

Santen Files Complaint Against Sante Japan Alleging Unlawful Use of “Sante” Marks

Osaka, Japan, March 4, 2003 --- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. has filed a complaint against a defendant, Sante Japan, alleging that the use of “Sante” marks by Sante Japan infringes Unfair Competition Prevention Law and Trademark Law and that the company should stop any usage of “Sante” marks. The complaint was filed with and accepted by the Osaka District Court today. Sante Japan, located in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, runs a food supplement mail-order business.

Santen has sent warning letters to Sante Japan requesting to stop the use of “Sante” marks, however, since such efforts have failed to attain the desired results, Santen has decided to file a lawsuit.

“Sante” has long been used by Santen as its main over-the-counter (OTC) brand and has gained public acceptance from Japanese consumers as an established brand.

Santen remains committed to taking any necessary action to protect the “Sante” brand should similar cases occur in the future.

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