

# REVLON

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*Via Email to [info@weareultraviolet.org](mailto:info@weareultraviolet.org)*

Ms. Nita Chaudhary  
Ms. Shaunna Thomas  
Ultraviolet

**Re: Today's Press Release Concerning Revlon**

Dear Mses. Chaudhary and Thomas:

Your press release issued today concerning Revlon is false and defamatory, and we demand that you withdraw it and issue an immediate retraction.

Revlon has long been committed to the empowerment of women and has been at the forefront of the fight against cancer, funding the fundamental science that resulted in the breast cancer drug Herceptin and championing the Revlon Run/Walk for Women. Revlon has also been working productively with the United States Congress for several years to *strengthen* the regulation of cosmetics products, because we recognize the importance of effective regulation to our consumers. Thus, it is especially hurtful and damaging to Revlon to be accused falsely of deliberately adding cancer-causing chemicals in our cosmetics products.

Your press release cites seven ingredients as allegedly cancer-causing and hormone-disrupting and allegedly used by Revlon currently, but your facts are incorrect:

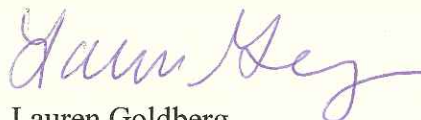
- BHA and BHT. Your press release wrongly states that Revlon uses BHA. We have not used this ingredient for some time. BHT is a different and widely used preservative that has not been linked to cancer by any reputable scientific or regulatory body.
- Quaternium-15 "and other formaldehyde-releasing chemicals". You cite the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics as the source of your concern about Quaternium-15, but the Campaign website does not suggest that Quaternium-15 itself is problematic. The Campaign website notes that there is no reputable scientific evidence of cancer caused by formaldehyde, a chemical released in minute quantities from Quaternium-15, from contact with skin. . Given the small amount of Quaternium-15 used in our products and the fact that these products are only used topically, there is no scientific basis for any claim that our use of

Quaternium-15 is unsafe. That is why the ingredient is widely used by many consumer products manufacturers. You do not specify what other “formaldehyde-releasing chemicals” Revlon allegedly uses, and this sort of vague innuendo is particularly noxious because there is no objective way for Revlon to respond.

- Parabens. Like your citation to BHA and BHT, you have mistaken possibly problematic ingredients for the ones Revlon actually uses. Revlon only uses short-chain parabens like methyl, ethyl, and propylparabens, which are safe, and only more complex parabens have been potentially linked to cancer.
- Octinoxate. This popular sunscreen ingredient has been expressly approved for use by the FDA as safe and effective. It is highly irresponsible of Ultraviolet to challenge any use of this ingredient. The endocrine-disruptor allegation is based on an unvalidated report to a state authority and has no scientific basis.
- Resorcinol. Not even the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, your alleged source for the remainder of your allegations, challenges the use of this widely available ingredient. p-Phenylenediamine. This ingredient, which you cite as a “respiratory toxicant,” is not inhalable in any product sold to a Revlon consumer.
- Carbon black. Years ago, there were concerns with the use of carbon black, but only because of adulterants that occasionally were included when the material was used in solid form. Manufacturers of the ingredient changed their processes, and the FDA now approves the ingredient as safe and effective. In addition, Revlon only uses the ingredient in liquid form.

The harm to Revlon from these false and defamatory statements is immediate and progressive, and it gets worse the longer you permit your statements to remain in circulation. We therefore must insist that you withdraw the press release immediately and issue a retraction, so that people who have already viewed the release have an opportunity to learn the truth. Unless you act immediately, Revlon will be forced to take more public and legal steps to protect its hard-earned good name.

Sincerely yours,



Lauren Goldberg

cc: Molly Haigh, Fitzgibbon Media (via email, [molly@fitzgibbonmedia.com](mailto:molly@fitzgibbonmedia.com))  
Margie Kelly, Breast Cancer Fund (via email, [mkelly@breastcancerfund.org](mailto:mkelly@breastcancerfund.org))