

November 22, 2012

**FDA ADVISORY**  
No. 2012-016

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COSMETIC PRODUCTS FOUND TO CONTAIN  
HIGHLY TOXIC LEVEL OF MERCURY**

The manufacture, importation, selling or offering for sale of cosmetics products without FDA approval or found to contain harmful or toxic substances is in direct violation of Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the FDA Act of 2009, and Republic Act NO. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Several cosmetic products, which were not approved by the FDA, has entered the Philippine market. The products were found to contain highly toxic mercury above the allowable limit of 1 ppm or 1 mg/kg. These products have been banned in the Philippines. (Please see attached TABLE. List of Cosmetic Products Found to Contain More than the Allowable Limit of 1 ppm Mercury from January 2010 to July 2012.)

FDA-approved cosmetics are produced under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and comply with the cosmetic standards for safety and quality.

Mercury salts in cosmetic products inhibit the formation of melanin in the skin, resulting in a lighter skin tone. There have been cases of adverse health effects brought about by highly toxic mercury in cosmetic products, such as kidney damage, skin rashes, skin discoloration and scarring. Chronic use reduces the skin's normal resistance against bacterial and fungal infections. Other effects include anxiety, depression or psychosis and peripheral neuropathy. The transfer of mercury to fetuses of pregnant women may manifest as neurodevelopment deficits later in life.

Consumers who are directly exposed to cosmetic products containing more than 1 ppm run the risk of possible toxicity. Absorption of high level of mercury in short period of time may lead to severe gastroenteritis, burning mouth pain, salivation, abdominal pain, vomiting, colitis, nephrosis, anuria, or uremia. Exposure to alkyl and phenyl mercurial compounds that may be found in cosmetics may result to skin burns. Consumers who may have been exposed to highly toxic mercury in cosmetics are advised to seek professional advice or help in medical clinics, health centers or hospitals.

Mercury in cosmetic products will eventually find its way in the environment, including wastewater and bodies of water. Mercury, that enters the environment





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eventually becomes methylated and enters the food-chain as highly toxic methylmercury in fish. Consumers who are in possession of the mercury-laden cosmetic products are advised to contact the FDA to ensure proper disposal to protect human and animal health, and the environment. The FDA hotlines are 807-82-75 and 809-55-96.

Local government units (LGU) and enforcement agencies are deputized to apprehend vendors or outlets found selling the said highly toxic cosmetic products to prevent further exposure of consumers and to protect the environment. The LGU and enforcement agencies shall coordinate with the FDA upon apprehension.

  
**KENNETH Y. HARTIGAN-GO, MD**  
Acting Director IV

References:

Public Health and Environment. World Health Organization. *Mercury in Skin Lightening Products* (2011)  
RAPEX (2011). *The Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products Laboratory Test Results*



**TABLE. List of Cosmetic Products Found to Contain More than the Allowable Limit of 1 ppm Mercury from January 2010 to July 2012**

<b>PRODUCT NAME/BRAND NAME</b>	<b>MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR</b>
Aichun Beauty (Aloe Vera) Cream	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Beauty (with Green Tea Essence) Cream	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Beauty Anti-Freckle Crem Suit (VC)	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Paw Paw Fade Out Cream	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Beauty Paw Paw Whitening and Freckle Remover Series (Facial Cleanser with Cream)	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Beauty Strongly Whitening Freckle Series (3 in 1) – (Facial Cleanser with Day and Night Cream)	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Aichun Beauty Green Tea Whitening Speckle Removing Series Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
Aichun Beauty Whitening Freckle Day and Night Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
Aichun Beauty Green Tea Whitening Speckle Removing Series	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Alike Perfect Salvation Rosy Whitening A and B Cream	France Sasa (HK) Int'l Group Ltd., China
Bai Li Tou Hong Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
Berglotus Spot Removing Series	Not indicated in the packaging
Beauty Excellent Lamb Placenta Whitening and Anti-Aging Cream	Hongkong Forever Beauty Cosmetic Hairdressing Co. Ltd. - Hongkong
Beautiful Dream Whitening Anti-Speckle and Anti-Acne Kit	Not indicated in the packaging
Beauty Girl Double White Collagen Elastin Whitening Night Cream/ Double White SPF17AP++ Whitening Day Cream	Beauty Girl International Cosmetic Group Co. – Hong Kong
Beauty Girl 6 Days Specific Eliminating Freckle Whitening Cream Egg White & Tomato 3in1	Yudsatag International Cosmetic Group Company – Taiwan, Gaoxiong
Beauty Girl Papaya & Hawthorn Essence (10 Double Whitening Speckles Removed Essence)	Yudantang International - Taiwan
Beauty Girl Ginseng & Green Cucumber (10 Double Whitening Speckles Removed)	Yudantang International - Taiwan
Beauty Girl Essence Aloe Pearl (10 Double	Yudantang International - Taiwan



Whitening Speckles Removed Essence)	
Beauty Girl Olive & Sheep Essence (10 Double Whitening Speckles Removed Essence)	Yudantang International - Taiwan
BIB Day Cream Whitening Cream -921	Biyibi Meirongpin Youxiangonsi Chupin – Taiwangsheng Gaoxiongshi Zhongshanbeilu 3289 Hao
BIB Day Cream Whitening Cream -922	Biyibi Meirongpin Youxiangonsi Chupin – Taiwangsheng Gaoxiongshi Zhongshanbeilu 3289 Hao
Daggett and Ramsdell Underarm Lightening Cream	Not indicated in the packaging Declared to be made in USA
Doctor Bai Skin Revitalizing Skin Brightening (Doctor Bai Intensive White Revitalizing & Speckle Removing Set)	Hong Kong Forever Beauty Cosmetic Hairdressing Co. Ltd. – Hong Kong
Feique Cream	GLDJP (Harbin) Cosmetics Co. Ltd. – Unit 69, 25 Nanyuan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Feique Golden Aloe Whitening (Anti-Scar, Anti-Freckle) Cream	GLDJP (Harbin) Cosmetics Co. Ltd. – Unit 69, 25 Nanyuan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Feique Golden Aloe Whitening (Anti-Scar, Anti-Freckle) Set	GLDJP (Harbin) Cosmetics Co. Ltd. – Unit 69, 25 Nanyuan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Feique Green Tea Vital Whitening Freckle-Removing Cream	GLDJP (Harbin) Cosmetics Co. Ltd. – Unit 69, 25 Nanyuan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Gemli Glutathione Hydrolyzed Collagen Whitening & Anti-Aging	Sanli Int'l. Cosmetic Group Co. – Hong Kong
Glutathione Grapeseed Extract Whitening & Anti-Aging	Sanli Int'l Cosmetic Group Co. – Hong Kong
Lanmeirou 12 Days Whiten & Speckle Removing Suit	Not indicated in the packaging
Liliki Whitening Day Cream – 911	Lianglikuai Meirongpin Youxiangonsi Chupin (address not indicated)
Liliki Whitening Day Cream – 912	Lianglikuai Meirongpin Youxiangonsi Chupin (address not indicated)
LongDianTu Glutathione and Pearl Natural Whitening Essence Cream	Minato-ku Tokyo Japan Co. Ltd.
Jiaoli Miraculous Cream	Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Jiaoli Huichusu Special Cut Genuine Cream	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address no indicated in the packaging)
Jiao Li 10-Days Eliminating Freckle Day & Night Set	Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)



Jiao Liang 7 Days Eliminating Freckle AB Set	Not indicated
Jiao Liang 10 Days Eliminating Freckle AB Set	Not indicated
Jiao Li 7-Days Eliminating Freckle AB Set	Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Jiaoli 2+17 Days Clearing Facial Spot Suits	Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Jiaoli Huichusu Whitening Speckles Removal Cream	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address no indicated in the packaging)
Jiaoli Rejuvenation Essence 10 Days Speckle Removing	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd no. 69 Erdao St., Nanyuan
Jiao Liang Miraculous Cream	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address no indicated in the packaging)
Jiao Mei Miraculous Cream	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address no indicated in the packaging)
Jiao Yan Specific Miraculous Cream	Harbin Gelidai Jiaobao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address no indicated in the packaging)
Jonathan Clearing Facial Spots 12 Day Cream	Jonathan Cosmetics International (Guangzhou) Limitedness Company, Guangzhou Fuomei Cosmetics Factory
JJJ (Golden Package) Magic Spots Removing Cream (Spots Removing Super)	Not indicated in the packaging
Loreal Paris Anti-Freckle Cream Suit	GND Trading
Maidaifu Herbal Moisturizing Cream Wrinkles Harmonie Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
Miss Beauty Magic Cream	Not indicated in the packaging; declared to be made in Taiwan
Miss Beauty Excellent Therapy Whitening Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
New Miss Beauty Magic Cream	Taiwan (name of manufacturer or distributor not indicated in the packaging)
Pretty Girl 10 Day Special Cream	Hongkong Forever Beauty Cosmetic Hairdressing Co. Ltd. - Hongkong
Pretty Girl Green Cucumber & Ginseng Cream	Yudantang International - Taiwan
Pretty Model Whitening & Freckle Removing (Day Cream & Night Cream -	Hongkong Forever Beauty Cosmetic Hairdressing Co. Ltd. - Hongkong



Set)	
Qiang Li Zeng Bai Qu Ban Wang Whitening Cream	Zhong Guo Haerbin Gelidai Jiabao Huazhuangpin Co. Ltd. address not indicated in the packaging)
Sara Glutathione Sheep Placenta Whitening and Anti-Spot Cream	
Shengli Day & Night Cream	Shengli Trading – dela Reina St., Binondo
Special Cream (Labeled in Chinese Characters) – 1 jar	Not indicated in the packaging
Special Cream (Labeled in Chinese Characters) – set of 2 jars	Not indicated in the packaging
St. Dalfour Beauty Whitening Cream	Tokyo, Japan
S'Zitang Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
The Flower Woman 7-Day Whitening and Spot and Night Set Cream	Not indicated in the packaging
Xin Jiao Li 7-Days Specific Eliminating Freckle Cream	Gelidai Jiabao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Xin Jiao Liang 7-Days Miracle Package for Spots Refining	Gelidai Jiabao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Yinni Green Tea Quick Acting Whitener & Speckle Remover Package (Yellow & White Cream)	Not indicated in the packaging
Yoko Whitening Cream (Aloe Vera Extract)	Siam Yoko Co. Ltd. - Thailand
Yoko Gentleman Cream for Men	Siam Yoko co. Ltd. Thailand
Youngrace Age Defying Essence	Gelidai Jiabao Cosmetics Company Ltd (address not indicated in the packaging)
Yudantang Ginseng and GanodermaLucidum 6 Days Specific Eliminating Freckle Whitening Sun Block Cream	Yudantang International - Taiwan
Yudantang Green Cucumber and Ginseng 6 Days Specific Eliminating Greckle Whitening Cream	Yudantang International - Taiwan