



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2014

CONTACT: Abigail Gardner | agardner@skdknick.com | 202 464 6603

White Paper Released on Removing Nitrosamines from Condoms

(WASHINGTON, DC) – **Sept. 18, 2014** -- In 2010, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund recommended that manufacturers minimize the presence of nitrosamines, a class of carcinogenic chemicals, in male latex condoms. The Reproductive Health Technologies Project and the Center for Environmental Health commissioned testing to get a sense of whether condom makers were implementing that recommendation. Following is a statement by **Jessica Arons, President and CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project**, on the new publication, [*Making a Good Thing Even Better: Removing Nitrosamines from Condoms*](#):

“Today, we are pleased to share our white paper, which demonstrates that the condom industry is moving in the right direction. Of the 24 different condoms we tested, almost one-third did not release any detectable levels of nitrosamines. Approximately another third released levels that fall below a regulatory standard for certain rubber toys set by the European Union. Of the remaining third with levels exceeding the EU limit, half the makers have indicated that they have begun to monitor and reduce the level of nitrosamines in their products. We applaud the actions of those who have worked proactively to ensure their products are as safe as possible and we urge other manufacturers to follow suit.

“Exposure to nitrosamines through condoms is minimal compared to our exposure from other sources. To put things in perspective, we estimate that the level of nitrosamines in our daily intake of food is at least *five times* higher than the average exposure to nitrosamines from using a condom one time. But because we are exposed to nitrosamines from food, drinking water, and a wide range of consumer products, it is important to eliminate exposures to the substance wherever possible. Nitrosamines in condoms are unnecessary and should be removed.

“Let us be clear: the benefits of condoms – including protection from HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancy prevention - far outweigh the risk of nitrosamine exposure from the use of some condoms.

“Condoms are an essential tool for protecting sexual and reproductive health. With the elimination of nitrosamines from condoms, they’ll be even better.”

###

Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project is available for comment upon request.

To see a copy of the report, click [here](#).