



Joint press release by BDIH and IONC GmbH on animal testing for cosmetic products in China

Mannheim, 10th Dec. 2013

BDIH and IONC have informed the manufacturers of products that are labelled with BDIH's control mark that the conformity with the BDIH standard is threatened by exports into the People's Republic of China.

The BDIH standard for certified natural cosmetics belongs to the world leading standards for natural and organic cosmetics. More than 7,000 products have been awarded with BDIH's control mark so far. The compliance with the standard's criteria is continuously checked by IONC GmbH.

The BDIH standard forbids the manufacturers of certified natural cosmetics to carry out or order animal testing for these products. This ban applies without restriction worldwide. Due to this, the BDIH standard stands out by particular strictness compared to certifications of natural and organic cosmetics that just reference the animal testing bans of the EU cosmetics law, or do not contain any provisions on animal testing at all.

With their information to the manufacturers, BDIH and IONC point to the result of comprehensive research according to which, in spite of current efforts to consider alternatives to animal testing in the People's Republic of China, as a general rule, animal testing is carried out in the framework of the safety assessment for the official registration of cosmetic products. At the same time, BDIH and IONC make clear that the ban on animal testing of BDIH's standard is also infringed if the manufacturer induces a registration application with the Chinese authorities, because this is equivalent to an "ordering" of the animal testing. This is only different if there are products for which there is no requirement of animal testing also according to the Chinese provisions, resp. where the manufacturer verifiably documents that there has been no animal testing for his specific products.

The information by BDIH and IONC on the consequences of exports of cosmetic products into the PR China is publicly available at: <http://www.ionc.info/index.php?id=5&L=1>

BDIH and IONC are aware of the fact that in individual cases there may be significant economic effects for enterprises concerned if they intend to continue to use BDIH's control mark. However, the BDIH standard documents an unequivocal commitment to the avoidance of animal testing, so that taking inadequately into account the animal testing taking place in China would neither serve the protection of animals, nor would it meet the legitimate expectations of consumers.

BDIH and IONC GmbH are convinced that the consistent implementation of the ban on animal testing rooted in the BDIH standard will further strengthen the worldwide reputation of the BDIH standard and therefore also of the manufacturers using this standard.

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