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## **THE INTERNATIONAL CARWASH ASSOCIATION POSITION ON THE USE OF HYDROFLUORIC ACID IN THE CAR WASH INDUSTRY**

As part of the International Carwash Association's® mission to serve members and the global car wash community, the Association has re-evaluated its position on the use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) in the car wash industry. In consultation with the vendor and operator members, particularly those members with experience and expertise in chemical safety and usage, the Association releases this statement.

The International Carwash Association is concerned with the safety of its members, their employees and customers and the global car wash industry, and is an advocate for the safe use of chemicals in the cleaning of customer vehicles. The use of HF has long been a topic of importance to the industry. The Association has listened to its members' concerns on this issue and has re-evaluated its position in response.

Although it is the ultimate responsibility of governmental authorities to regulate chemicals and their use, the International Carwash Association is committed to informing the professional car wash community and public about safety concerns related to the use of chemicals in the industry.

In general, the International Carwash Association does not take a position in favor of or in opposition to the use of any particular chemical product and it is not equipped to monitor or 'police' the use of any particular chemical. Nonetheless, because of the unique characteristics of hydrofluoric acid (HF) and its precursor salts (principally ammonium bifluoride or ABF) and the potential of serious injury that may result from the use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) and ammonium bifluoride (ABF) in the carwash environment, the International Carwash Association has issued this Advisory Statement:

HF and its precursors (ABF) are sometimes used as ingredients in certain 'heavy duty cleaning' products, including wall cleaners and wheel cleaners. Because of the unique hazards and human toxicity of HF and ABF that can cause catastrophic personal injury and because of the necessity of proper training and protective gear for the handling and use of HF and ABF in a carwash environment, the International Carwash Association strongly recommends that carwash owners not use HF or ABF.

In developing this Policy, the International Carwash Association has reviewed the currently available literature and consulted with various sources including Honeywell, the world's largest producer of HF, which provided the following statement:

"Because hydrofluoric acid is a very reactive chemical that can be very harmful, Honeywell believes HF should only be used by people who are specifically and thoroughly trained in its proper use and handling and have the necessary protective equipment to handle the chemical safely. Because of this, Honeywell, as a matter of policy, does not sell to anyone who does not have specific training and safety procedures in handling HF."

