

ISIA Position relating to article posted on August 10, 2015 in Suddeutsche Zeitung

The International Serum Industry Association (ISIA) represents the interests of producers and processors of fetal bovine serum (FBS) globally. Since its inception in 2006, the Association has established, promoted and continues to assure compliance with uncompromised standards of excellence and ethics in the business practices of the global animal serum and animal derived products supply industry. To this end, the ISIA represents the interests of both suppliers and end users. The primary focus of the industry as a whole is on safety and safe use of serum and animal derived products through proper origin, traceability, truth in labeling and appropriate standardization and oversight.

Our members' products are used extensively in the growth of cells in culture for research and in the production of diagnostic kits, vaccines and bio-therapeutic molecules. We have established a traceability certification program that has become a standard in the industry and strongly encourage all participants in the industry to become certified to protect our members, and most importantly, the end user of our products. The traceability program is widely supported by the end users of our products.

FBS is a byproduct of the beef industry and is therefore derived from the same processes that provide beef for the human food supply. This process is well regulated and subject to strict standards for the humane treatment of animals. For example, in the U.S., the proper treatment of livestock is governed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and in Europe, DG SANTE provides oversight. Other geographies have similar national regulatory bodies controlling meat production and human and animal health.

The ISIA is not able to comment on the merits of the allegations with respect to the litigation referenced in the August 10, 2015 article at this stage of the litigation process. ISIA is monitoring the situation and will respond as appropriate once the courts make their legal and factual determinations.