

23 November 2007

KUALA LUMPUR: The public has been advised to avoid buying the Cool & Lightening soap because it contains poison.

The product registration of this soap has been cancelled by the Drug Control Authority (DCA) following the detection of a scheduled poison, *hydroquinone*, in this product.

*Hydroquinone* is not allowed to be formulated in cosmetics due to possible side effects to consumers if used without medical supervision, the Health Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

It said that anyone in possession of this product is advised to immediately cease selling/distributing/using it.

In a separate statement, the Health Ministry also advised the public to avoid buying traditional product N-Hanz as it has been found to contain *homosildenafil*.

Usage without medical supervision can cause adverse effects such as low blood pressure and other cardiovascular effects, it said.

Also listed in the statement are Chatlin Brand Hao Zhou San, which has been found to contain *ephedrine*, and San Qi Luohan Chuanbei Plus Capsule, found to contain *pseudoephedrine* and *chlorpheniramine*.

These can cause, among other things, high blood pressure, insomnia, confusion, nausea and dyspnoea.

Consumers experiencing symptoms described earlier should seek medical advice, and may contact the Surveillance and Complaints Unit, Centre for Post Registration, National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau at 03-7957 3611 ext 365/338.