

**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; November 14, 2009; November 5, 2022)**

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.¹
2. Sunscreen UVA protection, as determined by in vitro (critical wavelength) testing measures, is an equally important consideration for sunscreen potency.²
3. A mean critical wavelength of 370 nm or greater is needed for sunscreen to be classified as broad spectrum.³
4. An increase in sunscreen SPF must be accompanied by an increase in the UVA protection factor.² The UVA I (340-400 nm) irradiance should be greater or equal to 60% of the total UV irradiance.³
5. Only sunscreens that demonstrate both UVA and UVB protection may claim 'broad-spectrum' coverage.
6. It is recommended that these 'broad-spectrum' sunscreens be clearly labeled for consumer convenience.
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.

References:

1. Sunscreen: How to Help Protect Your Skin from the Sun. Food & Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/understanding-over-counter-medicines/sunscreen-how-help-protect-your-skin-sun>. Accessed September 6, 2022.
2. Labeling and effectiveness testing; sunscreen drug products for over-the-counter human use. Final rule. *Fed Regist.* 2011;76(117):35620-35665.
3. 21CFR201.327. Food & Drug Administration. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-l/subchapter-C/part-201/subpart-G/section-201.327>. Updated August 29, 2022. Accessed September 6, 2022.

This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.