



Natural Products

Quality, Safety & Purity Draco's Imperative Commitment to You

"You can be sure that when you want to source top quality botanical extract ingredients, **Draco Natural Products** is the name you can trust for Quality, Safety, and Purity."

Draco Natural Products:
Vertical Integration
Pure Water Processing
Thorough Analytical Testing
Clean Room Packaging
ISO9001:2000 Certi™ ed
HACCP Controlled & Certi™ ed
Kosher Certi™ ed
Certi™ ed NOP/IFOAM Organic
REACH Compliant
Homeland Security Compliant

In the face of domestic concerns over the adulteration of foods and botanical materials coming from China, Draco continues to raise the bar on quality, purity, and safety. We were the first, and still the only, herbal ingredient supplier to offer extracts that are truly both Full Spectrum and Standardized in the same potent product, a bridge unheard of in an industry polarized by holistic traditionalists vs. precision oriented scientists.



We are also a pioneer in the industry in achieving ISO9000 quality standards in our 125,000 square foot manufacturing facility. We were among the first to achieve Kosher certification as well. Additionally, we are also the first and only manufacturer of botanical ingredients to receive Organic Certification in China. As the lens on our industry has sharpened, Draco has been relentless in staying on the forefront of quality and safety technologies, as evidenced by our dedicated involvement in the most widely accepted worldwide standards.

Draco is an American company with headquarters in San Jose, CA., but our wholly owned manufacturing facility is in Shanghai, China. At Draco, we sincerely want American consumers to be able to experience and benefit from the vast bounty of the herbs that grow in China, and the 5,000 years of traditional wisdom that has brought the herbal industry to its current position of prominence there. In every way possible, we strive to produce ingredients that achieve that goal, while working to dispel the myth that herbal ingredients from processors in China are of unknown quality. We are clearly the exception to the reports that pepper the news, and we at Draco are proud to stand 100% behind the quality, purity, and safety of our products.

Vertical Integration from Seed to Drum

While there are sourcing challenges and questionable practices in the open market for botanical raw materials in China, we have worked hard to stay out of the typical sourcing loop. To do this, we have vertically integrated our process. At the farm or wildcrafting site, Draco ensures complete characterization of final product identity and composition first with the proper identification of the raw plant materials. Our raw botanicals purchasing group has extensive training in botany and Traditional Chinese Medicine that is indispensable during site visits. Many of our customers prefer plants that grow in a natural environment, so over 70% of our incoming raw plant material is ethically wildcrafted.

To begin, these botanists test for proper botanical species identification using a combination of macroscopic physical examination of plant parts and TLC analysis, looking for unique marker compounds, and also screening for pesticides and heavy metals. Only plants that are the right species, are unadulterated and clean, and have not been damaged in harvesting pass our thorough quality assurance protocol.

Water Processing

At Draco's manufacturing facility, the raw plant material is processed in pure, clean, natural water. No alcohol, hexane or other industrial solvent is ever used, ensuring that no solvent residues will ever be present in the finished extract. If any other materials are used in formulating or packaging, only pharmaceutical grade components are used. The water used for extraction undergoes a purification process that includes multilayer micro filtration, activated charcoal filtration, deionization, and multi-stage UV light treatment. The resulting water we use is USP grade. Through a proprietary reiterative process, even stubborn compounds with low water solubility are extracted into the full spectrum result.

Thorough Analytical Testing

Throughout the processing procedure, Draco extracts are subjected to extensive analytical testing. This is another layer of assurance that we provide you with the best quality, the authentic species and plant parts, the proper marker compounds, and the full spectrum proportions of constituents. To achieve this we use a combination of technologies, including simple organoleptic testing, HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography), HPTLC (High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography), and UV Spectrophotometry. The HPTLC fingerprinting process ensures batch to batch consistency and no adulteration.



Quality, Safety, & Purity

HACCP PRINCIPLES:

HACCP is a systematic approach to the identification, evaluation, and control of food safety hazards based on the following seven principles:

- Principle 1: Conduct a hazard analysis.
- Principle 2: Determine the critical control points (CCPs).
- Principle 3: Establish critical limits.
- Principle 4: Establish monitoring procedures.
- Principle 5: Establish corrective actions.
- Principle 6: Establish verification procedures.
- Principle 7: Establish record-keeping and documentation procedures.

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We also test each extract thoroughly for the presence of bacteria and other potential pathogens. We are proud to say that we consistently have some of the lowest microbiological plate counts in the industry, typically 100 times lower than average. We achieve these low counts without radiation or ETO treatment. Instead, we use a special proprietary multi-stage HTST-like (High Temperature Short Time) procedure during the extraction process.

Clean Room Packaging

After Draco extract ingredients are spray dried into a powder, the powder is collected in an isolated temperature and humidity controlled clean room area of our facility. The clean room area prevents contamination of extract powders from moisture, dirt, and other extract powders. The finished powder is double bagged with an ultra low diffusion Mylar® layer, then nitrogen flushed and packaged in protective drums for your additional quality assurance.

ISO 9001:2000 Certification

Built in 2001, the Draco manufacturing facilities were constructed specifically to conform to internationally recognized quality standards. Our Quality System Manual for the establishment and maintenance of our manufacturing standards conforms to the International Standards Organization ISO9001:2000 standard for manufacturing. Certification was performed by the internationally renowned Norwegian certifier DNV (Det Norske Veritas), one of the top 3 ISO9000 certifiers worldwide. Compliance with ISO9001:2000 standards is ensured by an on-site audit of the quality system every 6 months.

HACCP Certification

To ensure product safety for all Draco products, we have a fully operational HACCP (hazard assessment critical control points) plan in place. We are certified by Swiss based SGS, one of the most reputable HACCP certifiers worldwide. Used extensively in the food industry, HACCP protocols are put in place to prevent contamination transfer from one step of processing to another. Each and every extract is traced through processing accompanied with a full description of the product identity, lot numbers and product codes, and is tracked to its intended distribution in the US market. A hazard analysis is conducted at each step of manufacture, critical control points and limits are determined, the process is monitored, corrective action steps are delineated, and verification procedures with record-keeping/documentation assure the plan is properly implemented and available for later audit. The HACCP program includes an allergen control plan to identify and test for potential allergens.

Kosher Certification

For an additional assurance of quality and purity, Draco's manufacturing facility and

all raw materials processed within are Kosher certified by BCK, or British Columbia Kosher, located in Canada. Kosher processing specifies standards for purity and sanitation, such as separation of plant and animal processing, stringent insect control, and absence of fermentation.

NOP/IFOAM Organic Certification

Draco's manufacturing facility is a certified organic processing facility, certified by ICS, Inc., or International Certification Services, Inc. This is the company that owns the widely accepted FVO or Farm Verified Organic certification program and seal. Draco's organic certification specifically includes certification to the USDA's NOP (US Dept. of Agriculture's National Organic Program), which is the standard accepted in North America, as well as to the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements) program, which is the predominant system used by many other countries. All cleaning materials and procedures in the facility are NOP/IFOAM approved for organic processing. Certified organic final extract products can carry either the USDA/NOP or IFOAM seal.

REACH Compliance

Applicable for our Vital Treasures™ line of cosmeceutical ingredients as well as our other product lines, our ingredient products have also been registered for REACH compliance in the European Union. REACH is an acronym that stands for Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of CHemicals and was put into effect in Europe in 2007. This new policy requires that companies submit basic physical, chemical and toxicological data on substances produced or imported above a certain threshold. Registration is based on usage volumes. REACH regulations require safety and environmental information throughout the lifecycle of the product. To do this Draco has established a complete REACH compliance management plan. We are currently in the process of registering all of our products for REACH compliance.

Bioterrorism Precautions

Because we process our products in China, and our primary market is in the US, we must import our extracts through US Customs FDA, and USDA. All Draco warehousing and shipping follows established procedures and documentation according to the US Bioterrorist Act and US Customs laws, as enforced by the Department of Homeland Security.

