



REMINDER: Deadline approaching for Converting DIN Registrations to Natural Health Product (NPN) Registrations

Products which are currently registered under DIN but fit the definition of a Natural Health Product under the *Natural Health Products Regulations* (such as alcohol-based hand sanitizers), must be registered as a Natural Health Product by January 1, 2010 or be withdrawn from the market.

The DIN number will expire December 31st, 2009. Products that have not been registered as Natural Health Products are at risk of being removed from the marketplace.

Under the *Natural Health Products Regulations* which came into effect on January 1, 2004, Natural Health Products (NHPs) are defined as:

- ▶ Vitamins and minerals
- ▶ Herbal remedies
- ▶ Homeopathic medicines
- ▶ Traditional medicines such as traditional Chinese medicines
- ▶ Probiotics, and
- ▶ Other products such as amino acids and essential fatty acids.
- ▶ Plant, algal, fungal
- ▶ Non-human animal materials, their extract and isolate

NHPs must be safe for consideration as over-the-counter products, be available for self-care and self-selection and not require a prescription to be sold.

The latest submission status report published by the Natural Health Products Directorate indicates a backlog of transitional DIN submissions of almost 500 applications and that only 14% of eligible DIN registrations have been received to date. The latest guidance from the Natural Health Products Directorate is that Transitional DIN submissions should be filed no later than September 1st, 2009 if the applicant expects Natural Health Product approval by December 31st, 2009

Dell Tech Laboratories recommends that if you intend to apply for the conversion of an eligible DIN registered product to a Natural Health Product (NPN) that you do so immediately.

Currently, there are no fees being charged for this conversion but fees have been proposed for the future. You may continue to sell your product as usual while it is in the transitional phase and if your plans change, withdrawal may be made at any time without jeopardizing the DIN status.

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