

RECALL OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS PRODUCED BY PAN PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED, SINCE 1 MAY 2002

The Minister for Food Safety, Annette King, has ordered a recall under section 40 of the Food Act 1981 of the products listed below in the recall notice.

Sellers/retailers, distributors and importers of any of the recalled products listed below are required to cease distribution, remove them from sale immediately and contain them. Companies in possession of the recalled products must notify the NZFSA immediately by calling freephone 0800 693 721.

This list is additional to the lists of products recalled on the 1st and 2nd of May 2003. All three lists need to be reviewed by sellers/retailers, distributors and importers.

Guidance for sellers/retailers, distributors and importers on action to be taken will be available from the NZFSA on the web site (www.nzfsa.govt.nz) or by calling the freephone number.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority is working to determine which of these products are available on the New Zealand market. The Minister advises sellers/retailers, distributors and importers that the list does NOT yet include all products that may be recalled as further information is being progressively sent to the NZFSA by the Australian authorities as their investigation progresses.

The recall of these products is being undertaken because of serious concerns about compliance breaches of products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals since 1 May 2002.

The Australian authorities have suspended the manufacturing licence of Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited for a period of 6 months, with effect from 28 April 2003, due to serious quality and safety breaches in the manufacture of products by that company since that date.

As any further information becomes available or additional products are identified for recall, the NZFSA web site will be updated. Newspaper publication of information about additional products to be recalled will occur as soon as possible in addition to ongoing updating of the NZFSA web site.

The list is organised by the AUST L* or AUST R* number followed by the product name, sponsor or supplier name and batch numbers[#]. Where only some batches of products are affected, the relevant batch and expiry date details are specified.

More information on this recall is available on the NZFSA website at www.nzfsa.govt.nz or from the freephone Helpline on 0800 693 721.

* The AUST L or AUST R can be located on the front panel of the label, usually in a lower corner. It is a 5 digit number prefixed by the letters AUST R or AUST L. As many product names are similar, it is important that this number is checked.

[#] Batch and expiry details are often located on the back panel of the label on bottles or end flaps on boxes. These can be a combination of letters and/or numbers, but are prefixed with letters or a symbol which indicate that the number is the batch number (for example, 'Batch No.', 'B', 'Lot Number', 'Lot No.'). Expiry dates are the month and year after which the goods should not be used, and have a prefix which indicates that the following information is the expiry date (for example, 'Expiry', 'Expires', 'Exp. Date', 'Use before').

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS

If you have any of the products in the three lists you should stop using them and safely dispose of any unused portions.

If you have purchased any dietary supplement products from Direct Marketers, please contact them directly for advice on the safety of the products, if they have not yet contacted you. Direct Marketers are those who sell via mail order or through friends contacts etc or have not initiated a voluntary and public recall.

Anyone who is concerned in any way about the use of these dietary supplements or availability of alternative products should consult their healthcare professional.

To assist the NZFSA consumers are encouraged to notify the NZFSA of any outlet where these products are still being sold by phoning 0800 693 721.

The following is a copy of the recall notice.

Signed at Wellington this 4th day of May 2003



Hon Annette King
Minister for Food Safety