Position Statement on BROAD SPECTRUM PROTECTION OF SUNSCREEN PRODUCTS

(Approved by the Board of Directors August 5, 2000;
Amended by the Board of Directors April 21, 2007
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The American Academy of Dermatology recommends using a 'broad-spectrum' (UVA and UVB protection) sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and meeting the UVA protection criteria defined below.

Recommendations for UVA Protection:

1. Sunscreen UVB protection, as reflected by SPF, is an important initial consideration for sunscreen potency.

2. Sunscreen UVA protection, as determined by in vitro (critical wavelength) and in vivo (persistent pigment darkening [PPD]) testing measures is an equally important consideration for sunscreen potency.

3. The UVA protection factor (UVA-PF) of a sunscreen should reflect at least a ten (10)-fold increase in the UVA dose needed to induce a PPD response, and must be accompanied by a critical wavelength of 370 – 400 nm.

4. An increase in sunscreen SPF must be accompanied by a proportional increase in the UVA protection factor as measured by the PPD method. The ratio of UVA:UVB protection factors should be 1:3 at a minimum (e.g., an SPF 30 sunscreen will have at least a UVA-PF of 10).

5. Only sunscreens that demonstrate both UVA and UVB protection may claim 'broad-spectrum' coverage.

6. It is recommended that these 'broad-spectrum' sunscreens. The specifics of the UVA:UVB proportionality could be displayed for consumer information on the product container.

7. Increased funding should be provided for photobiology research to help elucidate UVA-induced mechanisms of skin injury and provide for the development of enhanced UVA filters.