



Unilever

December 15, 2005

Jeanne Rizzo  
Executive Director  
Breast Cancer Fund  
1388 Sutter Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94109-5400  
USA

Dear Ms. Rizzo:

Thank you for your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> November addressed to Niall Fitzgerald. I am responding on behalf of Patrick Cescau, the new chairman of Unilever PLC, to your request for information on Unilever's health and safety standards for our products.

Consumers can be confident our products, whether purchased in Europe, the U.S. or other nations, are equally safe. Unilever places the highest level of importance on safety. We apply strict, rigorous and conservative standards in assessing safety. We continuously take into consideration all recent and credible scientific information on our products and their components, as part of our commitment to make them even safer and provide more benefits for the consumers and customers who purchase them. For example your organization and its campaign have cited the industry's use of phthalates as a safety concern for consumers outside of Europe. It is important to note the EU has moved to ban two phthalates (dibutylphthalate and diethylhexylphthalate). Unilever does not use these two phthalates as an ingredient in our products, and we work with our suppliers to eliminate them in all the raw materials we use. Other phthalates, such as diethylphthalate (DEP), have repeatedly been shown to be safe by various governmental and scientific bodies, including the SCCP in Europe. DEP is used in very low levels to improve product safety in some perfumes by acting as a "bittering agent" to make alcohol undrinkable. These approved ingredients may be present in our products when necessary.

We are confident in the safety of our products and work constantly to maintain the trust of consumers around the world. Our code of business principles (<http://www.unilever.com/company/ourprinciples/>) clearly sets out our commitment to product safety. To ensure clarity of communication, we do not sign other codes or compacts.

I hope this information addresses your concerns about product safety.

Yours sincerely

David Duncan  
Senior Vice President, Research and Development

**Unilever House**

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