Premier Research Labs Receives Good Manufacturing Practices Certification

Premier Research Labs, a leading manufacturer of nutraceuticals, announced in November 2009 that its manufacturing facility in Austin has completed a successful Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) audit conducted by NSF International, a nonprofit scientific organization that certifies products and writes public health standards. This independent, third-party plant audit verifies the facility’s compliance with current Dietary Supplement GMPs.

GMPs are regulatory requirements recognized worldwide for quality control and management of all aspects of manufacturing, from raw material control to finished product release, as well as employee training, validation of testing equipment, product traceability, and facility maintenance. These guidelines for necessary processes, procedures, and documentation verify that Premier Research Labs-manufactured products have the identity, strength, composition, quality, and purity that they are represented to possess. GMPs for the current NSF Dietary Supplements Program are included in NSF American National Standard 173-Dietary Supplements, the only American National Standard for Dietary Supplements, and are consistent with the requirements that FDA has outlined in 21 CFR § 111.

“Compliance to the GMP requirements is an important marker that Premier Research Labs is consistently meeting customer needs through the provision of safe, effective, high quality products,” said Dr. Bob Marshall, CEO of Premier Research Labs. “In addition, we are continually improving through our state of the art facility and quality management system.”

For meeting GMP requirements, Premier Research Labs is listed on the NSF website. To ensure continued performance, NSF will conduct annual audits at Premier Research Labs’ facility.

Ed Wyszumiala, general manager of NSF’s Dietary Supplements Certification programs, said, “Premier Research Labs’ GMP certification demonstrates their commitment to their customers and consumers that Premier has gone above and beyond to demonstrate compliance with GMP requirements.”

Premier Research Labs is known internationally as a manufacturer of excipient-free nutraceutical formulations and superfood concentrates, as well as the world’s first producer of live-source, stable-probiotic-generated, high-energy, normally unstable end-chain nutrients (i.e., coenzyme A, real vitamin B5), and quantum cellular resonance products that can restore quantum coherence to the body’s inherent biofield.

Tests Show Many Milk Thistle Supplements Low in Key Component

A recent review by ConsumerLab.com of ten milk thistle supplements showed that only one met ConsumerLab.com’s quality standards. Two products failed to properly list the part of the milk thistle plant used – a Food and Drug Administration requirement. Among the remaining supplements, only one contained the expected amount of silymarin compounds, which are believed to be the active constituents of milk thistle. Studies suggest silymarin may be helpful in type 2 diabetes and, possibly, certain liver conditions. While most products claimed that their milk thistle extracts were standardized to 80% silymarin, ConsumerLab.com found actual amounts to range from 47% to 67%. Sales of milk thistle in the US have climbed for several years, reaching $95 million in 2008 according to the latest figures from Nutrition Business Journal.

ConsumerLab.com’s vice president for research, Dr. William Obermeyer, a former FDA scientist, suggested that supplement makers may be relying on nonspecific tests, such as UV spectrophotometric analysis, that can falsely inflate a product’s silymarin content by counting other compounds that are not silymarin. In contrast, ConsumerLab.com used a highly specific HPLC method to test the products. Some ingredient suppliers offer both a higher-priced and a lower-priced milk thistle extract. The higher-cost product is certified with the HPLC test, while the lower-cost product is certified with the nonspecific UV test. The FDA does not set standards for the quality or testing of herbal supplements, so manufacturers may choose either form of milk thistle. Consumers normally have no way of knowing which form they purchase.

The Product Review of Milk Thistle Supplements can be found at www.consumerlab.com/results/milkthistle.asp and includes results, reviews, and comparisons of ten supplements selected by ConsumerLab.com. The review provides information on how to choose and use these supplements. Brands included in report are 1Fast400, Enzymatic Therapy, Finest Natural, Jarrow Formulas, Natural Factors, Nature’s Plus, Nutrilite, Pharmex, Smart Basics (Vitacost.com), and Whole Foods.

ConsumerLab.com is a leading provider of consumer information and independent evaluations of products that affect health and nutrition. Reviews of other popular types of supplements are available from www.consumerlab.com. Subscription to ConsumerLab.com is available online. The company is privately held and based in Westchester, New York. It has no ownership from or interest in companies that manufacture, distribute, or sell consumer products.