

## **Australian Consumers Can Use Air Fresheners and Laundry Products with Confidence: US reports of little relevance to Australian regulation**

The Australian consumer and cleaning products industry places the highest regard on the safety and environmental performance of its products.

Our industry's products are regulated for safety by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) and the Federal Health Department's Office of Chemical Safety.

These government agencies independently assess the safety of ingredients in consumer or cleaning products, like air fresheners and laundry products, and have a watching brief to assess any new studies, reports or concerns.

Any ingredients in consumer products that could present a tangible risk to the public are regulated by the Federal Health Department's National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC). NDPSC is an independent expert scientific body which sets label warnings and safety directions for products used in Australian households.

A recent US paper published in the journal *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* analysed a very small number of air freshener and laundry products sold on the US market to determine their compliance with US regulations.

The US industry body, CSPA, states that this paper "is misleading and has a number of factual inaccuracies" and that the paper wrongly concludes that these products are not regulated in the USA.

This latest US paper has little relevance or significance for Australian consumers.

Our industry supports the strong, independent and expert regulatory system in operation in Australia under NICNAS and the federal Health Department.

The protection of public health is the centrepiece of the Australian regulatory system.

Australian consumers can continue to use household cleaning products with confidence and in the knowledge that they are safe when used in accordance with the safety directions on the product label.

4 August 2008