

SYLKO NSP (PTY) LTD

Reg No: 2004/012460/07

Vat No: 4360215471

Head Office: Durban

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04 March 2026

Dear Valued Consumers,

RE: MEDIA RELEASE ON BIASED CHEMICAL STUDY CONDUCTED BY UFS

We refer to recent media reports regarding a study conducted by the University of the Free State (UFS) on sanitary products.

Sylko NSP (Pty) Ltd, manufacturer of the Comfitex range of sanitary products, wishes to provide clarity and reassurance to consumers, stakeholders and the media.

1. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Our products are fully compliant with:

- **SANS 1043:2021 (Edition 3.1)** – the applicable South African National Standard governing sanitary pads and pantyliners
- Applicable European Union safety requirements
- Applicable United States FDA safety standards
- **ISO 9001:2015 certification** for quality management systems

We comply with all mandatory safety, hygiene and microbiological testing requirements prescribed under SANS 1043:2021, including biological evaluation and microbiological testing for:

- Enterobacteriaceae
- Staphylococcus aureus
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Our products have been available in the South African market for over 40 years without any verified link to endocrine-related health conditions.

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2. POSITION ON PARABENS, PHTHALATES AND BISPHENOLS

Sylko NSP does **not intentionally add parabens, phthalates, bisphenols (including BPA)** or other endocrine-disrupting chemicals to its sanitary products. These substances are not required in the formulation or manufacture of sanitary pads.

It is important to distinguish between:

- **Intentional formulation**, and
- **Trace environmental detection**

Modern laboratory equipment can detect extremely small quantities of substances — often measured in nanograms per gram (parts per billion). These levels are microscopic and may reflect environmental background presence rather than product formulation.

Detection at trace levels does not automatically indicate risk. Safety assessments internationally are based on **exposure levels**, not mere detectability.

3. INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY CONTEXT

United States (FDA)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not established fixed percentage bans on parabens, phthalates or BPA in cosmetic-type applications. The FDA evaluates safety based on exposure data and has stated that it does not currently have evidence showing parabens, as used in cosmetics, pose a health risk.

European Union

The EU permits certain parabens within strict limits:

- 0.4% (methyl/ethyl parabens)
 - 0.14% (propyl/butyl parabens)
- Restricted phthalates are limited to 0.1%.

South Africa

South Africa does not prescribe specific concentration limits for parabens, phthalates or bisphenols in sanitary pads. Instead, compliance is governed through SANS 1043 biological and safety evaluations.

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Our products remain compliant with all applicable local and international regulatory frameworks.

4. SAFETY TESTING AND QUALITY CONTROL

The Comfitex range undergoes:

- Independent laboratory testing by accredited facilities
- Raw material verification from approved suppliers
- Ongoing in-process quality control
- Final product testing prior to release

In light of current public interest, we have embarked on testing scope to include additional screening of the referenced chemical categories in our current range. This is a voluntary step to further reinforce consumer confidence and discredit the UFS study.

There is currently no regulatory basis indicating that our products are unsafe.

5. COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COMMISSION

We acknowledge that the **National Consumer Commission (NCC)** has initiated an investigation following a complaint.

We respect the NCC's statutory mandate under the Consumer Protection Act and will fully cooperate with the process. We are confident that our compliance documentation and testing records will demonstrate adherence to all applicable standards.

6. CONSUMER TRANSPARENCY

We confirm that:

- Our product labelling complies with current legal requirements.
- We make no false or misleading claims on our packaging.
- We do not market our products as “chemical-free.”
- We confirm that we do not add any chemicals in any of our sanitary products.

Should any future regulatory directives be issued, we will ensure continued compliance.

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7. PUBLIC ASSURANCE

To our customers:

Your safety, health and confidence remain our highest priorities.

Comfitex products:

- Are fully compliant with SANS 1043:2021
- Align with applicable EU and US FDA safety principles
- Are manufactured under ISO 9001 certified quality systems
- Undergo rigorous safety and hygiene testing

Trace detections reported in recent UFS study refer to extremely minute quantities measured in parts per billion. Such measurements do not equate to unsafe exposure under normal use conditions.

We remain committed to responsible manufacturing, regulatory compliance and continuous quality improvement.

8. OEKO-TEX COMMENT

We note ongoing public discussion regarding OEKO-TEX Standard 100 certification. While this is a voluntary textile certification system, it does not supersede national regulatory authorities such as the FDA or applicable EU legislation. Certification under any voluntary scheme does not replace compliance with statutory requirements.

CONCLUSION

Sylko NSP (Pty) Ltd stands by the safety and regulatory compliance of the Comfitex brand. We will continue to engage constructively with regulators and stakeholders and remain committed to transparency and consumer protection.

For further information, please contact:

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