

# Statement on Tampons as a Source of Exposure to Metal(loid)s

16 July 2024

Menstrual products such as tampons and pads have been used safely worldwide for decades. They contribute to the well-being, hygiene, quality of life, and self-confidence of their users.



Our members, who produce most of the products sold in Europe, the UK and the U.S., are committed to upholding the highest safety and compliance standards. All their products adhere to regional and national regulatory frameworks<sup>[1]</sup> and are safe for their intended use, providing consumers with a sense of security and confidence. Furthermore, our members comply with the European<sup>[2]</sup> and UK<sup>[3]</sup> codes of practice for tampon manufacturers and distributors. Recognised by the relevant authorities, these codes play an important self-regulatory role in reinforcing manufacturers' commitment to safety.

We note the study by Shearston and co-authors (Tampons as a source of exposure to metal(loid)s—ScienceDirect). While we do not believe it is the article's primary intent, we are concerned that it may raise unnecessary concerns about tampon safety, as the study's scope did not extend to assessing the risk posed to consumers during tampon use. Over 100

