BatchTest Laboratories

Independent Analytical Testing & Quality Verification

CASE STUDY 001

The Counterfeit Capture

What happened when three batches cleared our physical checks — and failed every chemical one.

1. THE SETUP

In early August 2026, Batch Test Labs received three peptide batches from a trusted supplier: GHK-Cu 50mg, MOTS-C 40mg, and Retatrutide 30mg. The relationship was established, prior deliveries had passed physical inspection, and the supplier had demonstrated responsiveness to technical questions.

We performed our standard seven-point physical inspection on every vial: integrity, seal security, vacuum suction, powder appearance, reconstitution clarity, mixing behaviour, and packaging condition. The MOTS-C and Retatrutide passed every check: the MOTS-C was white and free-flowing, and the Retatrutide dissolved cleanly. The GHK-Cu passed on vial integrity, reconstitution and mixing, but two checks raised questions: there was no vacuum suction, and a dark blue layer sat on the powder. We put both to our supplier, accepted their explanation, and marked those checks Explained rather than Pass. Given what the lab later found, those features may themselves have been signs of the counterfeit.

Based on these results, we logged the batches in our register and sent samples to Janoshik for independent HPLC and MS verification — the step that elevates our Verification Reports to Certificates of Analysis. We assumed, as we always do, that physical checks plus third-party confirmation equals a complete picture.

2. THE CATCH

The Janoshik results arrived on 24–25 August 2026. All three batches failed identity testing. No identifiable peptide was detected in any sample.

GHK-Cu 50mg	No peptide detected. Physical colour-screen test: dissolved sample poured onto white tissue paper showed pigment seeping and concentrating at edges — consistent with dye, not genuine copper-chelate peptide.
MOTS-C 40mg	No peptide detected. Chromatogram showed a single peak corresponding to hydroxyacetophenone — a known filler compound. The vials contained filler and nothing else.
Retatrutide 30mg	No peptide detected. No active compound present. Physical checks had passed completely.

The critical lesson: **physical checks cannot detect filler-only counterfeits.** A vial can look perfect, dissolve perfectly, and contain nothing of value. Vacuum seals, clear solutions, and intact packaging tell you about the container — not the contents. Only an independent laboratory can confirm what is actually inside.

3. THE RESULT

We publish our Janoshik results with independent verify links. Anyone can check them directly:

- GHK-Cu 50mg: verify.janoshik.com/tests/221424-GHK50_6FNFYUF75Y65
- MOTS-C 40mg: verify.janoshik.com/tests/221425-MS40_LI3TES5Z5YGW
- Retatrutide 30mg: verify.janoshik.com/tests/221426-RT30_RWZW8AAVVZ28

These are not 'inconclusive' results. They are definitive failures. The named peptides were not present. The batches were rejected and their batch numbers retired. The GHK-Cu and Retatrutide were never listed for sale. The MOTS-C had already been sold — see section 4.

4. THE ACTION

Twenty-one vials of MOTS-C had been sold before the Janoshik results arrived. Within hours of receiving the failure notification, we initiated a proactive recall. Every affected customer was contacted directly. Full refunds were issued. Zero vials remain in circulation.

Selling that MOTS-C was our mistake. At the time, we released stock before its independent result came back, assuming a new batch would match earlier deliveries. It didn't. Since then, no batch goes on sale until its third-party result is in.

No Retatrutide had been sold — that batch was caught before it reached any customer. The GHK-Cu, while never listed for sale, was also fully retired.

Sealed vials from each batch have been retained as teaching exhibits. They serve as physical reminders that appearance means nothing without chemical confirmation.

5. THE TWIST

After the failures, we contacted our supplier with the results. They offered an account we cannot independently verify — what we classify as Tier-2 attributed information. According to this account, a freight forwarder allegedly intercepted the genuine shipment and substituted counterfeit products. The supplier stated they have committed to a reship via a new logistics company, with security seals and authentication caps.

We present this account as we received it. We neither confirm nor deny its accuracy. What we can confirm is the test result: no peptide detected, three times over.

We also conducted a supplementary physical test on the GHK-Cu. Genuine GHK-Cu, when dissolved and poured onto white tissue paper, leaves a uniform blue residue — the copper chelate binds evenly. This sample's pigment seeped to the edges and concentrated in patches, behaviour consistent with a dye rather than a peptide-copper complex. It was an additional clue, available only because we knew what to look for. But it was still a physical clue — not a substitute for MS.

6. THE LESSONS

Physical checks have a ceiling.

They can confirm the vial is intact, the seal is secure, and the powder dissolves. They cannot confirm the powder is what the label claims. Filler-only counterfeits are invisible to physical screening.

A COA without third-party verification is a trust exercise.

Any seller can print a Certificate of Analysis. Only an independent laboratory with a verifiable report link can provide evidence. We send samples to Janoshik precisely because we cannot verify our own claims.

Supply chain security matters.

If the supplier's account is accurate, the weak point was not manufacturing — it was logistics. How product moves between factory and customer is as important as how it is made.

Speed of response defines integrity.

The 21 vials of MOTS-C were recalled within hours. Not days. Not after customer complaints. Before any customer noticed a problem. That is the standard we hold ourselves to.

Owning a mistake builds more trust than hiding it.

We expected the recall to cost us customers. It did the opposite: being told straight away, and refunded in full, gave customers more reason to trust us, not less.

7. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

The supplier's reship arrived on 29 September 2026 as four batches. They got no special treatment: the same physical inspection, then independent testing by Uzorak (Zagreb, Croatia), our second approved laboratory. All four contained the named peptides.

A passing reship is consistent with the supplier's account of a swapped shipment, but it does not prove it. The full results, and what they do and do not show, are in Case Study 002: The Redemption Batch, published on The Record.

The process stays the same. Test everything. Publish everything. Let the results speak.

Read how our process works → The Process