

IADSA NEWSFLASH

JUNE 2007

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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

◆ IADSA

GLOBAL SURVEY OF MARKET TRENDS

IADSA is taking part in a major global survey which seeks information on the dietary supplement market in 2006 and opinions on key developments (including consumer trends, regulatory issues etc).

In order to ensure that the survey includes high quality data which can be used for the identification of significant future trends, all the associations that make up IADSA's worldwide membership have been encouraged to provide information.

For further details of the survey, see
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=745763901905>

◆ CODEX

ACTION ON ADDITIVES

At its next meeting in early July the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the decision-making body in Codex, will consider the final adoption of nine additives widely used in food supplements.

Earlier this year the Codex Committee on Food Additives agreed to recommend to the Commission to adopt the following nine additives at the levels proposed by IADSA: Acesulfame Potassium, Aspartame, Castor oil, Cyclamates, Neotame, Polysorbates, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Saccharin and Sucralose.

In order to avoid potential confusion in many countries and unnecessary barriers to trade, IADSA has asked its members to contact their national ministry officials to seek their support at the Commission meeting for the final adoption of these additives. Adoption means that the nine additives become official Codex provisions part of the General Standard for Food Additives.

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

RISK ANALYSIS, GINSENG AND ADVERTISING

Other issues of particular interest to the food supplement industry that will be also considered by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July are:

- As regards the Working Principles on Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by the Codex member countries, which are proposed for final adoption, IADSA and CRN USA are being active to ensure that this text is

adopted as it is currently drafted which excludes the precautionary principle. This principle is often used by the European Union to allow governments to take preventative measures where the scientific evidence about the safety of a food is uncertain. The European Union has continued consistently to try to introduce it into Codex texts.

- The Commission will consider whether to endorse the decision of the Codex Committee for Asia to advance the draft standard on Ginseng Products, initially proposed by the Korean government, to Step 5 of the 8-step Codex decision-making process and whether this draft standard should become a global Codex standard applicable to all regions and not only in Asia. IADSA provided comments to the Commission suggesting that this standard should focus on one species of ginseng only, that is, *Panax ginseng* C.A. Meyer. The text currently includes in its scope one additional species, *P. quinquefolius* L.

- In addition, the Commission will also consider whether to advance to Step 5 the improved draft definition of advertising in relation to nutrition and health claims as proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The following draft definition represents a compromise between the positions of Mexico, United States, the European Union and Norway:

“Advertising means any commercial communication to the public, by any means other than labelling, to promote directly or indirectly, the sale or intake of a food through the use of nutrition or health claims in relation to the food and its ingredients”

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

AFRICA

◆ SOUTH AFRICA

ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO MAKE CAMS AVAILABLE TO ALL

As part of a recent media update on progress towards the full acceptability and availability of Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMS) within the South African healthcare system, the Health Products Association of Southern Africa (HPA) outlined future plans, which included:

- A CAMS Training Academy
- An Health Shop and Pharmacy Assistants Training Course
- A healthcare Professional Training course at the University of Johannesburg
- Ongoing commitment to enhance consumer awareness and understanding of CAMS

Source: HPA

CENTRAL / SOUTH AMERICA

◆ COLOMBIA

NOTIFICATION OF FOOD SUPPLEMENTS REGULATION

Following the adoption by the Colombian government of a new regulation on dietary supplements last year, the government notified it to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Although this new regulation improves the regulatory situation in the country and pulls down some of the major obstacles to market access for dietary supplements, it does not provide a clear definition of dietary supplements as either food or drug and the government still considers them as drugs.

It is for this reason that the European Union (EU) has provided some comments to the WTO stating that the Colombian draft regulation should clarify the status of food supplements in their definition so as to provide economic operators legal certainty on the nature of these products also in relation to international trade. In addition, the EU also states that by not clarifying the food status of this category of products leaves the door open to treat food supplements as medicines by the Colombian authorities, which would limit the trade with other countries. To this effect, the European Union reminds that according to Article 2.2 of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade members shall ensure that technical regulations are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

The Colombian government has recently replied to the EU comments indicating that food supplements are defined as an specific category outside food and medicines law and that the new regulation does not constitute a technical barrier to trade since it requires that food supplements have to obtain sanitary registration to enter in the market like it is required to foods.

These recent Colombian comments are being evaluated carefully by the Colombian association ACSDA in cooperation with IADSA.

Source: ACSDA

EUROPE

◆ EUROPEAN UNION

DRAFT HEALTH CLAIMS GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published their draft Scientific and Technical Guidance for the Preparation and Presentation of an Application for the Authorisation of a Health Claim.

However, the Draft Guidance only outlines the requirements for applications made under article 14: reduction of disease risk claims and claims for children's development and health. It neither covers applications for claims under article 18, (those on the EU list based on newly developed evidence which include a request for protection of proprietary data), nor Article 13 applications intended for inclusion on the EU positive Register of established 'generic' health claims.

The absence of guidance for Article 18 claims is a particular concern for the food supplement industry because it would appear that EFSA and the European Commission may intend that no submissions can be made under that article until the Article 13 positive list of established health claims has been drawn up. As this will not be until 2010, there would be a three year period when companies wishing to make application would be unable to protect their proprietary data.

The consultation closes on June 17, and EHPM and ERNA have provided their comments. Further details of the consultation can be found on: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_consultation/health_claim.html

To allow interested parties to have an exchange of views on the Draft Guidance, a Technical Meeting organised by EFSA was held this week in Parma.

In general many delegations stated that the amount and detail of the data required for a submission is too demanding and time-consuming, especially in view of small and medium enterprises. It was especially remarked that the document did not allow for a simpler submission in case of assessment already by other expert panels. It was stressed by EFSA that the document would be continuously updated based on changing scientific environment and experience gained. It was remarked however how that would be done in practice.

In general the discussions were felt to be very useful and constructive although it is not clear to see if the guidance notes will be substantially amended and on what aspects.

A report of the meeting can be found at EFSA's website: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders_efsa/technical_meetings/sh_tm_nda.html

Source: EHPM / ERNA

EFSA OPINION ON MINERAL SOURCES

The European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food (AFC) was asked to evaluate the safety and bioavailability of calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium and zinc when added for nutritional purposes in foods intended for particular nutritional uses and in food supplements.

The Panel first pointed out that the safety of these nutrient cations themselves, in terms of amounts that may be consumed, was outside their remit. Then, on the assumption that all the nutrients are ingested as their pidolic acid salts at the same time, resulting in an intake of 3g/day L: pidolic acid, the Panel concluded that the use of calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium and zinc L-pidolic acid salts as sources for calcium iron, magnesium, potassium and zinc added for nutritional purposes to food supplements, and of L-pidolic acid salts of calcium, iron, magnesium and zinc as sources for calcium iron, magnesium and zinc added for nutritional purposes to food for particular nutritional uses, was of no safety concern at the maximum use levels indicated.

Source: EHPM

EFSA POSITIVE OPINION ON CALCIUM ASCORBATE

Following concerns about the safety and bioavailability of calcium ascorbate with a content of threonate for use as a source of vitamin C in food supplements, the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food (AFC) has now delivered a favourable opinion.

Having noted that *'the bioavailability of vitamin C from calcium ascorbate with a content of threonate is comparable to that of ascorbic acid'*, the Panel's view was that, *'the intended conditions of use of calcium ascorbate with a content of threonate correspond to those of other approved sources of vitamin C. The additional exposure to calcium and threonate through use of supplements with calcium ascorbate with a content of threonate does not represent a cause of safety concern'*.

Source: EHPM

LITTLE RISK IN TPGS

The European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food (AFC) was asked to advise on the safety and bioavailability of D-alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate (TPGS) as a source of vitamin E for use in foods with particular nutritional purposes.

TPGS is primarily used for infants and children with impaired vitamin E absorption due to fat malabsorption. Stressing that the safety of the nutrient itself, in terms of amounts that may be consumed, was outside its remit, the panel's conclusion was that the use of TPGS in foods for special medical purposes is not of safety concern at the anticipated exposure level.

The panel also noted that because foods for special medical purposes are intended to be used under medical supervision, the physician would be in a position to consider the risks and the benefits to the patient, and ensure that he or she received an adequate dose of vitamin E.

Source: EHPM

OUTCOME OF EFSA/EMEA FIRST MEETING

At its May meeting, the Herbal Medicinal Products Committee (HMPC) of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) discussed the recommendations and proposals of the first meeting between representatives of the HMPC and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and its Scientific Committee.

It has been agreed that EMA and EFSA will work to establish a framework for cooperation between the two committees. A major area of common interest is safety and risk assessment and the objectives of the committees' cooperation will include exchange of requirements for safety assessment and practical cases of the application of such requirements in relation to botanicals/herbal substances and their preparations.

Source: ERNA

EMEA DRAFT REPORT ON THE THMPD

Noting that six Member States still have not transposed the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive and that infringement procedures have, where necessary, been initiated, the European Commission has issued for consultation a *'Draft Report on the experience acquired as a result of the application of the provisions of Chapter 2a of Directive 2001/83/EC (introduced by Directive 2004/24/EC) on specific provisions applicable to traditional herbal medicinal products.'*

The Report covers:

- Experience acquired on the Simplified Registration Procedure since the adoption of the Directive: 79 applications introduced in 12 Member States, with 8 products having been authorized to date.
- The work of the Herbal Medicinal Products Committee (HMPC), in particular the development of monographs, and the requirement for genotoxicity data.
- The extension of traditional-use registration to other categories of medicinal products.

The full report can be accessed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/pharmacos/docs/doc2007/2007_05/herbals_draft_report_2007_05_29.pdf

Source: EHPM

UPDATE ON THE REVISION OF THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION

The proposals to revise the Novel Food Regulations are still under discussion in the European Commission and, they hope, to issue a revision which addresses the need for a centralised procedure and for easier access to the European market of 'traditional products' from outside the European Union, among other areas. It now appears that the Commission may look to establish four lists in the context of novel foods:

- A list of novel foods
- A list of non-novel foods
- A list of foods under question
- A food supplement list.

It seems that the goal of this final list would be to identify those substances that are not-novel in food supplements but are novel in foods. This is a very contentious issue among ingredient manufacturers in particular since it is obliging manufacturers to go through the novel food procedure for ingredients which have a long history of use in food supplements when they wish to use these ingredients in conventional foods. EHPM will be discussing these developments further with the Commission and its member associations are encouraged to speak to the relevant officials in their national authorities to re-emphasise the points about the waste of resources through forcing so many ingredients through novel foods.

Parallel to this, the Commission is looking to publish the informal 'novel foods catalogue' that has been circulating among the Member States over past 5+ years. This issue is now on the agenda for the next meeting of the Standing Committee, which is composed by the European Commission and the Member States, on 25 June. While previous versions of this list do not generally seem to present problems for the food supplement sector, it is not clear how this list has evolved recently.

Source: EHPM

◆ **FRANCE**

MEDICINES AGENCY INTERVENTION ON REGULATION FOR BOTANICAL SUPPLEMENTS

The French food supplement association, SYNADIET, has received a letter from the its Food agency (DGCCRF) which has confirmed fears about

possible conflict between regulation in France for botanical food supplements and herbal medicines.

DGCCRF's advises that the French Medicines Agency (AFSSAPS) is considering the possible reclassification of products containing botanical ingredients previously authorized by DGCCRF as appropriate for use in food supplements because they consider the ingredients to be 'medicinal by function'.

The botanical ingredients particularly singled out by AFSSAPS are:

- Artichoke leaves, because of their purgative effect
- Horsechestnut, because of the aesculin content and the anti-oedematous, anti-inflammatory effect
- Lesser Holly root, because of its saponin content and its effect on the vascular on circulatory system.

Confirming that in cases of doubt, medicines legislation takes priority over food legislation at national or European Community level, DGCCRF refer to a statement in their public health code, based on Art. 2 of European Directive 2004/27, amending Directive 2001/83 on medicinal products: *'In cases of doubt, where, taking into account all of its characteristics, a product may fall within the definition of a "medicinal product" and within the definition of a product covered by other Community legislation, the provisions of this Directive shall apply.'*

Synadiet is now taking legal advice on possibilities for future action to safeguard botanical food supplements.

Source: SYNADIET

◆ GERMANY

FOLIC ACID FORTIFICATION

In Germany, mandatory fortification with folic acid has been discussed within the German Nutrition Society (DGE) and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). Both issued statements in 2005 and 2006 respectively. However, there is no national regulatory initiative on mandatory fortification or on maximum levels for folic acid in food supplements.

In this context, the BfR recently translated its question and answer catalogue saying: "BfR primarily recommends that all consumers have a diet which is rich in folic acid. It further recommends that women wishing to start a family and women in the first three months of pregnancy should also take folic acid products. Here it should be borne in mind that the folic acid requirements are higher in the further course of pregnancy and when breastfeeding, too. Doctors, midwives and pharmacists should inform women of childbearing age about the specific action of folic acid and advise them correspondingly. If Germany decides in favour of the mandatory fortification of certain staple

foods (for instance flour) with folic acid in order to achieve an even supply of the population, the fortification of other foods should be restricted to maximum 100 microgram per portion in order to avoid the risks related to excessive folic acid intake by the population. Soft drinks should not be fortified at all. The goal of mandatory fortification of staple foods with folic acid is to improve the folic acid supply of the entire population. The folic acid intake which is recommended to prevent neural tube defects cannot be achieved through this however. What would still be needed is the targeted uptake of folic acid from folic acid supplements." (<http://www.bfr.bund.de/cd/9289>)

Source: BLL

◆ IRELAND

INDUSTRY CONCERN ON SUPPLEMENT LEVELS

Following the response of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to the European Commission discussion paper on the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals, the Irish Health Trade Association (IHTA) is engaging in a series of top-level meetings with the Authority.

To the considerable concern and surprise of the Irish food supplement industry, the FSAI response proposes a level of 1 x RDA. However, following a meeting between the FSAI, IHTA members and EHPM Scientific Adviser Dr. Derek Shrimpton, the Authority has agreed to re-visit the issue, saying that it 'will be guided by science'.

IHTA has now been asked to provide further scientific data which, it is hoped, could lead FSAI to amend its position. It is also understood that the Irish Association of Health Stores is to mount a campaign aimed at protecting the rights of Irish consumers to buy high strength food supplements.

Source: IHTA

VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR INFANTS

Following the identification by its Scientific Committee of the re-emergence of rickets, previously thought to have been eradicated, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) has issued a report, *Recommendations for a National Policy of Vitamin D Supplementation for Infants in Ireland*, in which it advocates vitamin D supplementation for all babies under 12 months, and particularly for those with dark skins.

While most of the cases of rickets have been in children of African-born parents, the FSAI is also concerned that much of the indigenous Irish population may also be deficient in vitamin D as a result of Ireland's northerly latitude and consequently restricted sunlight during the winter months.

In advocating supplementation, the FSAI report makes the point that dietary sources of vitamin D – including fortified foods - do not adequately raise the level of vitamin D in the Irish population.

Source IHTA

SUBMISSION PROCESS OPENED FOR IRISH HEALTH CLAIMS LIST

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) announced this week that it has opened a submission process for the Irish health claims list required under the European Union (EU) Regulation governing the use of nutrition and health claims listed on food products and food supplements.

The FSAI is now calling on food business operators to make submissions to the FSAI regarding health claims which appear in Ireland on their food products or on any related advertising. The FSAI will develop a national list of health claims which meet the conditions of the Regulation and are accompanied by scientific evidence of effectiveness. The national list will be submitted to the European Commission by 31 January 2008 and each claim will be considered for inclusion on the EU approved list of health claims which will take two years to develop. This process will involve assessment of submitted scientific justification by the European Food Safety Authority. Under the EU Regulation the claims on the EU list will be the only health claims allowed on food products from 31 January 2010 onwards.

The announcement further includes the definition of health claim and some detailed information about Article 13.

The FSAI further indicates that these claims must be based on generally accepted scientific evidence and well understood by the average consumer. Food business operators should submit their claims to the FSAI along with all required information and scientific data via an online application form on www.fsai.ie before the closing date of 28 September 2007.

Dr Mary Flynn, Chief Specialist in Public Health Nutrition, FSAI, urged all food business operators who make health claims about their food products to submit these claims for approval if they wish to continue using them.

Further information is available on the FSAI website at www.fsai.ie/news/press/pr_07/pr20070611.asp

Source: IHTA

◆ UNITED KINGDOM

FSA ADVICE ON FOLIC ACID

Following a positive recommendation from its Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and a subsequent public consultation, the Board of the Food

Standards Agency (FSA) is to recommend to UK health ministers the mandatory fortification of either bread or flour with folic acid.

The Board also agreed that Health Departments should be encouraged to educate the public, and particularly at-risk groups, on the issue of folic acid and neural tube-defects. Their recommendations will also include controls on the voluntary fortification of foods with folic acid, and clearer advice consumers on taking supplements, so as to avoid over-consumption.

The decision on whether folic acid should be added to bread or flour will be taken later this month, along with consideration of labelling.

Source: HFMA

NONI JUICE: SIMPLIFIED NOVEL FOOD APPLICATION?

A company has applied to the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) to sell its noni juice under the simplified procedure for approving novel foods. The applicant considers this to be appropriate because it buys its juice from a company which buys its supplies from a company which has already had its noni juice product approved.

Under the European Novel Foods Regulation, a novel food is defined as a food that does not have a significant history of consumption within the European Union before May 1997, and such foods must be subject to a full safety assessment before they can be market.

A further Regulation makes provision for novel foods or ingredients that are substantially equivalent to an existing product to be placed on the market once the applicant has informed the European Commission. However, in all such cases to date, the Commission has required the applicants to obtain an opinion on equivalence from a Member State: in this instance, the UK.

Source: HFMA

GOJI BERRIES AND NOVEL FOOD STATUS

In response to a request from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for evidence of the Novel Food status of Goji berries (*Lycium barbarum*), the Health Food Manufacturers Association (HFMA) has compiled a dossier of evidence demonstrating the Goji berries have a 'significant' record of consumption in the European Union prior to 1997.

The FSA's response is now awaited.

Source: HFMA

DRAFT OPINION ON REFINED ECHIUM OIL AND BAOBAB

The expert advisers on novel foods and processes of the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) have formed an initial opinion to approve two applications to market novel food ingredients.

The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) is calling for comments on its two draft opinions on refined echium oil and baobab dried fruit pulp.

Echium oil is a vegetable oil rich in omega-6 and omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids obtained by super refining oil extracted from the seeds of *Echium plantagineum*. The applicant wants to use its refined echium oil as a novel food ingredient in a range of food products and in food supplements.

Baobab dried fruit pulp is derived from the fruits of the baobab tree, also known as the 'upside down tree'. In this case the applicant proposes to market a baobab dried fruit pulp as a novel food ingredient for use in range of food products.

The ACNFP is a non-statutory, independent body of scientific experts that advises the FSA on any matters relating to novel foods (including genetically modified foods) and novel processes (including food irradiation).

Any comments on the ACNFP's draft opinion should be sent to the ACNFP Secretariat by 20 June.

For further information, go to
<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/jun/baoech>

Source: CRN UK

NICE RECOMMENDS OMEGA 3

The UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Nice) has issued a recommendation that heart-attack victims should be prescribed fish oil tablets.

The recommendation is part of wide-ranging advice aimed at reducing the risk of a secondary attack among the 160,000 people who survive a first heart attack each year. Dr Gill Leng, Nice implementation systems director is quoted as saying of the guideline that *'Its overall aim is to provide the growing number of people who survive a heart attack with the good quality systematic care that is essential to improving long-term outcomes and quality of life'*.

Source: CRN UK

SUPPLEMENT INGREDIENT DOSSIERS WITHDRAWN

The UK National Association of Health Stores (NAHS) has sent the Food Standards Agency (FSA) a list of 75 food supplement ingredients which it had submitted as 'single page' dossiers in 2005, and is asking for them to be withdrawn from the review process.

The dossiers were submitted to obtain derogation to remain on the market until 2009, the date by which the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) is scheduled to complete its review of applications for additions to the Annexes of the Food Supplements Directive. It is now hoped that the withdrawal of these incomplete dossiers will help to speed up the review process.

The FSA has confirmed that the derogation status of the 75 ingredients will be maintained until 2009.

Source: HFMA

NORTH AMERICA

◆ **UNITED STATES**

FDA RESEARCH ON UNDERSTANDING OF HEALTH CLAIMS

The US Food and Drug Administration has recently issued a report, *Experimental Study of Health Claims on Food Packages* which sets out to determine consumers' understanding of health claims – in particular whether they can identify the nutrients for which benefit was claimed, and whether they can identify other food sources from which the nutrients could be obtained.

The 1077 consumers who took part were found to have a basic understanding of nutrition, and the nutrients most often identified were calcium and potassium. However, the general level of understanding of the content of the 18 front panel labels presented to them was not high.

The Report's findings will now be used to inform future policy initiatives aimed at increasing consumer understanding of food labels and their relation to health and a healthy diet.

Source: CRN USA

FDA ADVICE ON SEXUAL ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to consumers not to purchase two 'male energy' products sold as dietary supplements in the United States.

Both products are advertised for sexual enhancement and as treatment for erectile dysfunction, but neither has been approved by FDA - and both contain analogues – substances that have similar structures to active ingredients in approved prescription drugs.

Source: UNPA

COMMENT PERIOD ON CAM GUIDANCE EXTENDED

Last month, following industry representations about lack of clarity as to the closing date for consultation, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the comment period on its draft Guidelines for industry, *'Complementary and Alternative Medicine Products and their Regulation by the Food and Drug Administration'* had been extended from April 30th to May 29th.

In the same announcement, the FDA said that the content of the draft guidance had been *'widely misinterpreted'*, and clarified that the document *'does not contain or propose any new regulatory requirements for any complementary and alternative medicine CAM product marketed in the United States and does not affect any state licensing requirements for any CAM practitioner or any consumer's ability to buy or receive a CAM product or be treated by any CAM practitioner'*.

Source: AHPA

ASSOCIATIONS QUESTION MULTIVITAMIN/PROSTATE CANCER STUDY

Industry associations and members of IADSA's Scientific Group were quick to respond to the media coverage of the recent study on *Multivitamin Use and Risk of Prostate Cancer* published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Questioning the design of the study and the overall lack of linkage between prostate cancer and multi-vitamin use, the overall conclusion of the industry experts was that the study added little to the evidence base for the use of multivitamins by the general population to maintain health. However, they did agree that, as the study suggested, those individuals who are at high risk for or have been diagnosed with prostate cancer should be in close contact with their healthcare professional to determine what the best course of action is for them.

Source: NPA / CRN USA

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

◆ AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATION CHALLENGES SUPPLEMENT PROPOSAL

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) is currently challenging a proposal issued by the Australian government, requiring a Qualified Person (QP) to release food supplements onto the market.

Food supplements are regulated as complementary medicines in Australia. The requirement for a Qualified Person to release products is common in pharmaceutical regulation, and one of the government's arguments for the proposal is consistency with other countries. However, in many other areas of the world dietary supplements are regulated under food law and QP release is not a requirement.

CHC, whilst supportive of there being appropriately qualified personnel at manufacturing facilities, is arguing strongly that there may be other risk-based but less onerous options than QP release which can properly address good manufacturing issues for food supplements.

Source: CHC

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KEY EVENTS: JULY - DECEMBER 2007

Date	Conference	Place
July 02 - 07	Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) www.codexalimentarius.net	Rome, Italy
July 15 - 17	Cosmoprof North America 2007 - The Business of Beauty www.cosmoprofnorthamerica.com	Las Vegas, NV, United States
July 20 - 22	NPA Annual Natural Products Convention and Trade Show www.naturalproductsassoc.org	Las Vegas, NV, United States
August 07 - 09	Food Ingredients South America http://south-america.fi-events.com/	Sao Paulo, Brazil
August 16 - 20	International Conference and Exhibition of the modernization of Chinese medicine and health http://icmcm.tdctrade.com/	Hong Kong, China
September 06 - 09	CHFA Expo East www.chfa.ca	Toronto, Canada
September 13 - 16	SANA 2007: International Exhibition of Natural Products - Nutrition, Health, Environment www.eventseye.com/fairs/trade_fair_event_8250.html	Bologna, Italy
September 26 - 28	Food Ingredients Asia http://asia2007.fi-events.com/	Bangkok, Thailand

Date	Conference	Place
September 26 - 29	Natural Products Expo East www.expoeast.com	Baltimore, MD, United States
October 10 - 12	Natural Products Expo Japan 2007 www.naturalproductsjapan.com	Tokyo, Japan
October 30 - November 01	Food Ingredients Europe http://europe2007.fi-events.com/	London, United Kingdom
October 30 - November 01	Natural Ingredients - Exhibition & Conference www.ni-events.com	London, United Kingdom
November 06 - 08	Supply Side West - International Trade Show and Conference www.supplysideshow.com/west/	Las Vegas, NV, United States
November 12 - 16	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) www.codexalimentarius.net	Bad Neuenahr, Germany
November 14 - 16	Cosmoprof Asia - Where beauty meets trends and Business www.cosmoprof-asia.com	Hong Kong, China
November 20 - 22	Health Ingredients Japan 2007 www.hijapan.info/en/	Tokyo, Japan
December 04 - 06	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius www.codexalimentarius.net	Geneva, Switzerland

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