

## **STATEMENT REGARDING A WHITE PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE CLEAN LABEL ASSOCIATION CONCERNING COLLAGEN PEPTIDES**

Brussels, June 2nd, 2020.

Consumer health, safety and protection is the undisputable guiding principle of the collagen peptides producers organized in regional associations: GMIA - Gelatin Manufacturers Institute of America; GME - Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe; GMAP - Gelatin Manufacturers Association of Asia Pacific; SAGMA - South American Gelatine Manufacturers Association and represented by GROW (Gelatin Representatives of the World).

After the publication of a white paper by the Clean Label Project association, “The true content and faces behind America’s best-selling collagen”, members of the associations part of GROW would like to confirm the safety of the product collagen peptides and respond to the methodology and conclusions of the study. GROW invites the Clean Label Project association for a dialogue on this topic.

### ***Safety of collagen peptides***

GMIA, GME, GMAP and SAGMA members deliver high-quality collagen peptides to their customers. Their manufacturing processes ensure that their products are traceable, safe and healthy for the final consumers:

- The production of collagen peptides is following specific regulations that covers all aspects of the production from raw materials to the final product, e.g. EC No. 853/2004;
- Collagen peptides are tested, in compliance to applicable regulations on contaminants set by public health organizations, such as the FDA Food Chemical Codex FCC 10 and EU regulations (EU N°853/2004, EU N°1881/2006) and other regional regulations. They are essential to demonstrate the quality and safety of gelatin and collagen peptides used in food and dietary supplement products;
- Raw materials from porcine, bovine and fish origin used for the production of collagen peptides are derived from animals slaughtered in registered slaughterhouses and declared fit for human consumption by official veterinaries;
- Gelatin and collagen peptides are considered “Generally Recognized as Safe” (GRAS) by U.S. FDA;
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Food Safety Authority have confirmed that collagen peptides are safe.



Based on the sourcing rules, the production processes, and all analysis performed in compliance with worldwide regulations, members of the associations part of GROW can guarantee that the collagen peptides they produce can be safely used in any product and deliver the complete health benefits consumers expect.

### **Heavy metals**

Heavy metals exist in air, water, and soil. Contaminants are naturally occurring elements and can be found in many foods and drinks. There is a significant distinction between measurable levels and regulatory limits which exist for foods to ensure consumer safety.

Official authorities seek to minimize consumer exposure to all potentially harmful contaminants by setting regulatory limits that collagen producers must comply with.

### **Methodology and conclusions of the Clean Label Project Association white paper**

The aim of the study is to look at the content of collagen peptides in food products with a focus on heavy metals. A selection of products was purchased from online retailers to replicate the consumer shopping experience. In total, 28 samples were sent to accredited laboratories to test.

From the list of sampled products, it can be concluded that the tests were **not** made on pure collagen peptides products, but on products containing several ingredients. The conclusions therefore apply to the tested product as a whole and not on the collagen peptides content.

The Natural Product Association (NPA) has called the publication of the Clean label Project association “fearmongering and misinformation”. “It does not disclose its secret donors or the methodology it uses to “test” products and produced the “study” that was not peer-reviewed nor fully released... Consumers should be receiving science-based facts about how to support their health. NPA believes this shadow group should disclose its funders and the full methodology it used to produce this study so the public can make an educated decision about what products to use.”

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**GME – GROW (Gelatin Representatives of the World)**

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