

Proposition 65 Settlement Approved for Omega-3 Products

An agreement was approved and entered into the California Superior Court on February 1 between 30 member companies of the Global Organization for EPA and DHA (GOED) and the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation giving these companies operating certainty around Proposition 65 limits for dioxins, furans, PCBs and dioxin-like PCBs in products with EPA and DHA omega-3s. California had not previously set reproductive toxicity exposure limits for these compounds, or clarified how PCBs were to be measured for compliance with the State's warning label law.

In addition, GOED previously reached an agreement with Chris Manthey and Benson Chiles, founders of FishOilSafety.com, that assures that these plaintiffs will not start any new lawsuits against GOED member companies whose products meet the agreement's standards. This agreement also requires GOED to perform testing of product pulled from California retail shelves as well as to incorporate the settlement's standards into the GOED Voluntary Monograph.

The settlement's PCB standards are similar to what already exists in the standards GOED requires of its members (shown in the table below).

Parameter	GOED Voluntary Monograph (Today)	GOED Voluntary Monograph – Proposed post- settlement	GOED Voluntary Monograph – December 31, 2012
Total PCBs	0.09mg/kg (7 congeners)	0.09mg/kg* (209 congeners)	0.09mg/kg* (209 congeners)
Sum of Dioxins, Furans, and Dioxin- Like PCBs (PCDD/F WHO-TEq)	5pg/g (max 2pg/g PCDD/F, max 3pg/g dl-PCBs)	4pg/g	3pg/g

^{*} To avoid triggering Prop 65 warning requirements in California, consumer products also need to make sure that total exposure of PCBs from the labeled dosage is less than 0.09mg (90ng).

The GOED member companies who are parties to the settlement with the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation are:

- Aker Biomarine
- Aurora Algae
- Austral Group
- Azantis
- Barlean's Organic Oils

- BASF
- Biodroga
- Bioriginal Food & Science
- Bizen Chemical
- Copeinca
- Croda Chemical
- Denomega
- DSM Nutritional Products
- Epax
- GC Rieber Oils
- Golden Omega
- J.R. Carlson Laboratories
- K.D. Pharma
- Marine Nutriceutical
- Maruha Corporation
- Nordic Naturals
- Ocean Nutrition Canada
- Omega Natural Science (OmegaBrite)
- Organic Technologies
- Originates
- Pharma Marine
- Pharmline
- Solutex
- TASA
- Tishcon