



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
Washington, DC 20204

OCT 29 1997

Dr. John P. Troup  
Vice President, Scientific Affairs  
General Nutrition Corporation  
300 Sixth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Dear Dr. Troup:

This is in response to your letter dated August 25, 1997 concerning the marketing of Huperzine A, an alkaloid compound extracted from the herb Huperzia Serrata, as a new dietary ingredient. This letter addresses the requirements for marketing this extract as a new dietary ingredient and the requirements for marketing a dietary supplement with claims on its label.

Section 413 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) requires a manufacturer or distributor of a dietary supplement which contains a new dietary ingredient to submit certain information to the agency. Specifically, the act requires that at least 75 days before the dietary ingredient is introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce, the manufacturer or distributor of the dietary ingredient provide the FDA with information which is the basis on which the manufacturer or distributor has concluded that a dietary supplement containing such dietary ingredient will reasonably be expected to be safe. Because you submitted to FDA information which is the basis on which you concluded that the dietary supplement will reasonably be expected to be safe, the agency will consider your submission to be the required 75-day premarket notification of your intent to sell Huperzine A, an alkaloid compound extracted from the herb Huperzia Serrata, as a dietary supplement. As required by section 413(a)(2) of the act, we will keep your submission confidential for 90 days from the date of receipt, and thus on December 1, 1997, it will be placed on public display at Dockets Management Branch. Commercial and confidential information in the notification will not be made available to the public.

It is unclear if you intend to make claims for this product. Pursuant to section 403(r)(6) of the act, a statement of nutritional support for a dietary supplement may be made if the statement:

- (1) claims a benefit related to a classical nutrient deficiency disease and disclosed the prevalence of such disease in the United States,
- (2) describes the role of a nutrient or dietary ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans,

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- (3) characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or dietary ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function, or
- (4) describes general well-being from consumption of a nutrient or dietary ingredient.

Section 403(r)(6) permits these statements, however, only under certain conditions. For example, the statement may not claim to diagnose, mitigate, treat, cure, or prevent a specific disease or class of diseases. In addition, a manufacturer of such a product must have substantiation that the nutritional support statement is truthful and not misleading. Furthermore, the nutritional support statement must prominently contain the following disclaimer:

This statement has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

Finally, pursuant to section 403(r)(6) of the act, a manufacturer must notify FDA no later than 30 days after the first marketing of a dietary supplement product that bears a nutritional support statement on its label or in its labeling. If you intend to make a nutritional support statement on the label or in the labeling of your dietary supplement product, you must submit to FDA a notification following the requirements listed in section 403(r)(6) of the act. The notification must include the nutritional support statement that will appear on the label or in the labeling of the dietary supplement.

Be advised that there is no requirement that dietary supplements be approved by the FDA prior to marketing. It is the responsibility of the person who introduces a dietary supplement into interstate commerce to ensure that the dietary supplement is safe for its intended use and is properly labeled.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

James Tanner, Ph.D.  
Acting Director,  
Division of Programs and  
Enforcement Policy  
Office of Special Nutritionals  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition