



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



18 October 2013

FDA ADVISORY

No. 2013-043

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC WARNING ON COUNTERFEIT MULTIVITAMIN +
MINERAL TABLETS (Centrum and Centrum Silver of Pfizer
Consumer Healthcare) SOLD ON-LINE BY GROUPON PHILIPPINES**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has monitored counterfeit multivitamins + mineral tablets, Centrum and Centrum Silver of Pfizer Consumer Healthcare (PCH), that are being advertised, sold or offered for sale on-line thru Beeconomic Philippines, Inc., owned and operated by GROUPON Philippines. The products are counterfeit as defined by Republic Act No. 8203, otherwise known as the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, and the said establishments are violating the provisions of Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the FDA Act of 2009, which prohibits the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, or retail of any drug product by any natural or juridical person without the License to Operate (LTO) from the FDA.

The investigation conducted by the FDA with the PCH revealed that the labels of the counterfeit Centrum and Centrum Silver products differ from the FDA-registered products:

- a. The counterfeit products do not bear the FDA Certificate of Product Registration Number and do not contain the same formulations approved by the FDA.
- b. The counterfeit products do not carry the complete name and address of the manufacturer and/or distributor as required by the FDA.
- c. The font size of the generic name *multivitamin + mineral* is not in conformity with the labeling requirements of RA No. 6675, otherwise known as the Generics Law of 1988, which requires that the generic name should at least be one point size bigger than the brand name.

So far, the FDA has not yet issued any guidelines on on-line sale or advertisement of pharmaceutical products. The FDA hereby warns the public from buying medicines



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on-line until such time that the FDA can assure the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines sold through this medium.

Consumers are advised to buy their medicines only from FDA-licensed establishments and outlets. An illegitimate drug outlet is not supervised by a registered or licensed pharmacist and does not comply with proper documentation of all transactions in procuring and dispensing drug products. Documentation and traceability are vital to post-market surveillance and investigation of adverse drug reactions.

Consumers are further advised to check the labels of the medicines they are buying.

To report any person or establishment that is illegally advertising and selling medicines, kindly email us via report@fda.gov.ph. For more information and inquiries, email us at info@fda.gov.ph.


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