

Hamdard Laboratories (waqf) Pakistan

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Dated: March 21, 2003.

The Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061,
Rockville, MD 20852
U.S.A.

Dear Sir / Madam:

I am a member of National Nutritional Food Association (NNFA) of U.S.A. and the Managing Director of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan. Our organization i.e. Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan is the largest health food/dietary supplement/herbal medicine/natural products manufacturing industry in Pakistan. We are using more than 400 different types of plant/herbal/natural material for the production of our 300 plus products for the last 54 years. Known toxic materials are detoxified before use or toxic effects are neutralized by the addition of other antagonistic natural materials during the production & processing of dietary/health supplements. This is the reason that our customers are very much satisfied and we have not received any complaint of harmful effects from our customers since the establishment of our industry in Pakistan in 1948. We are exporting many of our products to other countries also and we have yet to receive any complaint from our customers abroad.

I appreciate the significance of Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) 1994 with regard to protecting our right to choose how we care for ourselves. As the FDA just released the proposed draft on good manufacturing practices. I think enough time should be given to the industry for the implementation & enforcement of the guidelines with a view to evaluate their suitability, adaptability & acceptability before calling forth new suggestions to formulate the additional laws regarding dietary products.

In the DSHEA - , FDA already got the enough powers to seize the dietary supplement if it is found harmful or risk of illness to the consumer and the Government can stop the sale of entire class of that diet supplement. In the presence of these laws, I think asking for further suggestions to formulate additional laws about ephedra or any other dietary supplement is not necessary _ at least for now.

Sincerely yours.



(Dr. Navaid-ul-Zafar)
Managing Director

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