



## **HSA updates on products found overseas that contain potent ingredients (September 2022)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on products that have been found and reported by overseas regulators in September 2022 to contain potent ingredients which are not allowed in these products and may cause side effects. This information is provided to increase awareness on safety issues of such products found overseas, which may impact the local population. Please refer to Annex A and Annex B for the list of products and the possible side effects of the potent ingredients.

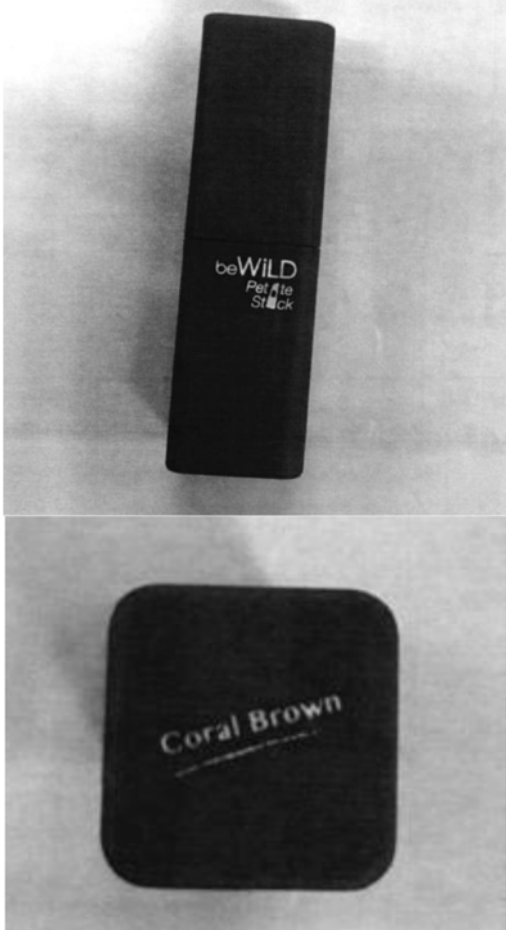
### **HSA's Advisory**

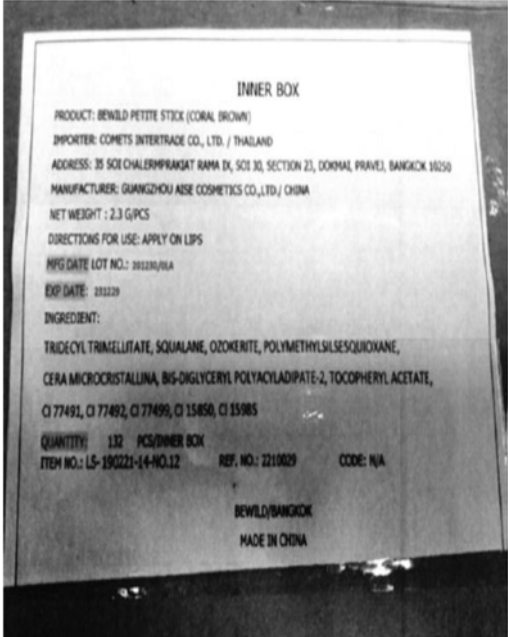

- 2 Members of the public are advised to:
  - Consult a doctor if you have consumed any of the products and are feeling unwell.
  - Avoid buying any of the products when abroad.
  - Exercise caution when purchasing health products online or from sources (either local or overseas) which you may not be familiar with, even if well-meaning friends or relatives have recommended them. You cannot be certain where and how these products were made. They may be illegal, counterfeit or substandard, and may contain potent ingredients which can harm your health. If buying health products online, we encourage you to buy them from websites with an established retail presence in Singapore.
  - Be wary of products that promise quick and miraculous results or carry exaggerated claims like “100% safe”, “no side effects” or “scientifically proven”. Consumers should also be cautious of products that produce unexpected quick recovery of medical conditions.
  - Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you need help for the management of your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, eczema).
  
- 3 Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to visit <https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/> to learn more about the dangers of buying health products from dubious sources.
  
- 4 Members of the public who come across the sale and supply of these products in Singapore may contact HSA's Enforcement Branch at Tel: 6866 3485 during office hours (Monday to Friday) or email: [hsa\\_is@hsa.gov.sg](mailto:hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg).

## Annex A

### List of Products


*Note: There may be different versions or variants of the products listed below. You are advised to consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of any health product you intend to use, or if you need help for your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions*

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Bewild Petite Stick (Coral Brown)		Pigment Red (CI 15585)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
	 <p style="text-align: center;">INNER BOX</p> <p>PRODUCT: BEWILD PETITE STICK (CORAL, BROWN)  IMPORTER: COMETS INTERTRADE CO., LTD. / THAILAND  ADDRESS: 35 SOI CHALERMPRANGAT RAMA IX, SOI 30, SECTION 21, DONKAL, PRANG, BANGKOK 10250  MANUFACTURER: GUANGZHOU ASE COSMETICS CO., LTD./ CHINA  NET WEIGHT : 2.3 G/PCS  DIRECTIONS FOR USE: APPLY ON LIPS  MFG DATE LOT NO.: 30220/06A  EXP DATE: 231220  INGREDIENT:  TRIDECYL TRIMELLITATE, SQUALANE, OZOKERITE, POLYMETHYLSILSESQUOXANE,  CERA MICROCRISTALLINA, BIS-DIGLYCERYL POLYACILADIPATE-2, TOCOPHERYL ACETATE,  CI 77491, CI 77492, CI 77499, CI 15450, CI 15985  QUANTITY: 132 PCS/INNER BOX  ITEM NO.: LS-190221-14-NO.12    REF. NO.: 221929    CODE: N/A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BEWILD/BANGKOK MADE IN CHINA</p>		
Cathy Doll Nude Matte Lipstick #10 Touch Coral	Not available	Pigment Red (CI 15585)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration
HE ABSOLUTE KING		Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Hong Kong Department of Health

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
KT Night Cream	 <p>The top image shows the front of the yellow box with the 'KT' logo and 'KT NIGHT CREAM' text. The middle image shows the back of the box with the following ingredients listed: CREMOPHOR A-6, CREMOPHOR A.25, FINSOLV TN, CETYL ALCOHOL (WAX-C), ZOHAR GLST SE, PROPYLENE GLYCOL, WATER, DIPOTASSIUM, SUPGUARD GM-BE, VIT-E ACETATE, SCALA NO.1, ORZOLAT. The bottom image shows the front of the box with Thai text: 'สกรีนด้วย ฟ้า กระ จุดดำค้ำ และช่วยกระชับรูขุมขน ใฝ่หน้าจวล เรียบเนียน กระจางใสเป็นธรรมชาติ แลดูอ่อนกว่าวัย' and 'วิธีใช้ : ล้างหน้าให้สะอาด ทาครีมบางๆ ใฝ่ทั่วใบหน้าและลำคอ ก่อนนอน'.</p>	Mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Light White Body Cream	 <p>The first image shows the top of the white lid with a logo and the words 'LIGHT WHITE'. The second image shows the side of the orange jar with 'LIGHT WHITE BODY CREAM' and '50 g' printed on it. The third image shows the bottom of the lid with the following text: 'MFG:09/12/63', 'EXP:08/12/64', and '11-1-6300057185'.</p>	Mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration


Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Light White Cream		Clobetasol (Corticosteroid)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration



Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)																		
<p>Lovely Plus Herbal Hair Colour (Brown)</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">COLOR RESULT GUIDE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Your Natural Hair Color</th> <th>Apply</th> <th>Color Result</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gray Hair</td> <td>Brown</td> <td>Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black / Dark Brown</td> <td>Brown</td> <td>Brown / Tint</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black / Dark Brown</td> <td>Bleach &amp; apply Brown</td> <td>Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Light Brown</td> <td>Brown</td> <td>Brown</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Read the instructions carefully before using. <b>KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN</b></p> <p><b>For external use only.</b></p> <p>Qty. : 3 Sachets of 15 grams. Net weight : 75 grams. Cosmetic Lic. Code: Raj/Cos/971822-C Batch No. <b>143</b> Mfg. Date <b>03/2021</b></p> <p>For best results use within 36 months of mfg. Date</p>	COLOR RESULT GUIDE			Your Natural Hair Color	Apply	Color Result	Gray Hair	Brown	Brown	Black / Dark Brown	Brown	Brown / Tint	Black / Dark Brown	Bleach & apply Brown	Brown	Light Brown	Brown	Brown	<p>o-Aminophenol</p>	<p>Thailand Food and Drug Administration</p>
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	 <p>The top image shows the product box for 'Lovely Plus Herbal Hair Colour' in the shade '7.3 BROWN'. The box features a color chart with six shades: 7.1 NATURAL BLACK, 7.2 DARK BROWN, 7.3 BROWN, 7.4 GOLDEN BROWN, 7.5 BAKKHAU, and 7.6 BURGUNDY. It also includes instructions for use and a caution section. The bottom image shows the product tube, which has Thai text on its label.</p>		





Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
<p>Lovely Plus Herbal Hair Colour (Golden Brown)</p>	 <p>The image shows two boxes of 'Lovely Plus Herbal Hair Colour'. The top box is for shade 7.4 Golden Brown and features a woman's face with that hair color. The bottom box shows the back of the product, including 'Instructions for use', a 'Caution' section, an 'Allergy/Intolerance Test' section, and a 'LOVELY PLUS - COLOR CHART' with six color swatches ranging from 7.1 Natural Black to 7.8 Burgundy.</p>	<p>o-Aminophenol</p>	<p>Thailand Food and Drug Administration</p>

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
			
Lumi Lash	Not available	Bimatoprost	Health Canada
Maxi-Peel		Hydroquinone and Tretinoin	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Miracle Pink		Hydroquinone	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Night Cream ForU By D Ains Beauty Empire		Betamethasone (Corticosteroid), Hydroquinone and Tretinoin	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
NP Skin Ideal Skin Care CM-II Arbutin Night Cream		Mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration
NP Skin Ideal Skin Care Turmeric Night Repair Treatment		Betamethasone (Corticosteroid) and Mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration
P.U. light aura bright		Betamethasone (Corticosteroid) and Mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
			
Penisole Capsules (Ayurvedic)	Not available	Lead (Toxic heavy metal)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Rhino 69		Prasterone	Health Canada
Su Pao Sun Jiao Nang	Not available	Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Thailand Food and Drug Administration
Wonder Pill		Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	United States of America Food and Drug Administration

## **Annex B**

### **The possible side effects of the potent ingredients**

#### **Bimatoprost**

Bimatoprost is a medicine used to lower the intraocular pressure of the eye in glaucoma. It should be used under medical supervision as it can cause side effects such as blurred vision, eye irritation, darkened eyelid skin, iris colour change, eye inflammation and macular oedema and hyperemia.

#### **Corticosteroids**

Betamethasone 17-Valerate and Clobetasol propionate are potent steroids that are usually prescribed for inflammatory conditions and should only be used under strict medical supervision. Long-term unsupervised use of steroids (including topical use where the steroid can be absorbed into the body) can cause increased blood glucose levels (which may lead to diabetes), high blood pressure, cataracts, muscular and bone disorders, an increased risk of infections and Cushing's syndrome (a round face or 'moon face' appearance and upper body obesity with thin limbs). Discontinuation of steroids without proper medical supervision can cause serious withdrawal symptoms such as fatigue, confusion and low blood pressure, especially when the product has been taken for more than a few weeks.

#### **Hydroquinone**

Hydroquinone is a potent ingredient used in prescription medicines for the treatment of skin conditions. The ingredient is prohibited in skincare cosmetic products and should only be used under medical supervision, as hydroquinone may cause harmful effects if not used properly. The inappropriate use of hydroquinone could result in changes in skin colour and hypersensitivity reactions such as rashes, redness, tingling and burning of skin.

#### **o-Aminophenol**

o-Aminophenol is a chemical that is not allowed to be present in hair dyes or hair colouring products. It can cause skin allergies and eye irritation, and potentially serious eye damage. Acute toxicity can occur when ingested orally or inhaled, causing asthma symptoms, or breathing difficulties. Damage to the kidneys may occur through prolonged or repeated exposure.

#### **Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE-5) inhibitors**

This class of medicine includes sildenafil and tadalafil. These medicines can cause serious side effects such as strokes, heart attacks, decreased or loss of vision and hearing and priapism (painful and exceedingly long erections). If priapism is not treated immediately, it may lead to permanent impotence. PDE-5 inhibitors are also not suitable for patients with medical conditions such as certain heart-related problems or who are on heart medications such as nitrates. Deaths of patients found to be using Sildenafil while on nitrates have been reported overseas.



### **Pigment Red (CI 15585)**

Pigment red is a synthetic colouring agent widely used in printing inks and letter press. It has been associated with contact dermatitis following cosmetic use. Although there is inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in humans, limited evidence of toxicity, tumours and splenomegaly occurred in experimental animals after long term intake.

### **Prasterone**

Prasterone, also known as Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), is a hormone that could increase the risk of prostate, breast, ovarian and other hormone-sensitive cancers. Side effects may include serious cardiovascular disease, changes in fertility and sperm production, hair loss, voice deepening, insulin resistance, changes in menstrual pattern, liver dysfunction, abdominal pain, and high blood pressure.

### **Tretinoin**

Tretinoin is a potent ingredient used in prescription medicines for the treatment of skin conditions and should be used under medical supervision. The ingredient is prohibited in skincare cosmetic products. Inappropriate use of tretinoin could lead to side effects such as redness and peeling of skin.

### **Toxic Heavy Metals**

Consumption of excessive amounts of toxic heavy metals such as lead and mercury pose serious health risks and may increase the chance of poisoning. Exposure to high levels of lead may cause anaemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage. High levels of mercury may cause kidney injury (e.g. protein in urine and oedema) and affect the nervous system (e.g. numbness, tingling, dizziness, forgetfulness, headaches and depression).