



LAV Press Release 26/02/2015

TOXIC AND CARCINOGENIC FUR IN BABY CLOTHING SCANDAL "D&G", "BLUMARINE BABY" AND "WOOLRICH": THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH BANS THE SALE OF PRODUCTS REPORTED BY LAV (TOXIC FUR 2 INVESTIGATION) DUE TO THE POTENTIAL HEALTH DANGERS FOR MINORS AND LAUNCHES NEW INSPECTIONS

Children's health is at risk due to the potentially toxic and carcinogenic chemical substances found in the animal fur components of certain articles of clothing for small children (24 - 36 months) with the well-known labels of "D&G", "BLUMARINE BABY", "WOOLRICH": the Ministry of Health's stop decision for the reported products finally came now after LAV's (www.lav.it) exposed a few months ago in which some samples of these brands were subjected to rigorous independent laboratory tests (Toxic Fur 2 investigation).

In fact, the Ministry of Health has notified the companies "D&G", "BLUMARINE BABY", "WOOLRICH" to ban sales of their baby clothing with animal fur subject to LAV's investigation, declaring: "for all the time necessary in order to carry out the verification and inspection of the safety of the products, according to Article 107 comma 2 lett d) no. 1 of the Legislative Decree 206/2005 Code of Consumption, the importers/distributors are banned from providing, proposing to provide or presenting the products involved in the sales network."

"Not only does animal fur "cost" millions of animals having their lives horribly stripped away today, it also represents damage to human health, particularly children who because of their age are more vulnerable to the effects of the chemical substances used in the preserving phase and put into production, and also damage to the environment: we ask parents, fashion companies and the responsible institutions to ban products with animal fur - Simone Pavesi, Head of LAV's Fur Free Campaign, declares - Once again we have demonstrated that in all clothing products (including footwear and accessories) containing animal fur, even those of luxury brands (therefore theoretically high quality products), it is possible to find chemical substances classified as toxic and carcinogenic. The Ministry of Health must intervene to ban not only the sales of tested products, but also the production and the business of any and all fur products: this episode is only the tip of the iceberg that confirms that we must leave fur on animals!"

The temporary sales ban decreed by the Ministry of Health concerns the following articles for children:



- **D&G** (coat for girls 36 months with rabbit fur insert, cost 945 Euros), code **31 L51C23 FU2J5 S8292 MELANGE GREY**, banned for **hexavalent chromium (CR VI) 3.5 mg/kg, trivalent chromium (CR III) extractable through sweat 219 mg/kg;**

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- **BLUMARINE BABY** (jackets for girls 36 months with rabbit fur insert, cost 433 Euros), code **357PN11 69661**, banned for **trivalent chromium (CR III)** extractable through sweat **176 mg/kg**, **Formaldehyde 58 mg/kg**;



- **WOOLRICH** (boys' parka 24 months with insert in raccoon dog fur, cost 369 Euros), code **07 8055683648348 WKCPS1746**, banned for **trivalent chromium (CR III)** extractable through sweat **86 mg/kg**, **Formaldehyde 96 mg/kg**.

Another article tested by LAV that is ready to be banned is a **lambskin cover for newborns distributed in Italy by the website www.bellicomeilsole.it**:

- **Christ Brand** (lambskin cover produced in Germany, cost 49.90 Euros), resale code **V10004 N011**, banned for **Total Chromium 8,600 mg/kg**.



It has taken two months since LAV pressed charges against these products on December 15th, 2014 in order to obtain the Ministry of Health's intervention. Its decision is a consequence of a preliminary **evaluation on the part of the ISS - Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Higher Institute of Health)** concerning the health dangers for consumers linked to the use of clothing items and based on test reports furnished by LAV, which conclude with: **"it is not possible to exclude the risk of sensitizing effects linked to the use of these children's clothing items according to that which has been established by the Code of Consumption with regard to the fundamental right of protection of the health of consumers."**

Through the Carabinieri for the Protection of Health – NAS, **the Ministry of Health has now arranged for new samples** in order to conduct **further ecological and toxicity tests** on animal fur components, which will follow a further evaluation by the Higher Institute of Health with the Ministry's consequent final declaration about the possible classification of these articles as "dangerous products."

"We invite consumers to abstain from buying clothing items (including footwear and accessories) that contain even small inserts of animal fur or other materials of animal origin: already in 2013 with the Toxic Fur 1 investigation we obtained the temporary

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*sales ban of other products for children with animal fur (from the brands IL GUFO, BRUMS, MISS BLUMARINE, MINIFIX, GUCCI) which became final for some (IL GUFO, BRUMS, MISS BLUMARINE) and which the Public Minister Raffaele Guariniello of the Torino prosecutor's office is investigating. The Toxic Fur 2 investigation confirms the potential danger of the new samples analyzed: consumers with their buyer's choice have the power and the right to refuse these products - **LAV affirms** - Ethical fashion, entirely animal-free, is the only responsible fashion that is sustainable, safe and always in fashion."*

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