

IADSA NEWSFLASH

FEBRUARY 2008

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KEY EVENTS

IADSA

The International Alliance of Dietary /Food Supplements Associations was founded in 1998 to address the globalization of dietary supplement markets and increasing regulatory challenges. IADSA brings together 58 dietary supplement associations with the aim of building a sound legislative and political environment for the development of the dietary supplement market worldwide.

IADSA serves its worldwide network of associations and companies by:

- Providing a fast flow of regulatory and policy information on dietary supplements, ensuring that there is an awareness and understanding of new developments.
- Coordinating strategy and action on global regulatory issues, particularly in relation to Codex Alimentarius initiatives.
- Widening and deepening the network of associations around the world by helping the establishment of new dietary supplement associations and supporting existing national associations.
- Organizing global and regional events to promote dialogue on the scientific and regulatory issues underpinning the dietary supplement market.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

U CODEX

FOOD ADDITIVES: COLOURS

The Codex Secretariat has recently circulated for comments the recommendations of the electronic working group (eWG) dealing with the adoption of Codex provisions on the use of food additives in food supplements and other food categories that will be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) at its next meeting in Beijing in April.

The eWG's recommendations include the use in food supplements of lycopene, aspartame-acesulfame salt and a range of food colours for which they consider that there is technical justification.

The eWG is recommending the adoption of these food additive provisions, in many cases at the maximum levels of use proposed by IADSA, who provided most of the substantiating data. However, in relation to some colours - Allura Red AC, Carotenoids, Erythrosine, Grape Skin Extracts, Indigotine, Ponceau 4R and Sunset Yellow FCF - the justification provided has not been sufficient and the eWG recommends levels lower than those initially proposed by IADSA.

IADSA is now seeking further information from its members to further support the levels it has proposed.

For further information, contact the IADSA Secretariat at secretariat@iadsa.be

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR HEALTH CLAIMS

At its last meeting, the Codex Committee on Nutrition agreed to establish an electronic working group (eWG), led by France, to re-draft the proposed draft Recommendations on the Scientific Basis of Health Claims.

France is now seeking comment on general issues from last year's discussion in the Committee. IADSA is a member of that working group and has developed comments which will be submitted to the eWG before the end of the month.

IADSA's comments particularly emphasise:

- support for the concept of grading of scientific evidence as a practical and feasible way of reflecting emerging and consensus science
- concern that the current emphasis on all health claims being based on human intervention studies may not be feasible
- that the substantiation of health claims should be carried out on a case by case basis and the degree of substantiation and the sources and

nature of the supporting evidence should be proportionate to the type of health claim and take into account the totality of the available evidence and the weighing of the evidence.

There will be opportunity to provide comments on the re-drafted recommendations before the text is sent to the Committee for discussion at its next meeting, to be held in South Africa in November.

For further information, contact the IADSA Secretariat at secretariat@iadsa.be

ASIA

U JAPAN

THE JAPANESE HEALTH FOOD MARKET IN 2007

The market size of the Japanese health food market in 2007, excluding FOSHU products was about 10.93 billion US\$ - down by 2.5% compared with the previous year.

Following a peak of 11.85 billion US\$ in 2005, the market has now decreased for two years due to the apparent loss of consumer confidence on the safety of health foods and the strengthening of regulations on label descriptions.

In contrast, the market size of FOSHU in 2007 was 6.6 billion US\$, a 6.0% increase on 2006. It is expected that this market will continue to increase as a result of the newly enforced statutory health examination for Japanese population aged 40 – 75 years, part of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) policy to prevent metabolic syndromes.

Source: JIHFS

A NEW LAW FOR FOOD SUPPLEMENTS?

Two new groups were founded last December with the aim of establishing a comprehensive new law for food supplements. One is made up of non-partisan Diet (Parliamentary) members, including the Liberal Democratic Party, the Democratic Party and the New Komeito, and currently has 44 members. The other group, the Executive Council, is primarily made up of the presidents or board members of major Japanese food supplement marketing companies.

At its January meeting, the Chairman of the Council, Hirobumi Ohama, Ph.D. presented the rough draft of the new law. During the year, the new groups are going to work in close cooperation to prepare a full draft of the proposed law.

Source: JIHFS

EUROPE

U EUROPEAN UNION

MINIMUM LEVELS FOR VITAMINS AND MINERALS

The Working Group at the European Commission discussing minimum levels for vitamins and minerals have come to the conclusion that 15% of the recommended daily allowance is the minimum amount which supplements should contain, although some member states initially wanted a 30% minimum level.

While there are some industry concerns that the 15% minimum may be difficult for some multi-vitamin and mineral UK supplements, maximum levels remain the main concern and agreement is likely to be much harder to achieve, since what is considered a safe or acceptable level of certain vitamins and minerals varies enormously amongst Member States. The Commission is taking a stepwise approach to discuss all issues with member states and expects to issue its formal proposal towards the end of the year.

Source: EHPM

LIMITS FOR HEAVY METALS

The current (third) draft of the European Commission's proposal for setting heavy metal limits in food supplements, which is an amendment to the main contaminants Regulation (No. 1881/2006), suggests that:

- maximum levels of lead in finished products must not exceed 3.0 mg/kg. This applies to all food supplements and also to dried seaweed not marketed as a food supplement. The definition of a finished product is the supplement as sold to the consumer.
- As seaweed naturally accumulates cadmium, supplements consisting exclusively or mainly of dried seaweed can contain higher levels of cadmium than other supplements. A maximum level of 3.0 mg/kg of cadmium has been set for supplements consisting exclusively or mainly of seaweed and also for other products derived from seaweed. For all other supplements the maximum level for cadmium is 1.0 mg/kg.

Thanks to continued lobbying from EHPM, these levels are now more achievable than those originally proposed. It should be noted that the Commission is also to consider setting maximum levels for lead and cadmium in herbal teas and plant infusions when more data becomes available.

Source: EHPM

NEW PROPOSAL ON CONSUMER FOOD INFORMATION

The European Commission's revised proposal on the provision of food information to consumers, officially issued on 30 January, addresses a number of the problematic issues in the previous text, in particular the exemption from the Nutrition Labelling Directive for supplements, but some further challenges remain:

- While the requirement for an 8 point minimum font size has been removed, it has been replaced with a minimum of 3 mm, which is expected to result in a minimum font size of 12 point.
- Mandatory labeling information must be provided on literature used in distance selling transactions
- Net quantity labelling: there is no opportunity simply to state the number of tablets/capsules in the package.

This proposal will now be considered by the other European institutions (European Parliament and Council) as part of the EU legislative process.

Source: EHPM

FISH OILS UPDATE

Together with other non-governmental organizations and new IADSA member, the Global Organisation for EPA and DHA Omega-3s, (GOED), the European Association of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers (EHPM) recently took part in a Working Group (WG) meeting on hygiene requirements for fish oil for human consumption. The Member State representatives on the WG are from Denmark, France, Spain, UK, Lithuania, Norway and Iceland and the European Commission.

The invited organizations, by illustrating different problematic issues in the production process (stability, shelf life, oxidization, melting, pharmacopoeial criteria, etc.), were able to demonstrate that the EHPM's position was common to the industry. Importantly, the majority of the WG was also convinced that solutions were both possible and necessary.

However, it would appear that the WG still has some strong differences in opinion amongst the group as to the appropriate hygiene measures for the regulation of crude oil, and are continuing to discuss quality standards in addition to food safety/hygiene issues.

The Commission will now consider the progress made during the meeting and will draft some proposals for the WG to consider and a further series of meetings will be held before the Standing Committee votes on the issue at the end of April. EHPM will continue to provide input as required to these

meetings, particularly on the parameters for crude oil at point of import.

Source: EHPM

EFSA OPINION OF THE SETTING ON NUTRIENT PROFILES

EFSA's Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergens (NDA) Panel has just delivered scientific advice to assist the European Commission and the EU Member States in defining nutrient profiles for foods bearing nutrition and health claims.

The Panel has defined scientific criteria that could be utilised by EU policy makers in assessing which foods may carry nutrition and health claims. The Panel concluded that the main scientific consideration in establishing nutrient profiles is the potential of a food to adversely affect overall dietary balance, as defined by nutrient intake recommendations. The dietary role of different food groups must also be taken into account and the nutrient profiles should be consistent with food-based dietary guidelines established in EU Member States.

In preparing its scientific advice to the Commission, the Panel reviewed a wide range of reports and papers on nutrient profiles and considered views from stakeholders.

In addition to this Opinion, EFSA will continue to assist the European Commission in establishing a nutrient profile scheme, by developing a suitable food composition database and providing advice on its use in testing any proposed system.

Although exemptions from application of nutrient profiles are discussed in the opinion document for certain categories of foods, there is no mention by EFSA of exemption for food supplements. The EHPM will therefore re-iterate the request for an exemption for food supplements to the Member States and the Commission.

For further information on the EFSA Opinion:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178689506673.htm

Source: EHPM

HEALTH CLAIMS UPDATE

Article 13 Health Claims submissions under Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims have now been submitted by the competent food authorities of EU Member States to the European Commission. They will be screened, filtered and assembled into a consolidated list by the Commission for onward submission to EFSA for their review.

Different Member States have themselves screened submissions to differing extents. For example, Slovenia has allowed only 8 health claims to be sent

to the Commission whereas the Netherlands has submitted around 3,000 health claims.

The final Guidelines (dated 14 December 07) from the Commission on the implementation of the Regulation have now been released. These have however not solved all interpretation issues and diverging voices from national authorities are being heard, for example on the interpretation of what are health claims intended for children.

Source: EHPM

BOTANICALS CONSULTATION

Further to the report in last month's 'Newsflash', the European Botanical Forum (EBF) has now submitted extremely detailed and comprehensive comment pointing out the many flaws in the draft document prepared by the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Committee on assessing the safety of botanicals used as food supplements, and the criteria to priorities such products for safety assessment. Similarly comprehensive comment has also been made on the two compendia that list botanicals that contain natural compounds that may deserve specific attention when looking at their safe use in food.

The European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers (EHPM), the European Responsible Nutrition Alliance (ERNA), many of their national association members, and individual companies have all also submitted similar responses.

The EBF has also written directly to the EFSA Executive Director, in particular to express their concern about the underlying medicinal 'mindset' of the EFSA Committee's draft document, and the potential consequences for botanical substances under food law.

Source: ERNA / EHPM

UNFAVOURABLE OPINION ON SEVERAL SOURCES OF VANADIUM FOR FOOD SUPPLEMENT USE

The EU Food Supplement Directive provides for the addition of sources of vitamins and minerals which are currently authorised for use at national level under its Annex 2 subject to a positive evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

More than 450 applications have been submitted to EFSA for evaluation and EFSA is starting to deliver its opinions. An unfavourable opinion has recently been issued on the following sources of Vanadium:

- vanadium citrate
- bismaltolato oxo vanadium
- bisglycinato oxo vanadium

- vanadyl sulphate
- vanadium pentoxide
- ammonium monovanadate

These sources will no longer be permitted for use in food supplements and in practice this would mean that products containing such substances would have to be removed from the national markets of EU countries.

Source: EHPM

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EuroFIR-BASIS DATABASE

The EuroFIR-BASIS (BioActive Substances in Food Information System) is an online database that collates international research on the composition and biological effects of plant-based bioactive compounds into a single, comprehensive reference resource.

Intended for use by a wide audience, including scientists, researchers, epidemiologists, food regulatory authorities and product developers in the food industry, the database covers multiple compound classes and 330 major European food plants with data sourced from quality-assessed, peer-reviewed literature.

Source: ERNA

REVISIONS TO PROCEDURES FOR NOVEL FOODS

A proposal by the European Commission to revise the Novel Foods Regulation which has been on their agenda for over 5 years, was finally published in January 2008. (A novel food is defined in the Regulation as a food or food ingredient that has not been used to a 'significant degree' in the European Union (EU) before May 1997).

While the proposal will not necessarily make it easier for a company to decide whether or not their ingredient is novel, it does shorten the application procedure (from an average of three years to one) as applications will be sent direct to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for approval instead of having first to be assessed by EU member states.

A further easement will particularly benefit ingredients from outside Europe: at present traditional foods from third countries must undergo the same assessment as for entirely new ingredients. However, under the revised proposal, this is replaced by the requirement for notification and demonstration of history of safe food use in the country of origin.

Source: ERNA

RICE DRINKS WITH PLANT STEROLS/STANOLS AUTHORISED

Despite concerns that the introduction of rice drinks with added phytosterols/phytosterols might increase the risk of over-consumption, the

European Commission has now authorized the placing on the market of rice drinks with added phytosterols/phytosterols as a novel food under Regulation.

The reason for the Commission's decision is that they consider that Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 of 31 March 2004 concerning the labelling of foods and food ingredients with added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytosterols and/or phytosterol esters should ensure that consumers receive the information necessary to avoid excessive intake of additional phytosterols.

Source: EHPM

EFSA CALL FOR DATA ON NANOTECHNOLOGY

The European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Committee published in January a 'Call for Scientific Data on Applications of Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials used in Food and Feed'. This data is requested from third parties to contribute to the preparation of EFSA's draft opinion on Nanotechnology. The European Commission had addressed a mandate for such an opinion to EFSA last year, and in November 2007, the EFSA Scientific Committee appointed an expert working group to start work on this. The EFSA draft opinion is now scheduled for public consultation in July 2008.

The EFSA draft opinion will be aiming to:

- identify the nature of the possible hazards associated with actual and foreseen applications in food & feed
- provide general guidance on data needed for the risk assessment of such technologies and applications.

The deadline for data submission by third parties is set to 28 March in order to give EFSA sufficient time to consider it in its opinion.

For further information, please go to:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178680756675.htm

Source: EHPM

u **BELGIUM**

THREAT TO BOTANICAL FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

The proposal by the Belgian Medicines Agency (AFMPS) to transpose Directive EU 2004/24 on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (THMP) into national law is likely to threaten the status of botanical food supplements authorized by Royal Decree in Belgium since 1997. AFMPS want plant-based traditional medicines on the market in 2006 to be notified to the authorities within 6 months of the publication of the proposal. Products which are not

notified but which fall under the scope of the proposal must be removed from the market one month after the deadline for the notification.

AFMPS also intends to delete the 'ambivalent' plants (those used in both food supplements and medicines) from the list of botanicals authorized for food supplement use under the Royal Decree. Their justification is that many of these plants have European Medicines Evaluation Agency monographs, and under the THMP are therefore 'medicinal by function'. This is likely to affect the status of many plant-based food supplements previously authorized for sale in Belgium and their free sale status in the wider European Union.

The Belgian supplement association, NAREDI, is now considering actions that could be taken to maintain the status of plant-based food supplements authorized under the Royal Decree of 1997.

Source: NAREDI

U FRANCE

NEW ADVICE ON BOTANICALS

Continuing the debate on the future of botanicals, AFSSA, the French food safety authority has recently posted on their website an important new advice which, while it accepts that many plants are considered by the French medicines authorities to be 'medicinal by function', also confirms that under appropriate circumstances, there is the possibility of the co-existence of botanical food supplements and herbal medicines using the same pharmacopoeial references.

Source: SYNADIET

U IRELAND

CLAIMS LIST SUBMITTED

The Food Standards Authority of Ireland (FSAI) submitted this month its list of Health Claims to the European Commission. Some of the main points are as follows:

- FSAI sent a list of 314 health claims to the Commission
- The final list of claims approved by EFSA will be the only health claims allowed on food products from 31 Jan 2010 onwards
- All claims submitted to the FSAI have been included on the list. However, this does not mean that the claims are in any way endorsed or approved by the FSAI or the Department of Health & Children (DoHC).
- FSAI did not check scientific references to the evidence substantiating claims. This is the role of EFSA.

For further detail, see http://www.fsai.ie/news/press/pr_08/pr20080212.asp

Source: IHTA

U **NETHERLANDS**

MINISTRY SUBMITS ARTICLE 13 HEALTH CLAIMS LIST

The Dutch Ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sports submitted ten categorised lists with thousands of health claims to the European Commission. These lists contain vitamins, minerals, botanicals, diets, etc. related to approximately 2300 health relationships, including the 776 of the industry list established by CIAA/EHPM/ERNA/EBF.

The Dutch Ministry published the lists with potential article 13 health claims on the website: <http://www.row.minvws.nl/content.aspx?cid=176>.

Source: NPN

U **TURKEY**

NEW LAWS TO HELP GROW SUPPLEMENT MARKET?

In recent years, the Turkish supplement market has benefited from new legislation which gave official recognition to dietary supplements under food law and simplified importation procedures.

Now, the Turkish supplement association, BesDesDer, is hopeful that an additional law, specifically for food supplements will come into force by the end of the year. It is expected that the new law will cover labeling, limits on vitamins and minerals, hygiene conditions and production methods - and, in particular, claims, which are currently very restricted.

Source: BESDES DER

U **UNITED KINGDOM**

UK SUPPLEMENT DEROGATIONS CONFIRMED

The UK Health Food Manufacturers' Association has received confirmation that provided there is no safety concern, the UK Food Standards Agency will continue to allow derogations on supplement ingredients for which dossiers have been submitted to the European Food Safety Authority for evaluation for inclusion in Annex 2 of the Food Supplements Directive to run until 2009 - even if these applications have subsequently been withdrawn.

Source: HFMA

ROYAL JELLY AND CHLORAMPHENICAL CONTAMINATION

The UK Veterinary Residues Committee is shortly to publish the results of a survey of various Royal Jelly products. It is understood that the survey identifies 'quite a lot' as being contaminated with chloramphenicol.

Royal Jelly imports from China were banned in the European Union after a scare in 2002, and the subsequent lifting of the ban in 2005 was on the grounds that '*each shipment undergoes pre-shipment checks for the presence of the illegal veterinary medicine chloramphenicol*'.

For further information, see www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk

Source: HFMA

NORTH AMERICA

u CANADA

NEW DOCUMENTATION FOR NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

Canada's Natural Health Product Directorate has recently reminded industry that the compliance date for Priority 5 vitamin and mineral natural health products was January 1st 2008 and that those Priority 5 products which present an unacceptable risk to health or have not been issued a submission number by that date will be subject to compliance action.

Source: CHFA

u UNITED STATES

COMMENT ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENT CLAIMS GUIDANCE SOUGHT

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking public comment on the information collection provisions of the draft Guidance for Industry: Substantiation for Dietary Supplement Claims Made Under Section 403(r)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

FDA invites comments on:

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FDA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility

- the accuracy of FDA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used
- ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected
- ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Source: UNPA

PROPOSAL TO BAN NUTRIENT CONTENT CLAIMS FOR EPA AND DHA
OMEGA-3

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed a prohibition on nutrient content claims for EPA and DHA omega-3s, despite having allowed them in the market since 2004.

Per US regulations, the levels associated with nutrient content claims need to be based on authoritative statements by scientific regulatory bodies in the US or by the direct establishment of a Daily Value for the nutrient by the FDA.

FDA is arguing that no such statements were made, but the Global Organisation for EPA and DHA Omega-3s (GOED) and a number of other industry groups filed comments this month with the FDA to refute these arguments on the basis that the Institute of Medicine has made an authoritative statement on the adequate intake of EPA and DHA. In addition, the groups filed legal arguments questioning FDA's ability to make such a rule given existing legislation that preserves commercial free speech and is designed to get accurate health information in the hands of consumers.

Source: GOED

EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD ON REVISION OF NRVs

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is extending to April 30, the comment period for the advance notice of proposed rulemaking on what new reference values the agency should use to calculate the percent daily value in the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels and what factors the agency should consider in establishing such new reference values.

In addition, FDA has requested comments on whether it should require that certain nutrients be added or removed from the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels. The agency is taking this action in response to requests for an extension to allow interested persons additional time to submit comments.

Source: NPA

FDA TO POST INSPECTORS OVERSEAS?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that it intends to post inspectors to embassies and consulates throughout the developing world, with the aim of improving the quality of food and medicines coming into the United States.

FDA already sends inspectors abroad to inspect pharmaceutical plants, etc., but FDA Commissioner Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach has recently said that he wants the agency's presence abroad, particularly in areas where the flow of imports has increased, such as India, China, the Middle East and Central and Southern America, to be on an *'ongoing and continuous basis rather than episodic and periodic'*.

Source: AHPA

NEW BILL THREATENS DHEA

Following recent reports of athletic abuse of anabolic steroids, opponents of dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) have proposed a new Bill which would limit access and sales of DHEA. However, because DHEA has no proven performance-enhancing effects, the bill would in fact do nothing to prevent the abuse of anabolic steroids by athletes.

Together with other US dietary supplement associations, the US Natural Products Association is urging its members to talk to their legislators and take action to prevent passage of this bill. To quote Steven Mister, President of the US Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN US), *'Hundreds and thousands of older adults safely and responsibly use DHEA due to their bodies' inability to effectively produce healthy hormone levels on their own.'*

Source: NPA / CRN US

FTC SETTLES WITH ONLINE ALTERNATIVE HRT CLAIMS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has announced a consent agreement with online sellers of alternative hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products that settles charges that they made health claims for their products without adequate scientific substantiation.

During an Internet search of websites advertising alternative HRT products carried out in September 2007, FTC found that many marketers were making disease cure and prevention claims for products marketed as dietary supplements. The consent agreement marks the fact that such marketers have now agreed to modify their advertising.

Source: UNPA

USP URGED TO DROP LABEL WARNINGS

The American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) has submitted comment to the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP), asking that they refrain from requiring cautionary statements on products containing USP black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa* syn. *Cimicifuga racemosa*) or USP powdered decaffeinated green tea (*Camilla sinensis*) extract. USP's proposed statements are:

Caution: In rare cases black cohosh has been reported to affect the liver. Discontinue use and consult a healthcare practitioner if you have a liver disorder or develop symptoms of liver trouble, such as abdominal pain, dark urine, or jaundice.

Caution: Must take with a meal. In rare cases extracts from green tea have been reported to adversely affect the liver. Discontinue use and consult a healthcare practitioner if you have a liver disorder or develop symptoms of liver trouble, such as abdominal pain, dark urine, or jaundice.

Regarding black cohosh, AHPA notes:

- ◆ USP has not considered the full range of products that may contain a variety of different forms of black cohosh or that the proposed caution is actually warranted for all dosages and use patterns.
- ◆ That the need for a cautionary statement was based on an inappropriately narrow review of case reports, which without supportive data are insufficient to justify the proposed cautionary labeling.

On green tea, AHPA comments that:

- ◆ The proposed labeling would be required for instances where it is clearly not warranted (e.g. preparations containing USP powdered decaffeinated green tea extract in dosage forms that closely approximate/would be indistinguishable from traditional green tea beverages).
- ◆ USP has failed to describe needed additional research that would adequately address uncertainties, and has not identified criteria by which their codified cautionary statements would reasonably be removed.

AHPA has also suggested an alternative to a recently adopted ingredient safety classification system developed by the USP'S Dietary Supplement Information Expert Committee (DSI-EC) which classifies ingredients as : Class 1 (safe with no labeling statement), Class 2 (safe only with a suitable labeling statement), or Class 3 (not safe irrespective of label statements).

AHPA have suggested that instead of consumer label warnings there be a safety information section in the USP supplement ingredient monographs that presents the findings of the DSI-EC. This would allow manufacturers to apply the findings of the DSI-EC as appropriate on a product-by-product basis, and,

to quote Dr Steven Dentali, AHPA's vice president for scientific and technical affairs, maintain the '*...manufacturer's responsibility to produce safe products*'.

Source: AHPA

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

U AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

TIGHTER REGULATION FOR COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH PRODUCTS?

A small group of complementary medicine makers has backed a call for tighter regulation of alternative products. This follows the publication of a paper in the *Medical Journal of Australia* which found that claims for weight-loss products listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration were "often not in accord with the limited scientific evidence available".

However, the peak complementary industry group has stuck to its opposition to the analysis. The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia said its inquiries suggested that views of this very small group could not be considered representative.

Source: CHC

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KEY EVENTS: MARCH – DECEMBER 2008

Date	Conference	Place
March 12 -13	Nutracon http://www.nutraconference.com/	Anaheim, CA, United States
March 13 -16	Natural Products Expo West/SupplyExpo www.expowest.com/ / www.supplyexpo.com/	Anaheim, CA, United States
March 25 -27	Worldfood Uzbekistan 2008 www.worldfood.uz/en	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
March 31 -April 04	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) www.codexalimentarius.net	The Hague, The Netherlands
April 03 -06	CHFA Expo West www.chfa.ca	Vancouver, Canada
April 10 -14	Cosmoprof www.cosmoprof.com/en/	Bologna, Italy
April 21 -25	Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) www.codexalimentarius.net	Beijing, China
April 22 -24	Food Ingredients Central & Eastern Europe http://cee2008.fi-events.com/content/default.aspx	Warsaw, Poland
April 23 -24	IADSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) www.iadsa.org	Verona, Italy
April 28 -30	Supply Side East www.supplysideshow.com/east/	Secaucus, NJ, United States
April 28 -May 02	Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) www.codexalimentarius.net	Ottawa, Canada
May 06 -08	Vitafoods International www.vitafoods.eu.com/	Geneva, Switzerland
May 09 -11	Cosmofarma Exhibition 2008 www.cosmofarma.com/	Rome, Italy
June 03 -05	Food Ingredients South America http://south-america2008.fi-events.com/content/default.aspx	São Paulo, Brazil

June 24 -26	Health Ingredients/ Food Ingredients/ Natural Ingredients Asia-China http://asiachina2008.fi-events.com/	Shanghai, China
Date	Conference	Place
June 26 -28	Natural Products Expo Asia www.naturalproductsasia.com/	Hong Kong, China
June 25 -28	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius www.codexalimentarius.net	Geneva, Switzerland
June 26 -28	Natural Products Expo Asia www.naturalproductsasia.com/	Hong Kong, China
June 30 -July 05	Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) www.codexalimentarius.net	Geneva, Switzerland
July 13 -15	Cosmoprof North America 2008 -The Business of Beauty www.cosmoprofnorthamerica.com/	Las Vegas, NV, United States
July 17 -19	Natural MarketPlace 2008 www.naturalproductsassoc.org	Las Vegas, NV, United States
September 11 -14	CHFA Expo East www.chfa.ca	Toronto, Canada
September 11 -14	SANA 2008 www.sana.it	Bologna, Italy
September 24 -26	Food Ingredients Asia http://asia2008.fi-events.com/content/default.aspx	Bangkok, Thailand
October 03 -04	Food Ingredients India http://india2008.fi-events.com/content/default.aspx	Mumbai, India
October 15 -18	Natural Products Expo East www.expoeast.com/	Boston, MA, United States
October 17 - 19	Natural & Organic Products Exhibition www.naturalandorganic.co.za	Cape Town, South Africa
October 22 -24	Supply Side West www.supplysideshow.com/west/	Las Vegas, NV, United States
November 04 -06	Natural Ingredients/ Health Ingredients Europe 2008 www.ni-events.com / www.hi-events.com	Paris Nord, Villepinte, France
November 03 -07	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) www.codexalimentarius.net	South Africa (city to be confirmed)

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