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NEWS RELEASE

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Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI) Completes Pilot Audit

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Natural Products Association (NPA) today announced the completion of the pilot audits for the Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI), an industry- driven initiative led by retailers focused on enhancing the authenticity, safety, and compliance of dietary supplements.

“This pioneering initiative strives to create global harmonization through standard benchmarking, a critical piece in the initiative to send a clear message to millions of consumers that they can have confidence in the safety and authenticity of the dietary supplements and natural products they use each and every day,” said Dan Fabricant, PhD., President and CEO of NPA.

“SSCI’s goal is to bolster consumer confidence and increase transparency and safety in the dietary supplement and natural product industry from farm to factory to finished dosage, which aligns with current consumer and regulator expectations,” said Guru Ramanathan, Ph.D., Chief Innovation Officer & Senior Vice President for GNC (NYSE:GNC). “This initiative will unify and promote supply chain quality benchmarking, and provide a unique stakeholder platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and networking. Stakeholders that join this group will be pioneers in the formation of industry benchmarking, converging numerous industry safety standards and determining equivalency between safety schemes.”

“Walmart is excited to be a part of the Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative. SSCI’s benchmark creates global standard harmonization while promoting continuous quality improvement enhancing dietary supplement compliance and consumer safety,” Dadrion A. Gaston, Senior Director, Corporate Ethics & Compliance, Walmart. “SSCI is a game changer and a bold step forward for the industry. We look forward to having additional retailers and others in the industry join this effort as a united force to enhance the authenticity and safety of dietary supplements ultimately protecting the health and safety of consumers everywhere.”

NPA would like to thank Nature’s Way, US Pharma Labs, and GNC’s Nutra Manufacturing Operation for allowing the SSCI pilot audits to be conducted at their facilities. We would also like to thank GNC, and Walmart for their continued leadership in developing this initiative.

With the completion of the pilot audit, the next steps will be to use the data towards developing a benchmark and refining the current guidance document and audit tool. The pilot audits helped identify the discrepancies between the different auditors with the aim to address those gaps with the establishment of benchmark standards.



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Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI)

The **Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI)** is an industry-driven initiative *led by retailers* to provide a harmonized benchmark to recognize various safety standards throughout the entire dietary supplement supply chain. SSCI is a bold step forward in providing quality assurance from harvest to retailer shelf. Dietary supplements must meet or exceed the SSCI benchmark to be accepted in major retailers, all with the goal of providing quality products and increasing consumer confidence.

SSCI Vision: Safe and authentic dietary supplements for consumers everywhere.

Visit: <http://www.ssciglobal.org/>

Natural Products Association

The **Natural Products Association (NPA)** is *the* trade association representing the entire natural products industry. We advocate for our members who supply, manufacture and sell natural ingredients or products for consumers. The Natural Products Association promotes good manufacturing practices as part of the growth and success of the industry. Founded in 1936, NPA represents approximately 1,000 members accounting for more than 10,000 locations of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of natural products, including foods, dietary supplements and health/beauty aids. Visit www.NPAinfo.org.

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