

--For Immediate Release--

Increased Screening for Diethylene Glycol in Glycerin based on FDA Import Alert

Contact:

CONTACT:

Kelly Templeton,
BioScreen Testing Services, Inc.

Phone: 310-214-0043,

Email: info@bioscreen.com

www.bioscreen.com

TORRANCE, CA, May 29, 2007 – BioScreen Testing Services, Inc. has received increased test requests for screening the pharmaceutical and cosmetic ingredient, glycerin, for traces of diethylene glycol (DEG). Glycerin is used as a sweetener or solvent commonly used in medicinal, cosmetic and food products. Many suppliers of the ingredient in other countries substitute or supplement the ingredient with the less expensive and similar tasting but poisonous DEG, the primary ingredient in antifreeze.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) re-issued the alert this year, after more than 40 deaths in Panama in October 2006 were linked to cough syrup containing DEG, and more than 80 children died in Haiti in 1995 after taking contaminated acetaminophen syrup. In 1937, 105 children in the US died after ingesting DEG tainted cough syrup, an incident which led congress pass the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938, the law that remains the basis of how drugs are regulated in the US today.

The FDA has no reason to believe that the US supply of glycerin is contaminated with DEG, however, the agency reports that more than 1000 shipments of bulk glycerin/glycerol are received from other countries in the US every year. The alert emphasizes increased surveillance. Manufacturers are taking the FDA alert very seriously, testing a sample of each lot of glycerin or glycerol shipment they receive.

The recommended method for testing for the presence of DEG in glycerin utilizes Gas Chromatography (GC) technology. Many companies do not have a GC instrument to carry out the screening, or the expertise to carry out the method. Many of these companies have turned to BioScreen, an independent testing laboratory, to analyze a sample of the raw material for them. In addition, many companies benefit from the peace of mind of using an FDA inspected, cGMP laboratory.

Submitting samples to BioScreen for the screening is a simple process that involves first obtaining a quotation from the company's Client Services department. Next, samples can be submitted with a standard sample submission form one of many ways: in person or using the company's courier service, if local, or using a commercial courier service such as FedEx, UPS or DHL. BioScreen offers standard or rush testing. Results are accessible 24/7 through the company's secure online reporting service, Biosecure, at no extra cost.

BioScreen is a leading provider of laboratory testing (analytical chemistry, clinical, and microbiology) to the biotechnology, medical device, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. The company is registered with the FDA, DEA, California Department of Health Services and is TGA and ISO 9001:2000 Certified. Studies are performed per GLP/GMP/ISO guidelines.

The alert can be found on the FDA website: http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora_import_ia5502.html

###