

PUBLIC NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2020

Pursuant to RPPL 10-30, reef-toxic sunscreens are prohibited in the Republic of Palau, and may not be sold or imported on or after January 1, 2020. Any sunscreen imported or offered for sale after January 1, 2020 will be subject to confiscation.

Reef-toxic sunscreens are those that contain any of the following prohibited chemicals:

Oxybenzone (BP3)
Octylmethoxycinnamate (EHMC)
Octocrylene (OC)
4-methyl-benzylidene camphor (4MBC)
Triclosan
Methyl Paraben
Ethyl Paraben
Butyl Paraben
Benzyl Paraben
Phenoxythanol

Retailers are advised that the **sale of reef-toxic sunscreen on or after January 1, 2020 will be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 per violation.**

“Reef-Safe” sunscreens that do not contain any prohibited chemicals may be imported and sold in the Republic. Hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and other visitor-facing businesses are asked for their kind cooperation in sharing this important information with customers.

This decision was made based on scientific research, and is necessary to protect Palau’s pristine coral reefs and unique marine ecosystems.