

New cancerous chemical found in sunscreen

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WEEKS after a popular sunscreen was withdrawn from sale in Australia for containing the cancer-causing chemical benzene, another cancerous chemical has been found.

US chemical testing laboratory Haereticus Environmental Laboratory (HEL) has written to the US medicines regulator the FDA asking it to pull all sunscreens that con-

tain the active ingredient octocrylene.

The laboratory claims the anti-ageing cream ingredient octocrylene contained in sunscreen degrades into a toxic chemical - benzophenone - a known carcinogen.

In the US nearly 3000 products contain octocrylene. Brands tested in the scientific research and found to contain the chemical included Coppertone, Banana Boat, Neu-

trogena, Garnier, LaRoche and L'Oreal.

A study published in the journal, Chemical Research in Toxicology, found benzophenone concentration in the products quickly increased as the product aged.

Octocrylene and benzophenone are readily absorbed into the skin.

Pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson Pacific Pty Ltd recalled all batches of

Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Body Mist Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+ (aerosol sunscreen), because benzene was been detected in some batches supplied in Australia.

In June Australia's medical regulator the TGA said its regular safety reviews had not tested sunscreen products for the chemical. On August 2 the regulator said "benzene has been detected in some batches supplied in Australia".

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