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\$1.3 mn mislabeling fine settled by four US retailers

Beijing News.Net Wednesday 9th December, 2015



NEW YORK - The Federal Trade Commission has imposed civil penalties totaling \$1.3 million on four national retailers for mislabeling and advertising rayon textiles as made of "bamboo" fibers.

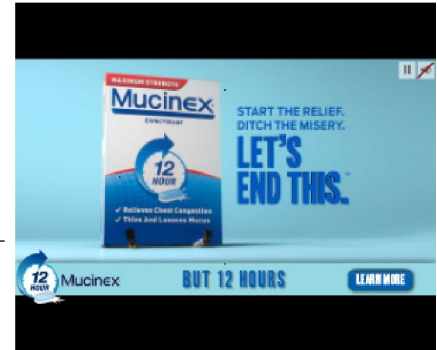
In a complaint to the court, the US regulator sought orders barring the four retailers - Bed Bath and Beyond Inc, Nordstrom, J.C. Penney Company, Inc, and Backcountry.com LLC - from wrongly labeling chemically processed material as natural green fibers besides requiring them to pay civil penalties.

Under the court orders settling the FTC's charges, Bed Bath and Beyond Inc. will pay \$500,000; Nordstrom, Inc. will pay \$360,000; J.C. Penney Company, Inc. will pay \$290,000; and Backcountry.com LLC will pay \$150,000 for allegedly violating the FTC Act and the agency's Textile Rules.

"It's misleading to call bamboo that has been chemically processed into rayon simply 'bamboo'," said Jessica Rich, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection in a statement.

"With consumers in the midst of their holiday shopping, it's important for them to know that textiles marketed as environmentally friendly alternatives may not be as 'green' as they were led to believe."

The complaints by the regulators allege the four companies broke the law by continuing to misrepresent or mislabel rayon products as "bamboo" despite receiving warning letters from the FTC in 2010 and a synopsis of previous litigated cases against marketers for deceptively labeling rayon products as bamboo.



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Several missing as massive landslide hits south China city

Beijing News.Net - Monday 21st December, 2015

BEIJING - Dozens of people were missing after a landslide damaged over 30 buildings at an industrial park in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, one of China's biggest cities. The Chinese government ...



China Ends Tough Year For Economic Growth

Beijing News.Net - Monday 21st December, 2015

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The Commission charged the companies with violating the Textile Act and the Textile Rules and with violating Section 5(m)(1)(B) of the FTC Act by falsely and deceptively selling the mislabeled products, despite knowing that doing so was illegal and could subject them to civil penalties.

The mislabeled products included dresses, socks, t-shirts, bath rugs, napkins and pillow shams, etc.

Specifically, Bed Bath and Beyond's mislabeled items, also sold through its subsidiary buybuy BABY, included dozens of "bamboo" textiles, including "Aden Anais Bamboo 3-Pack Muslin Swaddles" and "Bamboo Blend Napkins."

Nordstrom sold similar products online and in its stores, including a "Gypsy 05 Bamboo Racerback Hi-Lo Dress" and "Degree Six Clothing The Bamboo Long Sleeve Tee."

J.C. Penney sold numerous "bamboo" products in its stores and online, including "Muk Luks 4-pk Men's Bamboo Socks". It also falsely claimed "bamboo" gave the products antimicrobial properties.

Similarly, Backcountry.com, which is controlled by private equity firm TSG Consumer Partners, sold "bamboo" textiles, such as "Bridgedale Bamboo Crew Sock Men's." Backcountry also made anti-microbial claims for its "bamboo" products.

The proposed orders settling the FTC's charges are identical, aside from the civil penalty amounts.

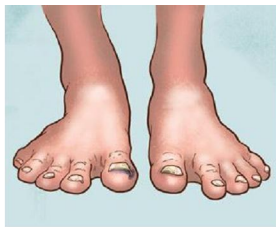
They prohibit the companies from violating the FTC's Textile Act and Rules by failing to properly identify the fiber content when labeling and advertising any textiles containing manufactured fibers.

Other retailers in the past have also received the FTC letter warning against mislabeling.

In Jan. 2013, Amazon.com Inc, Macy's Inc, Sears Holdings Corp and women's clothing retailer Leon Max Inc agreed to pay a combined \$1.26 million to settle similar FTC claims.

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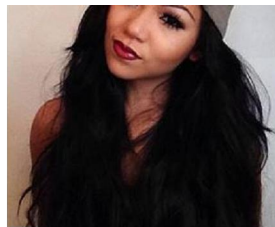
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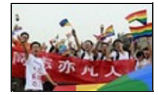


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Gay Chinese Man Sues Government Over Denial of Right to Marry Partner

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EU-Ukraine trade pact angers Russia

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Patent dispute between Apple and Ericsson settled with new pact

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US refrigeration business Hussmann being acquired by Panasonic in \$1.5 bn deal

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OSAKA - Japan's electronics giant Panasonic Corporation Monday entered into an agreement to acquire Missouri-based manufacturer of refrigerated display cases and systems Hussmann Corporation, for ...



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Nearly 60 Missing in China Landslide

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Chinese state media said 59 people remain missing after an enormous landslide hit an industrial park in southern China and buried 22 buildings, including two workers' dormitories. Officials said ...

Sania-Martina named ITF World Champions

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London, Dec 22 (IANS) The International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Tuesday named Indo-Swiss pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis as the 2015 ITF women's doubles World Champions. Martina has ...

76 still missing in China landslide

Beijing News.Net - Tuesday 22nd December, 2015

Beijing, Dec 22 (IANS) At least 76 people remained missing two days after a massive landslide hit an industrial park in China's Shenzhen city, authorities said on Tuesday. Previously, the number of ...

Chinas Tianjin city issues first red alert for pollution

Beijing News.Net - Tuesday 22nd December, 2015

Tianjin, Dec 22 (IANS) China's port city of Tianjin issued its first ever red alert for air pollution, the most serious level, as it joins neighbouring Beijing in fighting the lingering winter ...

China Pakistan sign financing agreement for Thar power project

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) China and Pakistan on Monday signed a financing agreement for a coal power project located in the Thar coalfield in Pakistan's Sindh province. The project will cost in excess ...

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Online giant Alibaba hires ex-Apple official to check counterfeiting

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Nepal turns to China for trade transit fuel

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Kathmandu, Dec 21 (IANS) Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa will travel to China on Wednesday to seek help on importing fuel and expanding road connectivity and transit facilities. The move ...

China considers amending wildlife law

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) China's top legislature is considering an amended draft wildlife law focused on habitat protection. The draft is scheduled for its first reading at the bimonthly session of ...

14 jailed over Beijing construction site accident

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) At least 14 construction chiefs were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to six years for negligence leading to a deadly accident on a Beijing construction site a ...

12 bn dollar electric car deal signed in China

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) A Chinese leasing firm has signed a deal worth \$12 billion with a Chinese-owned Swedish vehicle company, the National Modern Energy Holdings (NMEH) said on Monday. NMEH is ...

Record number of cars recalled in China

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) A record number of vehicles were recalled for technical faults in China in 2015. As of December 18, 76 automakers had recalled 5.55 million vehicles, said Yan Fengmin, a ...

South Korea enters into three new FTAs

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Seoul, Dec 21 (IANS) South Korea entered into free trade agreements with three economies, including its largest trade partner China, the media reported on Monday. According to officials, the FTAs ...

Chinese patrol ships enter

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Tokyo, Dec 21 (IANS) Two Chinese patrol ships entered Japan's territorial waters off the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, the media reported. Japan Coast Guard officials spotted the Chinese ...

Beijing may miss goal to improve air quality

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) Frequent spells of smog that have hit Beijing four times since November, may make it difficult for China's capital to achieve its annual air quality improvement goal, the ...

Chinas domestic violence law may include psychological harm

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) China's first domestic violence law may include emotional or psychological abuse, as also cohabitation, to bring more traditionally silent abuse victims under protection, a ...

China names first counter-terrorism chief

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) China has appointed Liu Yuejin, a key figure in the country's crackdown on illegal narcotics, as its first counter-terrorism chief, a media report said on Monday. The ...

Brazils Swan Albrecht grab Olympic sailing spots

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Rio de Janeiro, Dec 21 (IANS) Isabel Swan and Samuel Albrecht secured the last two places in Brazil's sailing team for next year's Olympic Games after a thrilling final day of the Brazil Cup. The ...

China to advocate one couple two children policy

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) Chinese lawmakers consider amending the family planning law to allow couples to have two children amid efforts to counter shrinkage of the work force and an ageing ...

Chinese yuan strengthens

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Beijing, Dec 21 (IANS) The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi (yuan) strengthened by 61 basis points to 6.4753 against the US dollar on Monday, according to the China Foreign ...

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