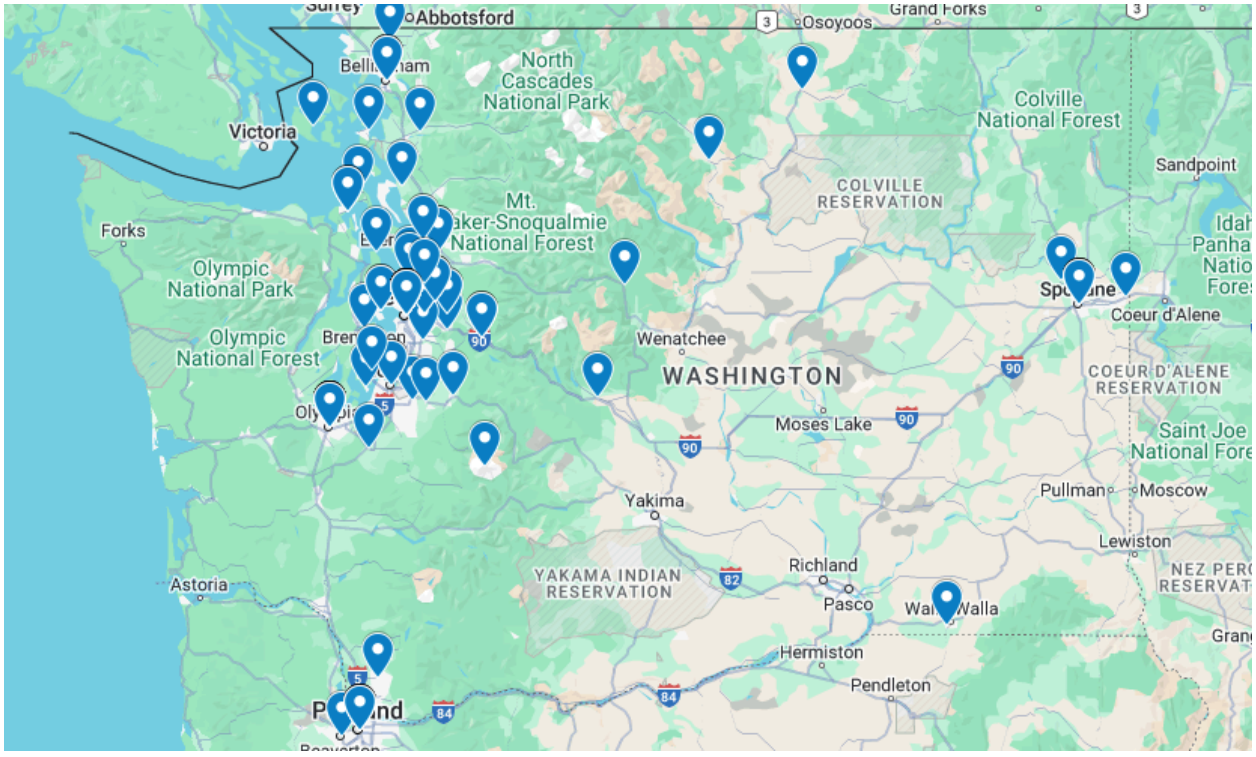
I am a health professional. Formaldehyde is bad for us and we need to ban it. I support this bill.
Elizabeth W., Port Townsend, WA

Thank you for taking input on the proposed Cosmetic Restrictions Rule (Chapter 173-339 WAC). I was reading over the material on the WA Dept of Ecology and the EPA websites and it seems clear with the knowledge we have, that using formaldehyde in cosmetics and personal care products is simply not worth the potential adverse health risks. I think it would be difficult to argue to the contrary. Finalizing this rule would be a step in the right direction. Thank you.
Cathay P., Hansville, WA

The Alphabet Alliance of Color strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Our QTBIPOC communities in particular are severely impacted by these chemicals, and we are invested in creating safer worlds for our people. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Karissa M., Seattle, WA

When I was exposed to formaldehyde when someone used underlayment for exposed shelving, my health suffered terribly. Please, ban this dangerous chemical, and enforce the ban. Thank you.
K. D., Seattle, WA

Map of Washington Signers



Signatures and Comments

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Larry	Lawton	Aberdeen	WA	98520-9639	
Danny	Beatty	Anacortes	WA	98221-8622	
Haim	Strasbourger	Auburn	WA	98001	
Lauren	Mendez	Auburn	WA	98002	
Gina	Hubin	Auburn	WA	98092-7394	
Melinda	Kubiak	Bainbridge Island	WA	98110-1271	Stop putting poison in our cosmetics Melinda Kubiak
Maradel	Gale	Bainbridge Island	WA	98110-4900	This is a very important step in protecting the health of our communities. Formaldehyde is not anything that we need to be putting on our bodies.
mary	zimmerman	Bainbridge Island	WA	98110-3170	
Debbie	Mahder	Battle Ground	WA	98604-8169	
C	Lenihan	Beaver	WA	98305-0004	
Ann	Becherer	Bellevue	WA	98004-1321	
Ann	Becherer	Bellevue	WA	98004	
Caryn	Freedman	Bellevue	WA	98008-2660	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Merideth	Pedack	Bellingham	WA	98229-4521	**As a cosmetologist of 30 years and as someone that suffered an acquired brain injury as the result of the inhalation of formaldehyde releasing ingredients, and experienced profound disability as well a loss of tolerance to nearly all personal care products, I implore you to adhere to the banning of the use of FRAs to the strictest possible standards. I know too many beautiful and talented hairstylist that are also suffering and/or fighting for their life because they have been I injured from workplace exposures and/or developed extreme hypersensitivity to chemicals and cosmetics after years of doing hair. And much like second-hand smoke, someone doesn't have to be the immediate person using a harmful product to have adverse reactions- just being near the plume of VOCs from someone else's product use and sharing the airspace can be enough exposure to harm someone. Allowing people to be harmed for the sake of profit and vanity is all too common, but should be unacceptable.**
Dagmar	Fabian	Bellingham	WA	98225-1387	IT IS HI-TIME !
Jeanne	Ripp	Bellingham	WA	98229-3917	
Cornelia	Teed	Bellingham	WA	98225-7154	
Vivian	Bartlett	Bellingham	WA	98229-8984	
Richard	Johnson	Bellingham	WA	98227-3138	
Bernard	Heisterkamp	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	
Brandie	Deal	Bothell	WA	98021-8353	
Erik	LaRue	Burlington	WA	98233-9670	
Oea	Miller	Canation	WA	98019	
JOHN	LAMBERT	Carnation	WA	98014-0942	
James	Mulcare	Clarkston	WA	99403-2576	
Gianina	Graham	Cle Elum	WA	98922	
Cheryl	Harrison	Clearlake	WA	98235-0337	
J.	S.	College Place	WA	99324-4013	
Denise	Stotsenberg	Coupeville	WA	98239-3028	Formaldehyde should be banned from EVERYTHING!

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Diana	Fries	Covington	WA	99042	
Laurie	Cooper	Edmonds	WA	98020-2940	
Michelle	McCulley	Edmonds	WA	98026-3325	
Craig	Zimmerman	Enumclaw	WA	98022-8987	
Julie	Martinson	Everett	WA	98201-1114	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment. I wasn't previously aware of this issue, but it's a public health danger that needs to be rectified to ban these chemicals.
Lorelette	Knowles	Everett	WA	98201-1560	
Marie Weis	Weis	Fox Island	WA	98333-9725	Ban formaldehyde releasersin cosmetics.
Gordon	Foster	Freeland	WA	98249-0092	
Susan and Peter	Risser	Friday Harbor	WA	98250-8800	
Victoria	Shomo	Gig Harbor	WA	98329	Formaldehyde should be banned in all personal care products and if products contain this, they should be labeled as able to cause harm.
Cathy	Pfarr	Hansville	WA	98340	**Thank you for taking input on the proposed Cosmetic Restrictions Rule (Chapter 173-339 WAC). I was reading over the material on the WA Dept of Ecology and the EPA websites and it seems clear with the knowledge we have, that using formaldehyde in cosmetics and personal care products is simply not worth the potential adverse health risks. I think it would be difficult to argue to the contrary. Finalizing this rule would be a step in the right direction. Thank you.**
Leigh	Bangs	Issaquah	WA	98027-9704	
Lynsey	Sandum	Kenmore	WA	98028	
Greg	Wingard	Kent	WA	98042-4861	The dangers of formaldehyde have long been known. It is neither safe of sane to allow ingredients that increase exposure to formaldehyde in cosmetic and personal care products.

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
namaste	Robbins	Kent	WA	98031	This type of chemicals are dangerous for health and our planet.
Margaret	Rogers	Kirkland	WA	98033-4760	
Kate	Kostal	Kirkland	WA	98034-1866	
Donna	Hawkey	Lake Forest Park	WA	98155-4327	
Linda	Lindsay	Langley	WA	98260-0112	
Pamela	Engler	Langley	WA	98260-9525	
Verrall	Hoover	Langley	WA	98260	
John	Thompson	Langley	WA	98260	
Patricia	Coffey	Langley	WA	98260-8222	
Ruth	Weedman	Longview	WA	98632-9409	
Dorothy	Jordan	Lynden	WA	98264-9401	
Derek	Benedict	Lynnwood	WA	98036-8606	Toxic man-made chemicals have no place in our food, water, air, soil, and especially not in our homes!
michael	rosen	Mercer Island	WA	98040-2453	
Tami	Allen	Monroe	WA	98272	I support the ban of formaldehyde in all cosmetics.
Stephen	Bailey	Mount Vernon	WA	98274-9388	S T O P T H E P O I S O N S !!!!!!
BRUCE	WADE	Mount Vernon	WA	98274	Why would anyone approve a poison for personal use?
Kendehl	Rojanasthien	Mountlake Terrace	WA	98043-4129	
Joyce	Weir	Newport	WA	99156-0973	
Denee	Scribner	Nine Mile Falls	WA	99026-9338	
Marjorie	Ostle	Olga	WA	98279-0218	
Doug	Faust	Olympia	WA	98501-9611	Hello, Thanks for making the plant better.
Christine	Chapman	Olympia	WA	98506-1819	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releases in cosmetics. Formaldehyde doesn’t belong it these products and we should not endanger our health with these products. Please finalize the rule.
Sheila	Riffe	Olympia	WA	98513-5430	Please ban formaldehyde in cosmetics

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Barbara	Gross	Olympia	WA	98506	Please do what is necessary to ban formaldehyde from cosmetics and other products. Our health is more important than profits.
elyette	weinstein	Olympia	WA	98501-4765	
Gill	Fahrenwald	Olympia	WA	98507-2323	
Kristin	Felix	Olympia	WA	98502-9501	
Marlene	Inverso	Olympia	WA	98506-2555	
Helen	Kramer	Olympia	WA	98501-4865	
Yonit	Yogev	Olympia	WA	98502-2620	
Judy	Mason	Olympia	WA	98502-4328	
Maxine	Dunkelman	Olympia	WA	98506	
Kerri	merrill	Olympia	WA	98512-9321	
Kateri	Wimsett	Olympia	WA	98502-4421	
Doug	Brown	Otis Orchards	WA	99027-9108	
Diane	Collins	Port Orchard	WA	98367	
Elizabeth	Walker	Port Townsend	WA	98368-5130	**I am a health professional. Formaldehyde is bad for us and we need to ban it. I support this bill.**
Lisa	Messinger	Port Townsend	WA	98368	
Rosemary	Sikes	Port Townsend	WA	98368	
Sharon	Fetter	Puyallup	WA	98371-0054	
Susie	MacGregor	Redmond	WA	98052-3118	
Sean	Edmison	Redmond	WA	98052-2785	
Therese	Cushing	Redmond	WA	98053-8147	
Susie	MacGregor	Redmond	WA	98052-3118	
Andrea	Chin	Redmond	WA	98052-1548	
Heather	Murawski	Renton	WA	98058-0610	
Susan	Johnson	Roslyn	WA	98941-0315	
Lemoine	Radford	Sammamish	WA	98075-9606	Formaldehyde does NOT benefit our skin and is detrimental to our bodies. Since you care for our health and our skin’s health, please demonstrate your commitment by removing formaldehyde from your products.

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Suzanne	Duncan	Sammamish	WA	98075-9585	Washington Department of Ecology I strongly support Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. They can cause serious health issues. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment. Thank you.
Jayme	Jonas	Sammamish	WA	98074-5400	
Denise	DeGabriele	Seattle	WA	98116-3646	As a can we survivor, I am thankful that Washington’s 2023 Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act took effect this year! I also strongly support the DOE’s draft to ban formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics and personal care products, which will positively impact human health as well as our fish.
Katherine	Brennan	Seattle	WA	98115-3256	Banning these products would protect vulnerable folks who don't realize the danger of product ingredients.
Scott	Species	Seattle	WA	98101-1302	formaldehyde doesn’t belong in products we use on our bodies!
Tim	Gould	Seattle	WA	98103-7452	Formaldehyde is a toxic compound that should not be part of cosmetic products. Implement an effective rule that bans it from these personal care products.
Mariana	Turrubiates Garcia	Seattle	WA	98107	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Cherie	Holman	Seattle	WA	98105-2033	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Anastasia	Searfoss	Seattle	WA	98112-4734	I strongly support the Department of Ecology’s draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. Having formaldehyde in my cosmetics just gives me the ick.

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Melissa	Lound	Seattle	WA	98105-3019	I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Poppy	Lound	Seattle	WA	98105-3019	I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Diane	Horn	Seattle	WA	98119-4723	I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Elizabeth	Heath	Seattle	WA	98126-3970	I'm allergic to formaldehyde so this makes a big difference to me.
Martin	Westerman	Seattle	WA	98136-2607	Keep us safe, OK?
Sandra	Nestorovic	Seattle	WA	98103-6037	Please ban use of formaldehyde in cosmetics
Marie	Bolster	Seattle	WA	98112-3211	Please pass the law banning ALL formaldehyde-releasing chemicals from cosmetics and personal-care products. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
					draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Karissa	Masciel	Seattle	WA	98168	**The Alphabet Alliance of Color strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Our QTBIPOC communities in particular are severely impacted by these chemicals, and we are invested in creating safer worlds for our people. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!**
Janet	Hurt	Seattle	WA	98178	There is absolutely NO need to have formaldehyde or any other toxic chemical in any products. It's absurd that we are still having to advocate for this basic health and safety standard.
Nancy	Takacs	Seattle	WA	98168	These dangerous chemicals do not belong in anything that we use.
Mary	Carter	Seattle	WA	98146-0137	We owe it to current cosmetologists and hair stylists AND future generations to ban formaldehydes in all cosmetic products and processes.
K	Dahmer	Seattle	WA	98177	**when I was exposed to formaldehyde when someone used underlayment for exposed shelving, my health suffered terribly. please, ban this dangerous chemical, and enforce the ban. thank you.**
Terry	Nightingale	Seattle	WA	98199-2345	
Rein	Attemann	Seattle	WA	98117	
John	Birnel	Seattle	WA	98103-5319	
Lucy	Johnson	Seattle	WA	98116-3403	
Mariah	Harrod	Seattle	WA	98178	
Shary	B	Seattle	WA	98101-1075	
Heidi	Klee	Seattle	WA	98117-5423	
Kathleen	Tracy	Seattle	WA	98126	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Daniel	Henling	Seattle	WA	98107-2994	
CBS	DeRooy	Seattle	WA	98122	
Olivia	Pond	Seattle	WA	98144-3564	
Kathryn	Lambros	Seattle	WA	98117-4444	
Sally	Boyce	Seattle	WA	98105-5103	
LARA	LORENZ	Seattle	WA	98117-3528	
Mary	Hanson	Seattle	WA	98105-3018	
Mildred	Rosenblatt	Seattle	WA	98115	
Katie	Atkins	Seattle	WA	98122-3219	
Karena	Schneider	Seattle	WA	98105-3413	
Hillary	Lipe	Seattle	WA	98125-5129	
Sarah	Samnick	Seattle	WA	98115-6125	
Teri	Fox	Seattle	WA	98103-8234	
Bennett	Walkes	Seattle	WA	98144	
Michelle	Gaither	Seattle	WA	98136-2013	
Elaine	Packard	Seattle	WA	98122-6316	
Sophie	Mcknight	Seattle	WA	98105-2145	
John	Mensher	Seattle	WA	98119-2921	
Naoko	Noguchi	Seattle	WA	98125-4112	
Janna	Rolland	Seattle	WA	98115-7310	
Danny	Arguetty	Seattle	WA	98112-5201	
Katherine	Carvlin	Seattle	WA	98125-5129	
Nikki	Nafziger	Seattle	WA	98125-4395	
Debra	Hoyt	Sedro Woolley	WA	98284-8129	
Chris	Landback	Shoreline	WA	98155-5821	
Shannon	Markley	Shoreline	WA	98177-2723	
Cathleen	Gosho	Shoreline	WA	98133-3032	
madeline	hart	Snohomish	WA	98290	The fact that we even have to worry about formaldehyde in our every day products is appalling. It is completely possible to make beauty products without it.
Thom	Peters	Snohomish	WA	98290-5884	
Randy	Guthrie	Snohomish	WA	98290-5815	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Kimberly	Crane	Snohomish	WA	98290	
Linda	Carroll	Spokane	WA	99205-3178	
Mary	Stamp	Spokane	WA	99202-3571	
Laura	Ackerman	Spokane	WA	99224	
Mallory	Robinson	Spokane	WA	99224-4962	
Nancy Enz	Lill	Spokane	WA	99201	
Marguerite	Winkel	Spokane	WA	99201-5465	
Rhoda	Reynolds	Spokane	WA	99208	
Barbara	Blackwood	Spokane	WA	99206	
Peggy	Page	Stanwood	WA	98292-9325	
Elisabeth	Johnson	Tacoma	WA	98403	Please support legislation to ban formaldehyde releasers in products we use on our bodies. I work as a pediatric physical therapist in the schools. So many of my students have developmental delays related to genetic mutations from environmental exposers to toxic chemicals like formaldehyde. I'm tired of our kids in the U.S. being in the 'experimental group' while the rest of the world has banned toxic chemicals that don't need to be in these products in the first place. The emotional cost and strain on parents of our children with special needs takes such a toll, not to mention the $ cost supporting children with delays in school and the additional health care costs. Tell the chemical industry lobby enough is enough! We need to protect our health, especially our kids!
Felicity	Devlin	Tacoma	WA	98406-5839	
Melodi	Yanik	Tacoma	WA	98405-2022	
Judy	Palmer	Tonasket	WA	98855-0705	
Allison	Ciancibelli	Twisp	WA	98856-9786	
William	Obrien	Vancouver	WA	98685-2999	A ban on formaldehyde is a ban on unhealthy cosmetics!
crys	reding	Vancouver	WA	98664	please help us to have safer cosmetics!
Arlene	Rose	Vancouver	WA	98661-2579	Yes, I wish to protect myself from toxicity. Thanks, Arlene Rose
Patricia	Page	Vancouver	WA	98665-6963	
Barbara Harriman	Spreng	Vancouver	WA	98661	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Cami	Cameron	Vancouver	WA	98661-4036	
Lauren	Clark-Boucher	Yakima	WA	98902	
Amanda	Dickinson	Yakima	WA	98902-5264	
Lori	Stefano	Yelm	WA	98597-9086	
marilyn	dougher	Anchorage	AK	99502-4546	murdering our citizens
Brianna	Hammes	Anchorage	AK	99515-2505	
Sherrie	Truitt	Enterprise	AL	36330-1401	
Jerry	Lee	Tuscaloosa	AL	35404-5199	
Linda	Cornell	Dewey	AZ	86327-7296	
Corey	Wiley	Phoenix	AZ	85022-4051	
Beverly	Janowitz-Price	Phoenix	AZ	85014-5620	
Sherri	Hodges	Phoenix	AZ	85051-8117	
Britt	O'Dell	Phoenix	AZ	85012	
Carol	Erdmann	Show Low	AZ	85901-7062	Please ban formaldehyde in cosmetics which has shown to cause cancer and other health problems. Thank you.
Carrie	Darling	Sun City	AZ	85373	
Margaret	Fularczyk	Surprise	AZ	85374-4324	
Valorie	Walker	Surprise	AZ	85372	
Catherine	Williams	Tucson	AZ	85719-4930	
Sheryl	Kaplan	Altadena	CA	91001-5074	
Maria	Cardenas	Azusa	CA	91702-3666	
helene	ly	bagneux	CA	92220	I AM FRENCH LIVING IN FRANCE EUROPE
Ryan	Schrader	Bellflower	CA	90706-2337	
Kenneth	Rosenblad	Berkeley	CA	94709-2021	
Kirstin	Flattmann	Brea	CA	92821	My mom is dying of metastatic breast cancer to the lung and bones. She’s under 72 years old. This could’ve been prevented if companies weren’t corrupt and profit oriented instead of safety and consumer oriented! Legally, something should be done!
sylvia	shorter	Burson	CA	95225	Please protect our health.
Matthew	Reid	Calistoga	CA	94515-1737	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Blair	Mccormick	Cambria	CA	93428-4323	
Cindy	Meyers	Capitola	CA	95010-0423	
Patricia	Blackwell-Marchant	Castro Valley	CA	94552-1708	
H	G	Citrus Heights	CA	95610-3149	
Eleanor	Gomez	Cloverdale	CA	95425	
Shakayla	Thomas	Compton	CA	90220-2645	
Stephanie	Clark	Concord	CA	94520	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
leo	lieber	Concord	CA	94520-1721	
Noah	Haydon	Daly City	CA	94015	
Sherrill	Futrell	Davis	CA	95618-5421	THEY'RE POISONING US FOR MONEY. STOP IT.
Stephanie	Corona	Downey	CA	90240-3580	
Shawn	Johnson	Encinitas	CA	92024-4552	
nancy	deghionno	Encinitas	CA	92024	
Geraldine	Card	Exeter	CA	93221-1101	
Jessica	Dardarian	Folsom	CA	95630-7643	
Utkarsh	Nath	Fremont	CA	94555-2907	
kent	morris	Fullerton	CA	92831-2295	
Lynn	Hoang	Fullerton	CA	92833	
Kelly	Andrada	Hayward	CA	94544	
Marie	Gilbert	La Canada Flintridge	CA	91011	
Lauren	Linda	Laguna Woods	CA	92637-8151	
Sharon	Paltin	Laytonville	CA	95454-0018	It also increases the development of allergies as well as being a carcinogen.
Ked	Garden	Lemon Grove	CA	91945-3221	
Suzanne	Deerlyjohnson	Long Beach	CA	90806-4707	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Diana	Kliche	Long Beach	CA	90804-1201	
Dave	Shukla	Long Beach	CA	90803	
Sara	Hayes	Long Beach	CA	90814-2369	
Pilar	Reynaldo	Los Angeles	CA	90042-1417	Europe banned the toxins in beauty products years ago! Why does the government care so little about the health of women in this country?
Norma Faith	Rockman	Los Angeles	CA	90036-3216	I've long wished for complete stoppage of harmful chemicals, emulsifiers and you name it that is toxic to our body in all products we use.
Sarah	Natalini	Los Angeles	CA	90066-4924	
Karla	Devine	Manhattan Beach	CA	90266-6108	
Marilyn	Price	Mill Valley	CA	94941-2074	
Blake	Gerl	Morro Bay	CA	93442-1442	
bill	wood	Mount Shasta	CA	96067-9710	
Brianna	Harrington	Napa	CA	94559-3099	
Kim	Glazer	North Hollywood	CA	91602-1961	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Artineh	Havan	North Hollywood	CA	91606-4123	
Ann	Dorsey	Northridge	CA	91325	
Jen	Rund	Novato	CA	94947-3764	There are far too many health risks from formaldehyde. It should not be used in cosmetics, or any other product which comes into contact with humans or our food, cleaning products, etc. I urge you to pass strong regulations banning formaldehyde in beauty products!
Caephren	McKenna	Oakland	CA	94609-2225	
Kate	Phillips	Oakland	CA	94619	
Pamela	Darrow	Oakland	CA	94609	
Doris	Rodriguez	Ontario	CA	91762-6892	
Tracy	Shortle	Orange	CA	92867	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Jake	Gutman	Pacific Palisades	CA	90272-2507	
Ana	Herold	Pacifica	CA	94044-3631	
Pamela	Gibberman	Panorama City	CA	91402-1215	
Sheryl	Kaplan	Pasadena	CA	91104-2405	
Sheryl	Kaplan	Pasadena	CA	91104-2405	
Linc	Conard	Pasadena	CA	91107-1046	
Rich	Goldberg	Penngrove	CA	94951-9623	
Rebecca	Pate	Petaluma	CA	94954	Cancer-causing chemicals don’t belong in products we use on our bodies!
Becca	Pate	Petaluma	CA	94954	
Stacie	Kohls	Placerville	CA	95667	
Twyla	Meyer	Pomona	CA	91767-1830	
JL	Angell	Rescue	CA	95672	
Elizabeth	Levy	Richmond	CA	94805-1136	
Mike	Acosta	Riverside	CA	92504-3935	
Ann	Wasgatt	Roseville	CA	95678-1702	
Sandy	Commons	Sacramento	CA	95821-5254	
Rebecca	Martin	Sacramento	CA	95835	
Annette	Pirrone	San Anselmo	CA	94960-2209	We all need to know that you are invested in covering our safety by supporting the ban on all formaldehyde releasers!
Linda	Wilson	San Diego	CA	92117-2320	
Kristina	Miholich	San Diego	CA	92129	
Angelina	Cordaro	San Diego	CA	92115-1913	
Allison	Manch	San Diego	CA	92104	
D R	Spencer	San Diego	CA	92104-4645	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Karen	Kirschling	San Francisco	CA	94117	I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Rich	Hughes	San Francisco	CA	94112-2036	
JEFFREY	NIGH	San Francisco	CA	94127	
Kathryn	Bache	San Francisco	CA	94114-1407	
Martin	Horwitz	San Francisco	CA	94122-1608	
AJ	Cho	San Leandro	CA	94579-1963	
Monique	Grajeda	San Luis Obispo	CA	93401	
Susan	Shankle	San Mateo	CA	94403-3956	Cosmetics should be regulated in the same way that food is!
Christopher	Lish	San Rafael	CA	94903-2565	
Lauren	Murdock	Santa Barbara	CA	93110	
Dawn	Bender	Santa Cruz	CA	95062	Stop putting poison in our body care products. Please
Phyllis	Chavez	Santa Monica	CA	90405-5038	
Ryan	Dell	Santa Rosa	CA	95405-8575	
Joe	Salazar	Santa Rosa	CA	95407-7514	
Amanda	Zangara	Sebastopol	CA	95472-3146	
Ann Marie	Polce	Sherman Oaks	CA	91401-5708	
Doug	Schwartz	Simi Valley	CA	93063	
Christina	Ciesla	Simi Valley	CA	93063-0214	
Brad	Parsa	Simi Valley	CA	93063-4363	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Robin	Van Tassell	Summerland	CA	93067-0641	Cancer-causing chemicals don’t belong in products we use on our bodies!
Jim	Gwin	Tarzana	CA	91356-3909	
Vanessa	Pellegrino	Thousand Oaks	CA	91362	
Chantal	Holmes	Thousand Oaks	CA	91360-2351	
Alisa	Garrison	Truckee	CA	96162-7736	
Carolyn	De Mirjian	Van Nuys	CA	91401-3032	
Barbara	Greenwood	Walnut Creek	CA	94596-6127	
Heather	Kovach	Westlake Village	CA	91361-2105	
Marilyn	P	Aurora	CO	80014	
Lauren	Taggart	Boulder	CO	80305	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. I have asthma. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Luana	Rubin	Boulder	CO	80301-5829	US regulations are SO lax on allowing toxic chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products. That is why I only buy from other countries who don't allow these horrible carcinogens. You would be doing American companies a favor to match European regulations. And hey, you'd be doing AMERICANS a favor too!
Ra	Parment	Broomfield	CO	80020-2027	
Tom	Rolofson	Colorado Springs	CO	80906-4303	
Robin	Kory	Colorado Springs	CO	80906	
stuart	weiss	Denver	CO	80246-2288	
Mary	Keithler	Englewood	CO	80111-4135	
Debi	Chernak	Evergreen	CO	80439	
Jody	Lewis	Fruita	CO	81521	
Janeene	Porcher	Golden	CO	80401-6804	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Kari	McLennan	Lafayette	CO	80026-8028	
Todd	Olk	Littleton	CO	80122-2378	WA Department of Ecology: Ban formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics! Poison. Now please! (TAO)
Linda	Metzger	Littleton	CO	80127-2607	
Karina	Black	Longmont	CO	80504-7367	
Ronald	Brown	Longmont	CO	80501-5504	
Linda	Buckingham	Sterling	CO	80751-3324	
Tony	King	Vail	CO	81657	Stop allowing corporation to destroy our health and environment!
Shirley	mccarthy	Branford	CT	06405-4778	
Dana	Walker	East Haven	CT	06512-4552	These products are not only readily available - they are becoming more available and common via unregulated online sales and promotions -especially to young women (where they can cause the most adverse long-term consequences). Please vote and advocate to ban these products.
Kevin	Walsh	Madison	CT	06443-3359	
Jessica	Goldman	Newington	CT	6111	
Doris	Berger	Northford	CT	06472-1230	
Elisa	Osso	Shelton	CT	6485	
Elizabeth	Tuminski	Stamford	CT	06907-1413	
Adelheid	Koepfer	Wallingford	CT	06492-2861	I strongly support the Department of Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Sharon	Samoska	Waterbury	CT	06708-4921	I request that you support & improve the draft rule to ban formaldehyde not just from cosmetics but from all items/products. This chemical is highly toxic and dangerous. It should not be used in products applied to body parts. A dog toy I purchased from a reputable US company and I gave to my dogs was marketed as safe for dogs to put their mouths and teeth on. My dogs in less than five minutes had eaten parts of it. The package contrary to polices in the US HAD NO INGREDIENT LISTING & THE FIRM WHICH PURCHASED IT FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY DID NOT KNOW EITHER. In researching this, the toy contains formaldehyde. Had I not been watchful and immediately taken my dogs to the vet, they could have died. I find no valid reason for the use of formaldehyde in any product. I cringe at the thought of young children being exposed to this, and I cringe at the fact that there is no caution warning on such products. It is toxic to humans, to animals, and to our environment. It must be banned
Maria	Pace	Wethersfield	CT	06109-2538	
Richard	Kite	Washington	DC	20001-5401	
Ellen	Wasfi	Dover	DE	19904-7111	
Ellen	Homsey	Hockessin	DE	19707-9643	
nancy	or	newark	DE	19711	
Tim	Nover	Boca Raton	FL	33428	
Rhonda	Carter	Brooksville	FL	34601-3100	
Nancy	Neumann	Clearwater	FL	33756-5165	
Pam	Smith	Coral Springs	FL	33065-2164	
Judi	Travis	Delray Beach	FL	33446-9640	
audrey	katz	Delray Beach	FL	33484-9115	
Jennifer	Scott	Fort Myers	FL	33966-1530	
Ana	Coro	Hollywood	FL	33026-4871	
Alyson	Boykin	Homosassa	FL	34448	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
					the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Cynthia	Brauer	Homosassa	FL	34446-2723	
Lynn	Nelson	Jacksonville	FL	32233-0015	
Myra	Ummer	Lake Mary	FL	32746-6250	
Lisa	Pacheco	Lecanto	FL	34461	
Mike	Fogt	Lorida	FL	33857	
Marcine	McBride	Melbourne	FL	32934	
Esther	Garvett	Miami	FL	33125-2700	
Michelle	Dlugoborski	Mount Dora	FL	32757-2836	
Rob	B	Palm Bay	FL	32905-2805	
DALE	ZALE	Palm Harbor	FL	34684-2468	
Debra	Deagle	Pompano beach	FL	33062	Hi and thank you, please remove all 1200 chemicals that are banned in the EU. I only buy and use French and Italian for this very reason
Liz	Erpelding-Garratt	Saint Augustine	FL	32086-9120	
Amanda	Gordon	Sanford	FL	32773-6445	
Linsley	Pietsch	Sarasota	FL	34238-5137	The time has come to stop poisoning ourselves. Please do your part to finalize this rule and protect our health and the health of future generations. Thank you for serving.
Tim	Glover	Sebastian	FL	32976-2710	
Hilary	Capstick	Tallahassee	FL	32312-1853	
Carmen	Ramirez	Tallahassee	FL	32301-3440	
ROGER	Faucher	Tampa	FL	33603-2421	
Barbara	Ross	The Villages	FL	32163	🙏 Thank you for making more people aware of the toxins and unhealthy ingredients in so many of the products used daily. Most of these chemicals and toxic substances are banned in every country but the United States. It's shameful that our government and FDA, and especially Big Pharma have no regard for the safety of the citizens and especially children. No wonder there is so much cancer and other illness in our country.
Andre	Meaux	West Palm Beach	FL	33409-7896	

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Paula	Morgan	Winter Springs	FL	32708-0013	Why do we continue to use ingredients which are harmful? Europe has done away with many of these ingredients. We can still have beautiful hair and less harm in make up without all the horrible elements included in the regular product. People are learning and getting smarter!
Genevieve	Guzman	Athens	GA	30601-1831	
Jennifer	Brown	Atlanta	GA	30317	Please push forward with your state and help trigger a national effort to ban formaldehyde releasers from cosmetics.
Lynne	Chimiklis	Atlanta	GA	30342-1430	
Michelle	Emrich	Atlanta	GA	30305-3906	
Lani	Terry	Brookhaven	GA	30319-2940	
Sandra	Hricik	Columbus	GA	31907	
Allister	Layne	Conyers	GA	30094-5867	
Darren	Mitton	Danielsville	GA	30633-2542	
Tamra	Greeson Schardl	Gainesville	GA	30501-1642	
Stacie	Hanifan	Mansfield	GA	30055	
Pamela	Hurd	Morganton	GA	30560-1569	
Tracey	Hill	Woodstock	GA	30188	
Sherry	Lewis	Woodstock	GA	30188	
Lou	Dhahran	Honolulu	HI	96817-1649	
B	Mack	Honolulu	HI	96814	
Maria	Taylor	Davenport	IA	52806	
Cindy	Borske	Manchester	IA	52057-2321	
Elizabeth	Klene	Boise	ID	83712-7576	
Deborah	McCarthy	Salmon	ID	83467	
Hillary	Colby	Aurora	IL	60504-3700	
Ron	Anderson	Barrington	IL	60010-2506	
Virginia	Klangides	Batavia	IL	60510	
Melissa	Lawrence	Blue Island	IL	60406	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Lance	Ofenloch	Chicago	IL	60641-1815	I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!
Heather	La Riviere	Chicago	IL	60615	These chemicals in cosmetics primarily affect women and especially young women of childbearing age who could be most severely impacted by these dangerous chemicals. Ban them now!
Patrick	Maloney	Chicago	IL	60657-6778	
Karen	Hamburg	Evanston	IL	60203-1721	Thank you for not allowing formaldehyde in products.
Tricia	Allen-Stewart	Galena	IL	61036	Thank you for protecting our health and our lives!
Kelly	Golding	Glenview	IL	60025-3149	
Teresa	Kohl	Kankakee	IL	60901-7578	
Trisha	Winn	Kankakee	IL	60901-5903	
Abby	Halvorson	Lake Zurich	IL	60047	
Le	R	Mokena	IL	60448-1368	
Michael	Rynes	Naperville	IL	60565-2006	
Allison	Fradkin	Northbrook	IL	60062-3104	
Julie	Griffith	Saint Charles	IL	60174-3739	Please
Jane	Miller	Vienna	IL	62995-2026	
Shari	Katz	Westmont	IL	60559-2083	Formaldehyde does not belong in anything we put on our bodies.
Mark	Dolezal	Fort Wayne	IN	46835-9718	
Annette	Webb	Goshen	IN	46528-7069	
Phillips	Family	Indianapolis	IN	46220	Health is more important than Vanity!
Melissa	Cleaver	Jamestown	IN	46147-8851	
Deborah	Moore	Jeffersonville	IN	47130-6904	
laura	lenhart	Lawrenceburg	IN	47025-9209	

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Cindy	Emond	Schererville	IN	46375	
Deborah	Wagner-Kirmer	Kingman	KS	67068	
Debbie	Horn	Lansing	KS	66043-1731	
Cammy	Colton	Overland Park	KS	66223-2862	
Kristin	Arioli	Shawnee	KS	66203-1822	
Elizabeth	Butler	Henderson	KY	42420-4018	
Kelly	Kaltenbach	Versailles	KY	40383	
Gina	Hellstrom	New Orleans	LA	70118-3844	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Ian	Roberts	Allston	MA	2134	
MaryAnna	Foskett	Arlington	MA	02476-8005	
Dean	Moore	Ashby	MA	01431-1818	
Dru	Lindgren	Brewster	MA	2631	
Emily	Bradley	Cambridge	MA	02139-1017	
N	Y	Charlestown	MA	02129-3514	
Inge	Knudson	Concord	MA	01742-3454	
Tammy	King	Gardner	MA	01440-1505	Ban and remove all harmful chemicals or anything else that's detrimental to the health and well being of anyone who uses cosmetics and this includes formaldehyde which is a known carcinogen that causes cancer .
alena	amano	Grafton	MA	1519	
Eileen	Prefontaine	Hopkinton	MA	1748	
Elaine	Olly	Hubbardston	MA	1452	
Dee	Halzack	Lowell	MA	01854-3426	
Lea	Schuren	Lunenburg	MA	1462	
Dorothy	Anderson	North Weymouth	MA	02191-2233	
mindy	maxwell	Rockport	MA	01966-1232	
Stephanie	Blumenthal	Sheffield	MA	01257-9574	

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Elizabeth	Cooney	West Whately	MA	01039-9602	
Jana	Brown	Wilbraham	MA	01095-1588	
Aaeron	Robb	Baltimore	MD	21239-1905	
susan	dickerson	Clinton	MD	20735-1542	
Omar	Siddique	Ellicott City	MD	21043-6010	
Christina	Rogelio	Frederick	MD	21701	
Lisa	Andrews	Hagerstown	MD	21742	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. There is something that causes sickness and cancer when put on our skin - why would you allow that on our unassuming citizens? Many won't even know that they are being harmed. What if it's your sister, your wife, or your mother? Would you want them to get sick while trying to look extra special and nice for someone? BAN Formaldehyde NOW! Please don't let money, because it may be a cheaper ingredient to use, cloud your sense of what's proper and safe. Please finalize the rule and ensure vigorous enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Douglas	Sedon	Jefferson	MD	21755-7424	
Molly	Hauck	Kensington	MD	20895-1531	
greg	izzi	Riva	MD	21140-1207	The use of formaldehyde in our care products is insane
Renee	Page	Farmingdale	ME	4344	
Donna	Raineri	Rockland	ME	4841	
Tatyana	Eckstrand	Waldoboro	ME	04572-6110	
Debra	Berry	Winn	ME	04495-1595	
Cheryl	Thompson	Winthrop	ME	04364-3383	
Anne	Laurance	Ann Arbor	MI	48103-5866	
Carolyn	Ferrell	Ann Arbor	MI	48103-2355	
Gloria	Zimet	Ann Arbor	MI	48108-1721	
Sara	Bonnette	Bay City	MI	48708-5533	
mallory	musser	Bay City	MI	48708-6736	
Barb	Young	Bloomfield Hills	MI	48301-2921	
Mary	Lebert	Brighton	MI	48116-8834	

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Keith	DAlessandro	Canton	MI	48187-2498	
Rebecca	Mclin	Chesterfield	MI	48051	
Monique	Musialowski	Chesterfield	MI	48047-1781	
John	Rokas	Eastpointe	MI	48021-4008	
Paul	Markillie	Grand Blanc	MI	48439-2533	
Melissa	VerDuin	Grand Rapids	MI	49504-4036	
Kirk	Bails	Harrison Township	MI	48045-3648	
Carolyn	Dulai	Haslett	MI	48840-9214	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues. An accumulation is my main concern whether over many products or over time. Please ban these chemicals.
Jamie	Zavitz	Houghton Lake	MI	48629	
Rachael	Mckinnon	Linwood	MI	48634	
Linda	Prostko	Middleville	MI	49333-0054	
Valerie	Deur	Newaygo	MI	49337	Don’t let the greedy bullies knowingly continue to put us at risk, to do us harm. Stop them asap.
Cheryl	Coronado	Ortonville	MI	48462	It it terrible that we trust the companies making the things that we take for granted everyday. We would never think that the companies choose to use ingredients that they must know are not safe. No one knows how each of our DNA makeup will react with these chemicals. We SHOULD NOT have to worry about these things. PLEASE support this draft rule that will protect us now and our young girls in the future.
Lisa	Walsh	Rockford	MI	49341-9793	
Dana	Wakiji	Saint Clair Shores	MI	48080-3593	
Matt	Brzezinski	Saint Clair Shores	MI	48081-1511	
Maureen	Sheahan	Southfield	MI	48033-3520	
Sherry	Knoppers	Sparta	MI	49345-9762	
Erik	Peterson	Troy	MI	48084-1741	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Julie	Skelton	Van Buren Township	MI	48111-9159	
Terry	Ring	Warren	MI	48088-3957	
Melinda	Parkes	Waterford	MI	48329	Please ban these dangerous chemicals from cosmetics!
Mailan	Nguyen	Ypsilanti	MI	48197	
Tanya	Koester-Radmann	Chisago City	MN	55013-9510	
Colleen	Cannon	Forest Lake	MN	55025-9361	
Lauren	Kofsky	Hopkins	MN	55305-4632	
H	Ande	Inver Grove Heights	MN	55076-2149	
Jessica	Rocheleau	Maple Grove	MN	55369-4457	
Erin	Enger	Minneapolis	MN	55428-2758	
Lindsay	Dahl	Minneapolis	MN	55410-2138	
Christa	Byler	Minneapolis	MN	55405-1931	
Harriet	McCleary	Minneapolis	MN	55404-3567	
Vanessa	Demuth	Rosemount	MN	55068-3394	
Kathleen	Moraski	Saint Paul	MN	55125-1557	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Craig	Christenson	Saint Paul	MN	55113-2814	Please ban all toxic chemicals in personal care products. This includes formaldehyde releasers.
Lori	Anderson	Saint Paul	MN	55113-1750	
Lacey	Wozny	Kansas City	MO	64108	
James	Deshotels	Robertsville	MO	63072-2529	
Kathryn	Brown	Saint Louis	MO	63128-3623	
cara	artman	Saint Louis	MO	63146-4618	
Jon	Kiesling	Saint Louis	MO	63119-2034	
Michael	Branson	Sedalia	MO	65301-2920	
Harold	Watson	Springfield	MO	65803-7229	
Lynn	Barron	Starkville	MS	39749	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Melenie	Lopane	Helena	MT	59602-8770	We r literally sick from ur poisoning us all with ur toxic products time to stop this toxic poisoning of the Ppl
Tania	Allery	Missoula	MT	59802-9563	
Victor	Fahrer	Asheville	NC	28806-4404	
Linda	Birnbaum	Chapel Hill	NC	27514-2002	
Cynthia	Bernett	Concord	NC	28027-8264	
Debbie	Bullock	Greensboro	NC	27408-6819	
Bill	Boyarsky	Hillsborough	NC	27278	
Margaret	Cevasco	Mocksville	NC	27028	
Deb	Douglas	Norwood	NC	28128	
Catherine	Marie	Raleigh	NC	27607-3027	
Jeff	Kulp	Raleigh	NC	27612-6111	
Charlene	Stender	Bellevue	NE	68147-2004	
Brady	Pochon	Ogallala	NE	69153	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
K	R	Omaha	NE	68116-3086	
Shirley	Lemieux	Manchester	NH	03103-4266	I actually was not aware until now about the formaldehyde releasers used as preservatives in cosmetics. I strongly support banning it.
Ruth Anne	Brighton	Manchester	NH	3109	
B	Widger	Manchester	NH	03104-3928	
Debasri	Roy	Nashua	NH	03062-3511	
CHRISTINE	MONT-LABUTTE	Portsmouth	NH	03801-4773	I strongly support Ecology’s draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. These harmful chemicals can cause cancer, asthma, and other serious health issues—and they don’t belong in products we use on our bodies. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Suzen	Hilliker	Somersworth	NH	03878-1124	
Diane	Hashem	Thornton	NH	03285-6523	I strongly urge you to remove formaldehyde releasers in all cosmetics.

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Duncan	Duchov	Winchester	NH	03470-2419	
Francis	Groff	Brielle	NJ	08730-1208	
Laurel	Kornfeld	Highland Park	NJ	08904-2938	
Lorraine	Brabham	Hoboken	NJ	07030-5108	
Jessica	O'Dougherty	Hopatcong	NJ	07843-1516	
Chris	Scholl	Neptune	NJ	07753-5632	
Alfredo	Ocasio	Old Bridge	NJ	08857-3439	
Amanda	Albertson	Pemberton	NJ	8068	
Josephine	Dilena	Ridgefield Park	NJ	07660-1613	I strongly support banning all formaldehyde releasers in personal care products such as cosmetics, shampoo, nail polish and lotions. Please finalize the rule and ensure strong enforcement to protect public health and the environment.
Kevin	Bannon	Sussex	NJ	07461-4858	
arlene	griffin	Santa Fe	NM	87501-1868	
Laura	Stewart	Santa Fe	NM	87507-3450	
LeRoy	W	Tijeras	NM	87059-2111	
I.	Engle	Tularosa	NM	88352-2228	
Melanie	Rogers	Las Vegas	NV	89116	
Sheila	Malone	Las Vegas	NV	89147-5666	
Heather	McHugh	Stateline	NV	89449-9853	
John	KIlcher	Albany	NY	12205	Do your job, protect the people.
Mustafa	Subasic	Binghamton	NY	13904	
Gerald	Walsh	Brewster	NY	10509	
Stan	Janzick	Bronx	NY	10465-1531	
Regina	Woiler	Brooklyn	NY	11226	
Joanna	Smith	Brooklyn	NY	11215-1405	
Savannah	Robledo	Brooklyn	NY	11225	
alyson	shotz	Brooklyn	NY	11231-3813	
Steve	Savitz	Brooklyn	NY	11238	
Kerry	Burkhardt	Buffalo	NY	14209	
patti	spinelli	Carmel	NY	10512-1833	
Meagan	Fastuca	East Meadow	NY	11554-4052	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Melanie	Smith	Falconer	NY	14733-1547	
Alex	Varno	Franklin Square	NY	11010	
Nina	Ohebshalom	Great Neck	NY	11021-3202	
Heather	Griffin	Lindenhurst	NY	11757	
Laurie	Azzoto	Liverpool	NY	13090-1342	
Matthew	Boguske	Lowville	NY	13367	
Matthew	Boguske	Lowville	NY	13367-1325	
Jackie	Stolfi	Massapequa Park	NY	11762-4012	
Carmine	Salamone	Massapequa Park	NY	11762-3525	
steven	nasta	New City	NY	10956-2416	PROTECT OUR HEALTH
Carol H	Krinsky	New York	NY	10010-4945	There is no sensible reason to allow toxic materials in cosmetics. Anyone can look attractive by using toxic-free products, keeping hair natural, showing healthy and natural skin color, etc. Distributors of toxic products get rich from people who don't yet know about toxicity.
Joshua	Wallman	New York	NY	10009-6403	
N	D	New York	NY	10075	
S.	Nam	New York	NY	10040-4080	
Mark	Hollinrake	New York	NY	10026-1539	
Scott	Bernstein	New York	NY	10024-3409	
Kate	Skolnick	New York	NY	10031-5639	
Janice	Bailey	New York	NY	10019-8201	
Pamela	Brocious	New York	NY	10128-5552	
Leslie	Gold	New York	NY	10014-4324	
rho	levin	New York	NY	10003-5918	
Gabriel	Bobek	New York	NY	10012	
Loraine	Obler	New York	NY	10016-3200	
janet	forman	New York	NY	10011-1514	
Laura	Douglas	Orchard Park	NY	14127-1207	
Sharon	Longyear	Port Ewen	NY	12466-5001	
Michele	Ledesky	Seaford	NY	11783	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
susan	Damato	Syracuse	NY	13210	
Donna	Hegedus	Westbrookville	NY	12785	
Elinor	Weiss	Williamsville	NY	14221	
Cindy	Persky	Beachwood	OH	44122-7515	
Jadynn	Veigel	Canton	OH	44707	
Richard	Boyce	Cincinnati	OH	45230-2129	
Linda	Fast	Cincinnati	OH	45230-3724	
Robert	Kincses	Dayton	OH	45459-7307	
Stephanie	Reed	Mantua	OH	44255-8700	
Teresa	Jungling	Mason	OH	45040-7778	
Thomas	Cope	Medina	OH	44256-4031	
Justin	Philipps	Newark	OH	43055-3191	
Steven	Federman	Ottawa Hills	OH	43606-2506	
Deborah	Lyons	Oxford	OH	45056-1181	
Rev. Dr. David	Sickles	Willoughby	OH	44094-5726	
Nichole	Redner	Broken Arrow	OK	74012-0350	
Robin	Patten	Del City	OK	73115-1976	
Cindy	Jensen	Beaverton	OR	97003-2638	
Setsuko	Maruki-Fox	Grants Pass	OR	97527-4551	
MARY	PETERSON	Newport	OR	97365-9605	
Donna	Bonetti	North Bend	OR	97459-2020	
Janet	H.	North Bend	OR	97459-9493	
Hannah	Contino	North Bend	OR	97459-3127	
Lynsley	Rollins	Portland	OR	97219-2608	Please encourage this work in Oregon, as well as Washington.
Alicia	Cohen	Portland	OR	97214-5561	We need relief from toxics in our everyday lives. Please pass this rule. So many women are sick these days with toxic overload. It is real and it is getting worse. We need this rule so badly!
Phoenix	Oaks	Portland	OR	97217-2360	
Eve	Hinesley	Portland	OR	97203-5528	
Maya	Kory	Portland	OR	97217	
Elizabeth	Darby	Portland	OR	97209-3473	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Norah	Renken	Portland	OR	97203	
Kimber	Nelson	Portland	OR	97206-9615	
Satya	Vayu	Portland	OR	97206-7133	
Jamie	Shields	Rainier	OR	97048	
John	Stofko	Allentown	PA	18102-5512	
Jennifer	South	Bellefonte	PA	16823	
Mary	Keil	Bloomsburg	PA	17815-6810	
Thomas and Linda	Bogetti	Coal Township	PA	17866-7801	
Tom	Bogetti	Coal Township	PA	17866-7801	
Trisha	Miniczzi	Downingtown	PA	19335	
Veronica	Liebert	Drexel Hill	PA	19026-4506	
Patricia	Long	Folsom	PA	19033	
Emile	Mirzoevs	Kingston	PA	18704-5061	
Kathy	Litton	Lancaster	PA	17601	
Linda	Bescript	Langhorne	PA	19047-5673	
Mitzi	Deitch	Langhorne	PA	19063	
Maureen	Bittner Tait	Malvern	PA	19355-8513	
Elizabeth	Seltzer	Media	PA	19063-2542	
Jill	Turco	Philadelphia	PA	19146-2434	
Judith	Vassallo	Philadelphia	PA	19130	
Sheila	Erlbaum	Philadelphia	PA	19119-2406	
Mark	Levin	Plymouth Meeting	PA	19462-2308	
Laura	Chinofsky	Southampton	PA	18966-3521	
Liana	Lang	White Haven	PA	18661-3828	
Nicholas	Diamond	White Oak	PA	15131-1808	ban formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics and personal care products
Samantha	Nathan	Wynnewood	PA	19096-3525	
Faye	Dvorchak	Cranston	RI	2920	
Erl’m n	Karalekas	Riverside	RI	02915-1813	
Lori	Gibson	West Kingston	RI	02892-1621	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Emily	Venuti	North Augusta	SC	29841-3324	
James	Thoman	Hermitage	TN	37076-2909	
Dianne	Doochin	Nashville	TN	37205-4705	
Susan	Faulkner	Nashville	TN	37217-2370	
Katie	Haber	Austin	TX	78749-1928	
Kambra	Allen	Austin	TX	78749-2214	
Robert	Marraro	Corpus Christi	TX	78414-5903	
Beth	Haywood	Cross Roads	TX	76227-5007	Please finalize the draft rule to ban Formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. Protect families from toxic chemicals.
Jane	Griffith	Dallas	TX	75219-3012	
Laura	Vera	Dickinson	TX	77539-9253	
Carolina	Rittenhouse	Fort Worth	TX	76110	
Cathy	Sikes	Humble	TX	77346-3626	
Kelley	Brooksher	Humble	TX	77396	
Amanda	Heske	Junction	TX	76849-4758	
Natalie	Youngberg	Kingwood	TX	77339-1986	
Evelyn	Adams	McKinney	TX	75071-7030	
Nancy	Barcellona	North Richland Hills	TX	76182-7671	
Melissa	Heithaus	Richardson	TX	75081-4176	Thank you for your time and consideration.
Mala	Murthy	Richmond	TX	77469-1455	
Arthur	Guerrero	San Antonio	TX	78232-3509	
Cheyenne	Moss	Spanish Fork	UT	84660-5642	
Stephanie Chan	C	Alexandria	VA	22314	
Susan	Stadsklev	Alexandria	VA	22301-2400	
William	Welkowitz	Arlington	VA	22202-2972	
Stephanie	Stohler	Fairfax Station	VA	22039-3228	
Roger	Woitte	Great Falls	VA	22066-3713	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Wayne	Teel	Keezletown	VA	22832-2033	I grew up in Washington, trained in chemistry, and we treated formaldehyde with restraint. We knew it was dangerous, using it only in a hood. Why would we put it in personal products? It should not be an ingredient in anything that touches skin.
Sima	Soto	Lorton	VA	22079	
Craig	McGruder	Manakin Sabot	VA	23103	
Jamie	Thomas	Quinton	VA	23141	
Daphne	Bascom	Reston	VA	20191	
El	Marlin	Richmond	VA	23220	
David	Warner	Richmond	VA	23235-1603	
Rm	Kashmir	Vienna	VA	22180	
Roma.	Marling	Williamsburg	VA	23185	
Jessica	Holy	Woodbridge	VA	22192-6372	
Matthew	LeFluer	Alburgh	VT	05440-6020	
Eugene	Gates	Brattleboro	VT	5301	
Sari	Wolf	East Montpelier	VT	05651-4091	
Phyllis	Erwin	Guilford	VT	05301-7174	
F.	Corr	Guilford	VT	05301-9394	
Amy	Ludwin	Jericho Center	VT	05465-9567	
Miles	Pustinsky	Marshfield	VT	5658	those corporations prioritize profit (read greed) over peoples' health...more unbridled capitalism
Kara	Hubbard	Moretown	VT	5660	
Carole	O'Connell	Newport	VT	05855-4885	
D	Moore	Rochester	VT	5767	Clean cosmetic products already exist, so there's no reason why ALL cosmetic products can't be clean! There is no good reason why ANY foods or personal care products should be toxic! Please ban these products!
Jeffrey	Phillips	Shelburne	VT	05482-7783	
William	April	Waterbury Center	VT	05677-7109	Ban this toxic chemical in cosmetics now. Our bodies are not some vented degreasing vat for auto parts!
Kristen	Vance	Williston	VT	5495	

First Name	Last Name	City	State Code	Zip Code	Comment
Hunter	Klapperich	Jim Falls	WI	54748-1704	
Jodie	Thill	Madison	WI	53705-4774	
Mario	Zdybel	Milwaukee	WI	53207-1524	
Jessica	Sommers	Monroe	WI	53566-1404	
Joyce	Frohn	Oshkosh	WI	54901	
Jenene G	Garey	Two Rivers	WI	54241-3125	important scientific advice
Kim	Smith	Beverly	WV	26253-4699	
cynthia	dietzmann	Wilson	WY	83014-5110	

Toxic-Free Future

Please see attached.

Stacey Callaway
Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

April 11, 2025

RE: Draft restrictions on intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers

Dear Ms. Callaway,

We are writing in strong support of the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) proposed rules to restrict formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule will go a long way to protect both consumers and workers from formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, in products in Washington state. A ban on all formaldehyde releasers is a critical step in making safer the products that we use on our skin and hair, then flush down the drain.

Formaldehyde-releasers in cosmetics pose a serious threat to public health

In 2023, Ecology issued a report that found formaldehyde in many beauty and personal care products available for sale in Washington state. Ecology tested 50 products marketed to or used by people of color and found high levels of formaldehyde in certain hair products, creams, and lotions.

Studies show that women of color are disproportionately exposed to harmful chemicals in their cosmetics. A 2022 study found an increased risk of uterine cancer in black women who used hair straightening products, which may contain formaldehyde. Additionally, Ecology notes that people of color and people with lower incomes are generally exposed to higher levels of formaldehyde from other industrial sources, food cooking, cosmetic products, and cheaper building materials. Acting on formaldehyde in cosmetics will lead to reduced exposure to vulnerable environmental justice populations.

Hair and nail salon workers, along with workers at cosmetics development and manufacturing facilities, may also be exposed to formaldehyde from cosmetic products more frequently and intensely. This is notable, especially as some of these populations, such as hair and nail salon workers, are more likely to be people of color.

Ecology's proposed restrictions align with leading companies

Consumers are increasingly demanding products "free of" high-hazard chemicals like formaldehyde. In response, major retailers, including Walmart, Target, Sephora, and Ulta Beauty, actively promote

"clean" cosmetics that do not contain formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasers. Over 300 name brands manufacture specific products for Target's program, which prohibits the use of formaldehyde releasers. Companies including Credo, Beautycounter, Honest, Sephora, and Ulta, as well as their suppliers, Innolex and Dow, have collaborated with ChemFORWARD to better understand the hazard of the chemical ingredients currently used in cosmetic products. Their analysis showed that over 50% of the 122 chemicals identified used as preservatives were assessed as meeting Ecology's definition of "safer" under the Safer Products for Washington program, demonstrating the availability of safer solutions. Ecology's proposal aligns with the best practices of these leading brands and retailers and helps create a level playing field for the business community.

The draft rule provides a comprehensive approach to fully ban formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in cosmetic products

The legislature was clear when it directed Ecology to adopt a rule to ensure formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals are no longer used in cosmetics products. The comprehensive approach taken by the draft regulation ensures that this goal will be met. Anything short of such a comprehensive approach may result in loopholes, allowing formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers to remain in final cosmetic products.

We fully support Ecology's proposed rule including:

1. **Definition of "intentionally added"**

We strongly support Ecology's definitions of "intentionally added chemical" or "intentionally added" to "include a chemical that serves an intended function in the final product; the manufacturing of the product; or an ingredient in the final product."

It is critically important that the definition in the draft rule is consistent with that of the Washington Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting rule (Chapter 173-337 WAC). This is necessary to avoid confusion for businesses needing to comply. The definition as drafted provides clear guidance to businesses on the scope of chemicals covered by the rule and will help ensure all formaldehyde releasers are banned.

2. **Definition of "formaldehyde releasers"**

The law clearly gives the agency authority to ban all formaldehyde releasers (RCW 70A.560.020)(1)(c). We strongly support Ecology's comprehensive definition of formaldehyde releasers.

Over many years and in many sectors, we have seen that a restriction on a specific chemical in a class has simply resulted in industry shifting to regrettable substitutes, often within the same class. Only by restricting all chemicals that release formaldehyde in cosmetics will the state succeed at eliminating this important source of exposure.

3. **Strong enforcement provisions**

We support the strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde, a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is

found during sampling. This provision ensures that formaldehyde releasers not named on the list included in the draft cannot be used as regrettable replacements.

4. **The January 1, 2027, timeline for implementing the restrictions on formaldehyde releasers**

We support the timeline of January 1, 2027, to ban all formaldehdye releasing agents. The law stated that Ecology could identify a first set of 10 formaldehdye releasing agents to ban by January 1, 2026. It is urgent to eliminate these chemicals; it is also important to provide businesses, especially small businesses, sufficient time to comply and ensure they are moving to safer solutions. We know safer solutions are available and the market has moved considerably. However, it also makes sense from an enforcement standpoint to have a consistent deadline for all formaldehyde releasing agents.

Many thanks to Ecology staff for their excellent work and the opportunity to comment. We strongly support the proposed regulations as a means to protect public health, environmental justice communities, and workers. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cheri Peele
Director of Government and Market Policy
Toxic-Free Future

Public Comment from Credo Beauty on the Formaldehyde-Releasing Agents Rule
Washington Department of Ecology

Credo Beauty appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed restriction of formaldehyde-releasing preservatives under the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act.

These chemicals are present in a wide range of products, and their potential health risks are of concern, especially for individuals in environments like salons and vulnerable communities. We strongly support efforts to reduce harmful exposures for all, particularly vulnerable communities. This aligns with our commitment to prioritizing public health, which is why we appreciate the Department's recognition of these risks and its clear intention to ban formaldehyde-releasing agents as part of broader chemical safety measures.

However, it is critical that this transition be approached with industry feedback, data, and thoughtfulness. We must ensure that alternatives are not only available but also affordable, effective, and safe. Without viable alternatives to banned ingredients, there is a risk that consumer safety could be compromised in the pursuit of toxicity reduction. Effectiveness, in this context, means maintaining the product's stability, shelf life, and microbial protection, all of which are key to short- and long-term consumer safety.

Additionally, we encourage a broader evaluation of products that may not have intentionally added formaldehyde but could release it under specific use conditions. This will help avoid overlooking scenarios where formaldehyde could still present a risk without being deliberately included in the formulation.

While intentionally added formaldehyde releasers should be addressed, we urge clear guidance and flexibility in addressing products' preservation needs. Preservatives are essential to preventing microbial contamination, which protects consumers from serious health risks like infections or product spoilage. We must balance the need for safer ingredients with the preservation of product safety. Reducing preservatives without ensuring proper alternatives could have unintended consequences, such as products becoming less microbially safe, potentially leading to product recalls or compromised consumer trust.

We commend the hazard assessments and the identification of alternatives conducted so far. We encourage ongoing collaboration with industry stakeholders to ensure that safe, effective, and accessible preservative systems remain available. We strong support our industry moving towards stricter chemical safety measures; however, we must ensure we are maintaining the integrity of the products is vital to both consumer health and trust in the market.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in this process and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that we protect public health while maintaining high standards for product safety.

Christina Ross, MPH
Head of Science and Impact, Credo Beauty

Dr Raymond Schep

I do not see any amount for maximum allowable formaldehyde in cosmetics. Making a statement that cosmetics should contain no formaldehyde at all what does this mean? 0% or 0.00% or 0.000%?
This regulation is redundant as the US FDA limits the concentration of formaldehyde to no more than 0.074% and each state having their own regulations complicates our national marketing of cosmetics at Colonial Dames Company. The European Union allows 0.1% or less of formaldehyde. We would prefer the limit to be 0.1% but there is no need to make a State regulation as there already is a federal regulation. See link. This level is naturally exceeded by the body as it produces formaldehyde by the metabolism of fruit sugar which also contains some methanol, metabolized to formaldehyde.
https://cir-reports.cir-safety.org/view-attachment/?id=3610a771-8e74-ec11-8943-0022482f06a6#:~:text=In%201994%2C%20Cosmetic%20Ingredient%20Review%20(%28CIR%29%20Expert%20Panel,formaldehyde%20was%20mini-mized%2C%20but%20in%20no%20case%20%3E0.2%25.
Dr Raymond Schep.
Chief Chemist Colonial Dames Co
Member California Association of Toxicologists.

TAKING STOCK
CONSUMER PRODUCT USE AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND LATINAS

April 11, 2025

Stacey Callaway,
WA Department of Ecology,
PO Box 47600,
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Chapter 173-339 WAC

Dear Ms Callaway:

We are writing to share our research relevant to the proposed rulemaking Chapter 173-339 WAC, which restricts formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers intentionally used in cosmetic products

The **Taking Stock Study**, a community-academic research study focused on consumer product use and chemical exposures among women of color living in California. As part of the study, in 2021, we asked 70 women (Black women and Latinas living in South Los Angeles) to log their product use over one week and also take photos of the ingredient lists on their products. We used this information to create a detailed product ingredient database based on products that our study participants are using.

We recently analyzed this ingredient data set to identify personal care products—skincare, haircare, cosmetics—that listed formaldehyde and/or formaldehyde releasing preservatives as ingredients. Like the Department of Ecology, we used a list of 35 formaldehyde releasers presented in de Groot et al. 2009.[1] A scientific manuscript summarizing our findings is currently undergoing peer-review.

Over half of the Taking Stock participants—Black women and Latinas living in South LA—are using products with formaldehyde releasers. These include body lotions, soaps and cleaners, and hair products. Women in this study reported using many of these products several times a week, some lotions and cleansers were used multiple times a day. The majority of products identified with formaldehyde releasers were used at least twice over the one-week study period.

Looking across all personal care products used by participants in our study, we found that **about 4% of products listed formaldehyde releasers as ingredients**. We compared that to national data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Consumer Product Database (also known as CPDat). In the national dataset, we found that **approximately 8% of personal care**

[1] de Groot AC, Flyvholm MA, Lensen G, Menné T, Coenraads PJ. Formaldehyde-releasers: relationship to formaldehyde contact allergy. Contact allergy to formaldehyde and inventory of formaldehyde-releasers. Contact Dermatitis. 2009 Aug;61(2):63-85. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0536.2009.01582.x.

products listed formaldehyde and/or formaldehyde releasers. Previous estimates were higher—approximately 15 to 20% of products.[2,3] And, while the overall prevalence of formaldehyde releasers in products may seem relatively low, we can see from our data that formaldehyde releasers are found in commonly used products; hence, half of our study participants are using products with formaldehyde releasers listed on the products.

Similar to Department of Ecology's own analysis, **DMDM hydantoin was the most common formaldehyde releaser** listed on products used by our Taking Stock Study products and the EPA's Consumer Product Database (CPDat). Both diazolidinyl urea and imidazolidinyl urea were also common.

As noted in Ecology's documents, "chemicals that release formaldehyde don't have a commonly used structural chemical definition." They do not have common naming conventions so that consumers can readily identify them within an ingredient list. For consumer who want to avoid these chemicals, they cannot be expected to read labels for chemicals like DMDM hydantoin, diazolidinyl urea, and imidazolindyl urea. We shouldn't be putting this burden on the consumer. Instead, restricting the use of these chemicals in personal care products will better protect consumers from exposure to formaldehyde, a known carcinogen.

On behalf of the Taking Stock Study team, we hope our study findings are helpful as you consider this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Bhavna Shamasunder, Ph.D.
University of California, Santa Barbara
Taking Stock Study Principal Investigator

Robin Dodson, Sc.D.
Silent Spring Institute
Taking Stock Study Co-Investigator

Ami Zota, Sc.D.
Columbia University
Taking Stock Study Co-Investigator

[2] de Groot AC, White IR, Flyvholm MA, Lensen G, Coenraads PJ. Formaldehyde-releasers in cosmetics: relationship to formaldehyde contact allergy. Part 1. Characterization, frequency and relevance of sensitization, and frequency of use in cosmetics. Contact Dermatitis. 2010 Jan;62(1):2-17. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0536.2009.01615.x.

[3] Johnson PI, Favela K, Jarin J, Le AM, Clark PY, Fu L, Gillis AD, Morga N, Nguyen C, Harley KG. Chemicals of concern in personal care products used by women of color in three communities of California. J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol. 2022 Nov;32(6):864-876. doi: 10.1038/s41370-022-00485-y.

Dita Škalič

I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day. Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement!

My Style Matters, Inc.

Thank you to Washington State for your leadership in protecting public health. On behalf of My Style Matters, we strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This is a necessary step toward creating safer personal care products for all women and girls.

As a two-time breast cancer survivor and the founder of My Style Matters, a nonprofit organization that empowers individuals through education, advocacy, and support around breast health and environmental wellness, I have seen how everyday exposures can have lasting impacts on our health. From a young age, women and girls are using products that are marketed to enhance beauty but may instead be silently contributing to serious health risks.

This issue is also a matter of justice. Black women, in particular, are disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals due to the targeted marketing of products like hair straighteners, relaxers, and skin lighteners. These products often contain formaldehyde or its releasers and have been linked to increased risk of hormone-related cancers, reproductive harm, and other long-term health issues. This is a necessary step towards safer products and greater health equity. I urge you to continue putting people over profits. All people deserve access to personal care products that protect their health, not compromise it.

Sincerely,
Tiah Tomlin-Harris, MS
Founder & Executive Director, My Style Matters

Thank you to Washington State for your leadership in protecting public health. I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This is a necessary step toward creating safer personal care products for all women and girls.

As a breast cancer survivor and advocate, I know how important it is that the products we use on our bodies every day are free from harmful chemicals. From a young age, women and girls are exposed to countless personal care products—many of which contain ingredients linked to cancer, reproductive harm, and hormone disruption. No one should have to worry that what they're using to care for themselves could be putting their health at risk.

This issue is also a matter of justice. Black women, in particular, are disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals due to the targeted marketing of products like hair straighteners and relaxers. These products often contain formaldehyde or its releasers and have been linked to increased risk of hormone-related cancers and long-term health consequences. This rule is a necessary move toward safer products and greater health equity. I urge you to continue putting people over profits. All women and girls deserve access to safe, nontoxic personal care products.

With gratitude,
Tiah Tomlin-Harris
Women's Health Advocate

Formal Submission on Preliminary Draft Rule: Chapter 173-339 WAC

Submitted to: Washington State Department of Ecology
Contact: HWTR Publications Coordinator
Email: hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov
Submitted by: Dr. Albrecht X. Tribukait, cosmetic industry expert
Subject: Request to Exclude Polyoxymethylene Melamine (CAS RN: 9003-08-1) from List of Formaldehyde Releasers
Date of Submission: July 18th, 2025

Request for Acceptance After Deadline

We respectfully request that this comment be considered for the rulemaking record despite being submitted after the initial comment deadline. This request aligns with the Department's ongoing rule development timeline, the stated goal of **improving the formal draft rule** based on stakeholder input, and the Department's commitment to inclusive, informed, and scientifically sound policymaking as outlined in the **July 2024 Preliminary Draft Rule** and broader guidance under RCW 70A.560. Public interest is best served by ensuring the regulatory framework is both **scientifically defensible** and **fit for purpose**, especially where the inclusion of a substance may lead to unintended consequences or unjustified restrictions.

Comment Summary

We respectfully submit this request to amend **WAC 173-339-110(1)(a)** by **removing Polyoxymethylene Melamine (POMM, CAS RN: 9003-08-1)** from the draft list of restricted formaldehyde releasers. The inclusion of POMM is not supported by available toxicological data or emissions testing relevant to cosmetic use conditions, and risks undermining the statutory purpose of Chapter 70A.560 RCW by restricting a **non-releasing, inert, functionally necessary polymer**.

This request is based on:

1. The statutory focus on **actual exposure risks** and not merely chemical precursors.
2. The regulatory definition of "formaldehyde-releasing" chemicals under **WAC 173-339-110**.
3. Clear data showing that POMM **does not emit formaldehyde at relevant levels** under conditions of normal cosmetic use.
4. POMM's **functional uniqueness and lack of viable substitutes** in cosmetic applications.

See **Appendix A** for technical background and **Appendix B** for legal analysis.

Scientific and Regulatory Basis

1. POMM's Structure Does Not Support Formaldehyde Release

Polyoxymethylene Melamine is a crosslinked polymer created via condensation of melamine (CAS 108-78-1) with formaldehyde, forming a thermoset structure with stable $–CH_2–$ bridges. Unlike urea-formaldehyde or phenol-formaldehyde resins, POMM contains no labile methylol or ether groups that could hydrolyze to release formaldehyde. Its dense, insoluble, and thermally stable structure is not chemically designed or capable of degrading into free formaldehyde under cosmetic use conditions (e.g., nail lacquer application and wear).

2. Available Emission Data Confirms Negligible Release

According to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Substance Infocard for EC 618-578-8 (Polyoxymethylene Melamine), the polymer is not classified as hazardous and lacks any CLP classification for formaldehyde-related hazards. Multiple industry and third-party emissions studies using validated methods such as ISO 16000-3 and EN 717-1 report release values of <0.1 ppm under conditions representative of actual product use — far below the 10 ppm SCCS threshold for mandatory labeling in cosmetics (SCCS/1632/21).

3. Inclusion Based on Synthetic Origin Contradicts Intent of Rule

As defined in WAC 173-339-110(1)(a), a "formaldehyde-releasing chemical" is one that "releases or is designed to release formaldehyde during normal conditions of use." There is no evidence — nor any mechanism — by which POMM meets this definition. Its inclusion appears to be based solely on synthetic origin (formaldehyde as a starting material), not functional emissions. This is inconsistent with the Department's goal to "reduce meaningful exposure" under RCW 70A.560 and contradicts its emphasis on science-based prioritization of substances with "highest prevalence of use" and real-world exposure potential (Draft Rule p. 11).

4. Functional Role and Lack of Alternatives

POMM is intentionally added to solvent-based nail lacquers as a film-forming resin that provides:

- High gloss retention
- Solvent compatibility
- Chip resistance and mechanical durability
- Thermal and oxidative stability

There is currently no "drop-in" replacement that matches POMM's combined performance, regulatory acceptance, and compliance with global cosmetic frameworks

and VOC restrictions. Alternative resins (e.g., nitrocellulose, acrylics, polyurethanes) often fail to meet critical technical or regulatory criteria and require extensive reformulation.

Recommendation

We respectfully encourage the Department to consider adopting one of the following options to correct the misclassification of POMM:

Option A: Remove POMM from Table of Restricted Formaldehyde Releasers

Amend WAC 173-339-110(1)(a) to strike entry #41:

Polyoxymethylene Melamine – CAS RN: 9003-08-1

OR

Option B: Create a Conditional Exemption Pathway

Incorporate language into WAC 173-339-110 or a new section authorizing case-by-case exemptions based on validated emissions testing:

"The Department may exempt a substance from restriction if the manufacturer demonstrates, using credible, validated test methods, that the substance does not release free formaldehyde at or above 10 ppm under conditions of normal cosmetic use."

This approach would be consistent with existing provisions in WAC 173-339-110(1)(b) allowing manufacturers to rebut presumptions of intentional addition, and would provide a transparent, evidence-based process for handling chemically complex polymers like POMM.

Closing

We respectfully submit this comment as part of the Department's ongoing rule development process and request that the final rule reflect both the scientific evidence and the statutory purpose of RCW 70A.560. The removal or exemption of POMM from the list of restricted substances will help ensure that Chapter 173-339 WAC is clear, enforceable, and consistent with real-world exposure risk, without unintentionally removing essential, safe ingredients from the marketplace.

Appendix A: Functional Uniqueness of Polyoxymethylene Melamine (POMM)

There is currently no alternative resin in commercial nail lacquer applications that matches POMM in both functional performance and regulatory suitability without requiring substantial reformulation or introducing trade-offs in product quality or compliance.

1. Functional Role in Cosmetic Products

POMM is intentionally used in solvent-based nail lacquers due to its uniquely advantageous combination of the following properties:

- High gloss retention
- Film hardness
- Solvent compatibility
- Chip resistance (durability)
- Thermal and oxidative stability

These attributes make it difficult to replicate using available film-formers that are:

- Not formaldehyde-based,
- Compliant with volatile organic compound (VOC) limits, and
- Acceptable under global cosmetic safety frameworks.

Alternative film-forming resins such as nitrocellulose, acrylics, or polyurethane dispersions are available but present significant drawbacks:

- Inferior mechanical or aesthetic performance,
- Regulatory limitations (e.g., microplastic classification, VOC content), or
- Incompatibility with current solvent systems, leading to increased formulation costs and complexity.

2. Synthesis and Chemical Structure

POMM is synthesized through a condensation reaction between melamine (CAS 108-78-1) and formaldehyde (CAS 50-00-0), forming stable methylene ($-CH_2-$) bridges that link melamine units in a dense, crosslinked thermoset matrix. Unlike urea-formaldehyde or phenol-formaldehyde resins, POMM does not contain hydrolyzable groups such as methylol or ether linkages. Once cured, the polymer is chemically inert, non-volatile, and resistant to degradation under standard cosmetic use conditions.

3. Emission Profile

According to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Substance Infocard for POMM (EC: 618-578-8), the substance is not classified as hazardous and is not expected to

release free formaldehyde under normal or foreseeable use. Testing performed under recognized emission protocols—such as EN 717-1 and ISO 16000-3—shows formaldehyde emissions consistently below 0.1 ppm, well under the 10 ppm threshold established by the EU SCCS for mandatory formaldehyde labeling (SCCS/1632/21).

4. Cosmetic Use Context

POMM is used in small amounts in nail lacquer formulations to enhance gloss and film durability. Once applied, it forms a solid, dry film and is not present in sprayable, leave-on skin, or heat-activated products. As such, typical exposure routes (inhalation, dermal absorption) are minimal to negligible.

5. Grounds for Regulatory Reconsideration

POMM's inclusion on the draft list of formaldehyde releasers does not appear to be supported by data demonstrating actual formaldehyde release under cosmetic use conditions. Its classification as a 'formaldehyde releaser' seems to reflect its formaldehyde-based synthesis, rather than any evidence of consumer-relevant exposure.

The substance's chemical structure and toxicological profile do not support this classification in the context of cosmetic use. Accordingly, its restriction under Chapter 173-339 WAC may be inconsistent with the intent and statutory framework of RCW 70A.560, which aims to reduce meaningful exposure to hazardous substances—not to prohibit inert, non-releasing polymers.

Appendix B: Legal and Regulatory Analysis

There is currently no evidence supporting the classification of Polyoxymethylene Melamine (POMM) as a formaldehyde-releasing substance under conditions relevant to cosmetic use. This appendix summarizes the statutory and regulatory foundations relevant to the proposed exclusion of POMM from the list of restricted formaldehyde releasers under Chapter 173-339 WAC.

RCW 70A.560.020(1)(c)

This section prohibits the sale or distribution of cosmetic products containing either formaldehyde (CAS 50-00-0) or chemicals 'determined by the department to release formaldehyde.' It does not apply to substances that do not release measurable formaldehyde under typical use conditions. POMM meets this exclusion on scientific grounds.

RCW 70A.560.030(2)

In determining formaldehyde releasers, the Department may consider the following:

- Estimated prevalence of use;
- Potential to reduce disproportionate exposure;
- Other relevant information.

POMM is used in very low volumes, poses no disproportionate exposure risks, and does not emit formaldehyde at concerning levels. Thus, inclusion under this section lacks statutory basis.

WAC 173-339-110(1)(b)

This rule allows manufacturers to rebut the presumption that formaldehyde was intentionally added by providing credible evidence. Scientific data demonstrating that POMM emits less than 0.1 ppm formaldehyde should suffice to meet this rebuttal standard. A formal exemption pathway, based on verified low-emission profiles, would provide regulatory clarity and fairness.

April 11, 2025

Stacey Callaway
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: WE ACT Comments on Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Formal Draft Rule

Dear Ms. Callaway,

On behalf of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a nonprofit environmental justice organization dedicated to ensuring that communities of color and low-income populations have a voice in shaping sound environmental policies, I am writing to express our strong support for the Department of Ecology's proposed rule to restrict formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals in cosmetic products under Chapter 173-339 WAC.

WE ACT for Environmental Justice, founded in 1988 and headquartered in Harlem, has been at the forefront of advocating for healthier, safer communities. Through our "Beauty Inside Out" campaign[1] and studies[2], we have long educated our members and the broader public about the dangers of formaldehyde in cosmetic products. We commend Washington for taking a bold step toward banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products. Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals have no place in the products we use daily on our skin and hair.

Formaldehyde is a well-known carcinogen that has been linked to various health risks, including cancer, brain function impairment, increased asthma risk, and eye and skin irritation. These chemicals are especially harmful when used in cosmetics like hair-straightening products, which have long been marketed to communities of color, particularly Black women. The use of these products has been associated with an increased risk of hormone-related cancers, such as ovarian[3], uterine[4], and breast cancers,[5] and can affect one's ability to conceive[6]. Scientists have

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[1] WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Beauty Inside Out Campaign, https://weact.org/programs/beauty-inside-out/

[2] Edwards, Lariah, et al. "Beauty inside out: examining beauty product use among diverse women and femme-identifying individuals in Northern Manhattan and South Bronx through an environmental justice framework." *Environmental Justice* 16.6 (2023): 449-460.

[3] Alexandra J White, Dale P Sandler, Symielle A Gaston, Chandra L Jackson, Katie M O'Brien, Use of hair products in relation to ovarian cancer risk, Carcinogenesis, Volume 42, Issue 9, September 2021, Pages 1189–1195, https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgab056

[4] National Institutes of Health (2022), Hair straightening chemicals associated with higher uterine cancer risk, https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/hair-straightening-chemicals-associated-higher-uterine-cancer-risk

[5] Eberle, Carolyn E., et al. "Hair dye and chemical straightener use and breast cancer risk in a large US population of black and white women." *International journal of cancer* 147.2 (2020): 383-391.

[6] Alexandra J White, Dale P Sandler, Symielle A Gaston, Chandra L Jackson, Katie M O'Brien, Use of hair products in relation to ovarian cancer risk, Carcinogenesis, Volume 42, Issue 9, September 2021, Pages 1189–1195, https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgab056

documented that Black and Latina women are disproportionately exposed to these chemicals due to the higher usage of hair-straightening products on the market. According to research by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, approximately 50% of products marketed to Black women contain formaldehyde and related chemicals, compared to just 7% of those marketed to White women.[7] This disparity not only places these communities at greater risk but also underscores the urgent need for stronger regulations to protect public health.

The need for regulatory action on formaldehyde has been underscored at the federal level as well. Under the Biden administration, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has considered banning formaldehyde and certain formaldehyde-releasing chemicals in hair-straightening products.[8] However, progress on this issue remains stalled, with previous efforts under the Trump administration failing to propose concrete actions. The proposed restrictions in Washington State represent a critical opportunity to address this long-standing environmental and health injustice, particularly in products that disproportionately affect Black women and other women of color.

WE ACTstrongly support the following elements of the proposed rule:

1. **The Ban on 28 Formaldehyde Releasers**: We fully support the proposed ban on the 28 formaldehyde-releasing chemicals identified in the rule, which will take effect on January 1, 2027. This timeline allows manufacturers sufficient time to transition away from using these harmful chemicals, while prioritizing public health.

2. **The Definition of "Intentionally Added"**: The clear definition of "intentionally added" in the proposed rule is critical in ensuring that all formaldehyde-releasing chemicals—whether used directly in the manufacturing process or added as ingredients—are subject to the restrictions. This ensures comprehensive coverage and reduces loopholes that could undermine the intent of the regulation.

3. **Strong Enforcement Provisions**: We strongly support the enforcement provisions that clearly stipulate that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser will be assumed to have been intentionally added if formaldehyde is detected during sampling. This approach is essential for ensuring accountability and compliance, ultimately safeguarding consumers from harmful exposure.

Formaldehyde and its releasers are toxic substances with no place in personal care products. As we know, many of the most vulnerable populations—particularly people of color, including Black and Latina women—are disproportionately exposed to these chemicals through their use of hair care and beauty products. WE ACT for Environmental Justice advocates for strong, equitable,

[7] Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (2020), Some Black hair products https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/some-black-hair-products-may-harm-users-health/

[8] Wiley (2025), FDA's Catch-Up Plan on Cosmetics Faces Likely Regulatory Delays with Change in Administrations, https://www.wiley.law/alert-FDAs-Catch-Up-Plan-on-Cosmetics-Faces-Likely-Regulatory-Delays-with-Change-in-Administrations#:~:text=In%20the%20Spring%202023%20Unified,marketed%20in%20the%20United%20States.

and health-protective policies to eliminate these chemicals from the products that consumers use daily.

We also note that the proposed rule does not address lead or lead impurities, and we encourage the Department of Ecology to prioritize similar protections for lead in cosmetics as part of future rulemaking.

We urge the Department of Ecology to finalize the proposed rule and take swift action to ban formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals in cosmetic products. This rule will make a significant difference in protecting the health and safety of all Washington residents, particularly the most vulnerable among us. Furthermore, this rule will serve as a model for other states and the federal government to follow.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring that Washington remains at the forefront of protecting public health and advancing environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Yuwa Vosper
Federal Policy Manager
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Jamie Yardley

Thank you for regulating chemicals used on many young people without proper licensing. This industry like vapes and supplements target youth who often need specific chemicals identified and banned. These cosmetics/glues are applied and vended informally on market place. Licensing should be required and products approved. My daughters gen z likes mods, tattoos, lashes etc. please require a developed "seal" of safety for lashes, nails products and licensing for applying same. Thank you. Skinz matter.