

HSA updates on products found overseas that contain potent ingredients (April 2023)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on products that have been found and reported by overseas regulators in April 2023 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.

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)
Alien 2 Power Platinum 11000	 The image shows the packaging for Alien 2 Power Platinum 11000. It features a red and black design with the product name in large, stylized letters. Below the name, it says 'Ready to Get the Power of Alien'. There are two gold capsules visible in the center. Text on the packaging includes 'IMPROVED', 'Platinum 11000', 'TIME SIZE STAMINA', and 'NO HEADACHE'.	Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
American Bangster Black Label Optimum Formula 4000	 The image shows the packaging for American Bangster Black Label Optimum Formula 4000. It is a black box with gold and white text. The brand name 'AMERICAN BANGSTER' is prominently displayed in large, serif letters. Below it, it says '- BLACK LABEL -' and 'OPTIMUM FORMULA'. At the bottom, it indicates '4000' and '10 CAPSULES'. There are also some circular logos on the left side.	Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Bellissimo Instant Premix Coffee & Chocolate Drinks	 The image shows the packaging for Bellissimo Instant Premix Coffee & Chocolate Drinks. It is a small, rectangular box with a colorful design featuring a cup of coffee and chocolate. The brand name 'Bellissimo' is visible at the top.	Sibutramine	Hong Kong Department of Health
Bio-Love	 The image shows a white plastic bottle of Bio-Love. The label is black and white with the brand name 'BIO-LOVE' in large, bold letters. Below the name, there is a small image of a woman's face. The label also mentions 'Life Enhancement' and '10 caps 550 mg'.	Caffeine and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Brilliant Skin Essentials Rejuvenating Facial Cream		Hydroquinone and Tretinoin	Health Canada
Dynamite Male Sexual Enhancement		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
DYNAMITE SUPER Capsule 58,000 mg		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
NUX Male Enhancement		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
NORF 20		Acetaminophen, Salicylic acid and Theophylline	United States Food and Drug Administration
Pro Power Knight Plus 2550mg		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Rhino 69 Platinum 35000	 The packaging for Rhino 69 Platinum 35000 features a central image of a rhinoceros against a fiery, orange and red background. Text on the package includes "NEW", "Platinum 35000", "RHINO 69", "SUPER LONG LASTING", "TIME SIZE STAMINA", "NO HEADACHE", and "1 Capsule Up to 7 Days". There are also circular logos for "100% GUARANTEED" and "69 RHINO".	Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Rhino 69 Platinum 700K	 The packaging for Rhino 69 Platinum 700K features a central image of a rhinoceros against a dark, textured background. Text on the package includes "Extreme Power", "Platinum 700K", "RHINO 69", "TIME SIZE STAMINA", "NO HEADACHE", and "1 Capsule 7 Days". There are also circular logos for "100% GUARANTEED" and "69 RHINO".	Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Spanish Fly	 The packaging for Spanish Fly is shaped like a shield and features a central image of a woman's face. Text on the package includes "TIME + SIZE + STAMINA", "Spanish Fly", "22,000", "100% GUARANTEED", and "14 PREMIUM GELS". There are also images of the product capsules.	Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Tantra Jelly Herbal Jelly for Him		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration

Annex B

The possible side effects of the potent ingredients

Acetaminophen

Acetaminophen is used for relieving pain, headache and fever. Products which contain acetaminophen or paracetamol, but do not have this declared on the label, pose a danger to consumers as accidental overdose can result in liver damage.

Caffeine

The inappropriate use of caffeine may lead to insomnia, agitation, restlessness, palpitations and increased heart rate.

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.

Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE-5) inhibitors

This class of medicine includes carbodenafil, sildenafil, tadalafil, vardenafil and their derivatives. 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.

Salicylic acid

Salicylic acid is a medication that can be used for dermatologic conditions. Rare but serious hypersensitivity reactions may occur with the use of topical dosage forms of salicylic acid. When taken orally, salicylic acid or in the form of salicylates such as aspirin, can cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting and stomach discomfort. Salicylate toxicity, resulting in tinnitus, hyperventilation, confusion and slurred speech can occur. Life-threatening toxicity can lead to hallucinations, seizures and eventual respiratory and cardiac arrests.

Sibutramine

Sibutramine, previously a prescription weight loss medicine used in the treatment of obesity, has been disallowed for sale in Singapore since 2010 due to increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. The use of sibutramine has been associated with serious side effects, including high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, hallucinations and mood swings.

Theophylline

Theophylline is a prescription medicine used in the treatment of asthma and should be used under medical supervision. The use of theophylline has been associated with side effects including seizures, irritability, headaches, nausea and vomiting.

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.