

**ICON™ INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON NANOTECHNOLOGY**
A partnership for nanotechnology stewardship and sustainability



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**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL PUTS BfR RELEASE ON “MAGIC NANO” IN
CONTEXT**

The International Council of Nanotechnology (ICON) is committed to the assessment, communication, and reduction of the environmental and health risks of nanotechnology while maximizing its societal benefit. As such, we seek out information and attempt to provide a multi-stakeholder perspective on complex technical issues of nanotechnology risk.

Recently we learned of the recall of a bathroom sealer product (BfR release March 31, 2006 (www.bfr.bund.de/cms5w/sixcms/detail.php/7699)). The recall is an important reminder of the need to be vigilant about product safety, regardless of the technology, and to take immediate action to protect public health when health effects are discovered. We support the producer's decision to recall the product.

Although its name (MagicNano) suggests it is a product of nanotechnology, a spokesperson for Germany's Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), which initiated the recall, expressed doubts about whether there is any “nano” in the product at all. Without knowing the cause of the reported health effects, it is premature to assign blame to a specific ingredient or class of materials. This recall highlights the need for clarity with respect to terminology, hazard identification, cause and effect, and risk communication.

We urge the regulatory authorities to complete their investigations before drawing conclusions about the health risks of other products based on the health effects of Magic Nano. We urge companies introducing products to the marketplace to engage in thorough safety reviews of their products before going to market, regardless of whether or not the products contain nanomaterials or other products of nanotechnology.