

Irish Health Trade Association
Tuesday 3rd February 2004

Action Plan

The Irish Health Trade Association's Action Plan to ensure the elimination of irradiated herbal supplements on the Irish market.

The Irish Health Trade Association (IHTA) represents an independent industry sector comprising of 33 members who manufacture or distribute specialist Health Products – Whole Foods, Food Supplements, Traditional and Homoeopathic Medicinal products, and Natural Body Care products.

Following consultation with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland on the findings of their recent survey of herbal supplements the IHTA shares the concern of the FSAI that particular herbal supplements on the market have been identified as being either irradiated or containing irradiated components.

We concur with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland that their findings are not a food safety concern, and we acknowledge that the absence of appropriate labelling does not best serve the consumer. The IHTA are committed to the elimination of irradiated herbal supplements on the Irish market and have drawn up the following action plan:

- Initially we are asking member companies to issue a product recall of the batches identified in the survey.
- Member companies will also ensure that batches manufactured before and after the implicated batches are free of irradiated material
- As this matter involves manufacturers throughout Europe and the US the IHTA will be making strong representations to similar trade bodies in the UK (HFMA) and in Europe (EHPM) to introduce strict new protocols for manufacturers to ensure irradiated free status of herbal supplements.
- All member companies to report to the Council of the IHTA on the steps taken to ensure irradiated free status of their herbal supplements on the Irish market.
- The IHTA undertakes to keep the FSAI informed of the progress being made under this Action Plan.

For further information please contact

IHTA spokespersons:

Dominic Galvin

Tel: 086 820 9645

Brendan Clifford

Tel: 01 626 2315

IHTA Office (Mon – Thurs 9am-1pm)

Tel: 065 684 8911