



We appreciate your concerns about the California Proposition 65 warnings. Rest assured our products continue to be safe. The warning has been added to ensure compliance with Proposition 65 so that we can continue serving our customers in California. Be assured that our products meet all internationally accepted standards for dietary supplements. They remain, as always, the purist and most potent plant derived dietary supplements you can buy.

Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, was enacted as a “right to know” ballot initiative in November 1986. The Proposition was intended by its authors to protect California citizens and the State's drinking water sources from chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, and to inform California citizens about exposures to such chemicals.

The issue is trace amounts of lead, an element that can be found commonly or naturally in soil, plants, and water. The issue is not confined to medicinal herbs from any region. Every plant contains, and likely always has contained, trace amounts of lead. We herewith confirm that the lead present in our products is naturally occurring. No lead is introduced into the product during processing or production. The compounds of lead found in plant derived products are less likely than free lead to bind with molecules in our body, and are thus passed through the body quickly. The State of California requires a warning for any product sold in California that would result in a consumer ingesting more than 0.5 micrograms of lead in a day. This is an exceedingly low level that is, by law, 1000 times lower than the level of exposure that has been shown to have no observable effect on humans or animals. Therefore, the law sets an extremely stringent warning threshold.

A Proposition 65 warning does not mean a product is in violation of any product-safety standards or requirements. Modern detection equipment has revealed trace amounts of lead in all plants. It is these trace amounts that the California law requires us to use the Proposition 65 warning. Of note, small businesses with fewer than 10 employees, governmental agencies, and public water systems are exempt from the warning requirement of Proposition 65. A notable aspect of California Proposition 65 is that “bounty hunter” attorneys can and do sue manufacturers for huge fines if a listed Proposition 65 chemical is found in a product sold in California.

I hope this explains the situation, and puts some minds at rest.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Frese