What is Benzophenone?

Benzophenone and its derivatives have been identified as a suspected human carcinogen by the scientific community and is commonly found in personal care products and cosmetics. In addition to cancer, these chemicals have been linked to endocrine disruption and liver toxicity.

Where is Benzophenone Found?

Benzophenone and closely related chemicals can be found in lip balm, nail polish, foundations, sunscreens, fragrances, shampoo, conditioner, hair spray and moisturizers.

For a safer option, look for products that do not include this chemical. Read labels and avoid products that contain these toxic ingredients: benzophenone, benzophenone-2, BP2, BP3, oxybenzone, sulisobenzone, sulisobenzone sodium, fragrance.

Benzophenone is often found as an unintentional contaminant in consumer products and may not be listed on the label.

Why is Benzophenone Concerning?

Benzophenone is considered possibly carcinogenic to humans by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Where can I find more information about Benzophenone?

To learn more about this hazardous chemical, please visit the following organization’s websites:

Scientific Government Resources:
- California Department of Industrial Relations: Benzophenone Substance Summary
- Minnesota Department of Health: Toxicological Summary for: Benzophenone

Consumer Support Information:
- Campaign for Safe Cosmetics: Benzophenone & Related Compounds
- American Chemical Society: Benzophenone Accumulates over Time from the Degradation of Octocrylene in Commercial Sunscreen Products

NOTE: All links for additional information are trusted sources. If you would not to know more, or have questions, please contact us at info@CENSWPA.org.