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CFDA: Products That Claim to be Pure Green Will Be Punished

The state food and drug regulator recently released a document on punishing illegal conducts on food safety, and open to public opinion for the draft.

The draft says that any food ads that promote the product to be "pure green", "not polluted" or any other words that exaggerate the product's feature, will be punished for fraud. Those non-GMO food products which claim to be GMO food will also be punished for false advertisement.

Six kinds of fraud, including those products promote to be "pure green" or "not polluted" will have the person who is responsible for the product to be fined with over 10,000 yuan and less than 30,000 yuan. Other punishment measures will also be applied to the relevant personnel.

The draft also says that those which conduct fraud will have their names and info recorded into the credit record of food safety. (Source; Xinhua)

Yunnan Launched Inspection Campaign on Health food and Cosmetics

Recently, the provincial food and drug authority of Yunan sent out three inspection teams to launch a inspection campaign to check local health food and cosmetics companies. The recent campaign covers 11 manufacturers. 85% of them were found standard.

This campaign is an important part of the authority's annual



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goal, and a concrete measure to improve monitoring works. During the inspection, companies were tested for their capability to ensure food safety, and have their production procedure inspected.

The authority requires company owners to shoulder more responsibility of risk control, and strengthen management of food safety. (Source: Kunming Daily)

Ningbo Released Spot Check Result of Cosmetics and Health Food

Earlier this month, the market inspection bureau of Ningbo, Zhejiang province, released the inspection result of annual spot checks on health food and cosmetics last year.

The result shows that the 280 batches of health food inspected were all found standard. Among the 150 batches of cosmetics checked, 7 of them were found substandard.

The cosmetics inspected include the general products and those of special use. Some of them were found to contain illegal additives. The local market regulators have requested punishment towards relevant personnel.

The health food products, which were inspected, include those that aim to enhance immunity, help alleviate fatigue and improve sleeping quality. (Source; Ningbo Daily)

Making Health a Habit: 'Healthy China' On the Way

Taking folic acid during pregnancy, exercising on community lots, regular health check ups. These habits were almost unheard of in China a few decades ago.

Addressing the four-day Ninth Global Conference on Health Promotion (GCHP), which ended Thursday, Premier Li Keqiang announced that China's average life expectancy was 76.3, the maternal mortality rate was 20.1 per 100,000 and infant mortality was 8.1 per 1,000.



China's averages beat many middle- and high-income countries, Li said. "For China, the world's largest developing country with over 1.3 billion people, such accomplishments are no mean feat."

Behind the achievements are policies rolled out by the central government, and, of equal importance, the more health-conscious mindset of the populous.

"People should avoid too much salt, sugar or oil," "Always pay attention to blood pressure and blood glucose," "Don't abuse antibiotics" -- these are all featured in a brochure the government has distributed to the public.

Released in 2008 and amended in 2015, the brochure contains 66 simple but practical pieces of health advice, the first document of its kind released by any government in the world.

The guideline is a tool for residents wanting to live healthier lives and prevent chronic diseases.

According to "Healthy China 2030," which was released in October, China plans to increase the average life expectancy to 77.3 by 2020, and 79 by 2030. Chronic diseases, however, remain an obstruction as the fatality rate rose from 76.5 percent in 1990 to 86.6 percent in 2015.

In east China's Shandong Province, where residents favor salty, preserved food, a government project

to reduce salt intake has changed residents' lifestyles.

The five-year project started in 2011, when the average daily salt intake in Shandong was 12.5 grams and 23.9 percent of residents suffered from high blood pressure.

Promotions about low-salt food were held in supermarkets, and manufacturers were encouraged to include the salt content of their products on labels.

"Manufacturers quickly realized that low-salt foods not only saved them money but were also popular with customers," said Zuo Yi, director of the Health and Family Planning Commission of Shandong.

As more low-salt products become available and the population more educated, the average daily salt intake in Shandong has dropped 2.4 grams and the number of people suffering from blood pressure fell by 1.7 percentage points by 2016, according to China Youth Daily.

Healthy habits are spreading.

In Shanghai, "self health management group" have sprung up around the city to share health tips, organize exercise classes and exchange experiences.

Currently there are 26,000 such groups in Shanghai, with 440,000 members.

"Members take home their new found knowledge and share it with their families and friends," said Li Guangyao, an official from a Shanghai health association.

China wants to achieve a society with high health literacy.

Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Margaret Chan said, in a speech at the GCHP, that health literacy should be realized at both the

personal and the political and policy levels, adding that there is still long way to go.

"Health promotion is essentially about delivering messages that change human behavior. For example no smoking, healthy diet and more physical activities, and there is nothing harder to do in all of public health," she said. (Source:Xinhua)

Draft Regulation For Online Food Delivery Services Puts Safety First



The China food and drug Administration has released a draft regulation on online food services for public opinions. It proposes that any food delivery business providing an online service should also have a physical outlet and a food business license. Beijing News commented on Wednesday:

People are increasingly willing to order food online and the market is now worth over 152 billion yuan (\$23 billion). However, there are concerns about the hygiene conditions at the production plants and food safety.

Basic food safety and hygiene are the bottom lines to protect consumers. Even though technology is changing our lifestyle, it doesn't guarantee the online food delivery market will grow smoothly.

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A physical store may not necessarily be a foolproof way to protect consumers, but at least it means the industry can be supervised, and when there is a problem with food safety or any infringement on the rights of consumers those responsible can be found

Restaurants, whether online or offline, should have the necessary business licenses, including a food hygiene license. The businesses involved should not only offer a fast food delivery service, but also clean, safe environment for producing the meals. The draft of the new regulation may prompt more people to care about the issue. (Source: China Daily)

China Health Authorities Say Five Patients at Hangzhou Hospital Contracted HIV



Health authorities said five patients at a Hangzhou hospital had contracted HIV as a result of a medical technician's negligence, news that was quickly scrubbed from Chinese media sites, in an illustration of the topic's sensitivity.

The Zhejiang Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, a top-level public hospital, reported the outbreak to the provincial health authorities on Jan. 26, a day before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday, the province's Health and Family Planning Commission said in an

announcement on Thursday.

Health authorities' investigation found that a patient who had contracted HIV outside the hospital during the period of treatment was the source of the contamination. It said blood screening had showed the virus had then spread to five other patients after a technician violated medical protocol by using the same piece of medical equipment on multiple patients. It didn't specify what the patients were treated for, the equipment or the procedure in which it was used, but said all patients receiving the same treatment as those infected had been tested.

Two top officials at the hospital have been suspended from their posts and the technician has been placed under criminal investigation, health authorities said.

Reached by phone, a hospital representative declined to provide more details. Calls to the provincial health authorities were unanswered.

China has become more transparent in its handling of epidemics and medical scandals since it was criticized for its tight grip on information during the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome. But concerns around health safety regularly erupt, eroding trust in government oversight and transparency. Last year, a scandal over improperly handled vaccines exposed weak links in the distribution of vaccines across China.

Also on Thursday, Xinhua News Agency reported that several hospital officials in east China's Shandong province had been removed after improper procedures in the hospital's hemodialysis unit had left nine patients infected with the hepatitis B virus.

In the 1980s and '90s, Beijing depicted HIV and AIDS as the result of decadent, capitalist lifestyles in the West. Authorities began being more open about the



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virus after a scandal in the '90s, in which farmers in Henan province were infected with HIV after selling their blood to unlicensed blood banks, which re-injected red blood cells from a tainted pool to donors after extracting plasma. Henan officials only acknowledged a pattern of unsanitary practices years later.

Revelations about the spread of HIV are still highly sensitive in a country where homosexuality or sexually transmitted diseases are uncomfortable topics. People infected with HIV are banned from government jobs, and students whose college learns of their HIV status have sometimes been expelled or pressured to leave.

China has about half the number of people living with HIV as the U.S., but roughly twice as many new infections each year. World Health Organization officials say stigmatization makes prevention efforts more difficult and have urged China to crack down on discrimination against people with HIV or those at risk for the disease.

Soon after the statement was put on the website Thursday morning, news reports and comments related to it began disappearing from China's social-media platform Weibo and news portals such as NetEase. Weibo posts by China's state broadcaster China Central Television and People's Daily, the Communist Party flagship newspaper on the topic were later unavailable. The health authorities' statement remained online. (Source:WSJ)



China Dietary Supplement Industry



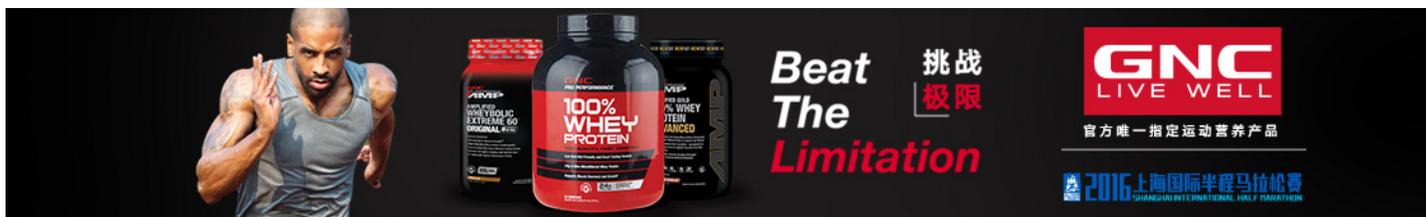
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