



Gerber

Gerber Products Company
12 Vreeland Road • Box 697
Florham Park, New Jersey 07932-0697
Tel: 973.593.7400 • Fax: 973.593.7657

Kurt T. Schmidt
President & CEO
Kurt.Schmidt@gerber.com

May 22, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bart T. Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Stupak:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2008, in which you request information related to your investigation of the Nation's food supply and the safety of the food products Americans purchase and consume.

I am responding on behalf of Gerber Products Company, which became part of Nestlé Nutrition in September of 2007. This response will encompass the products manufactured and sold by Gerber prior to the acquisition by Nestlé through today. Nestlé U.S.A., which until earlier this year was responsible for infant formula products, will provide information on those products as part of its response to the Committee.

Your letter requests information in response to six questions related to activities occurring on or after January 1, 2000. Your letter further requests that for incidents involving contamination we identify the food product and include the location of the facility that processed the product. Each question is reprinted below with our response. I assure you that we take your inquiry seriously.

We have answered each question below to the best of our knowledge and based on our available records for the period in which you requested this information.

- 1. A list of all food recalls and food safety alerts issued by your company. For each recall or safety alert, please provide the date of the recall or alert, the product and brand affected, and the reason for the recall or alert. If the food was affected by microbial or chemical contamination, please identify the contaminant.**

Gerber has had the following recalls in the United States:

February 2007 – Recall, Gerber Lil Entrée Chicken & Pasta Wheel Pick Ups due to undeclared allergen, cheese (milk). Product label was inadvertently mislabeled Lil Entrée Beef Ravioli in Tomato Sauce, which contains cheese (milk) allergen. USDA and FDA were notified.

July 2007 – Recall, Gerber Organic Rice Cereal and Organic Oatmeal Cereal, due to potential choking hazard. FDA was notified.

2. **For each brand or kind of product, please list all instances when internal microbiological testing was found to be positive for the presence of *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, *Cryptosporidium*, *hepatitis A*, *Clostridium botulinum*, or *Listeria* in excess of the highest limit acceptable to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or any State regulatory authority.**

November 2006 – One lot of Gerber Cheddar Cheese Crackers had one positive test for Salmonella. Tests of product lots produced immediately prior and after were negative for Salmonella. Retest of product was also negative. Product in question was not distributed, and never left our control. All product from the production run was destroyed. This product was manufactured in Geneva, Illinois.

3. **For each brand or kind of product, please list the instances when internal testing was found to be positive for the presence of a chemical contaminant at levels in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any State regulatory authority.**

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no instances in which internal testing was found to be positive for chemical contaminants at levels in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any State regulatory authority.

4. **For products imported into the United States for handling or processing by any facility operated by your firm, please list the instances when internal or outside laboratory testing was positive for the presence of either a chemical or microbiological contaminant in excess of FDA or State regulatory limits.**

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no instances in which products imported into the United States for handling or processing in facilities operated by our company tested positive, through internal or outside laboratory testing, for the presence of a chemical or microbiological contaminant in excess of FDA or State regulatory limits.

5. **For each of the above items, please specify whether FDA was notified, and if not, why not.**

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6. **Please supply a list of all instances where FDA or any State regulatory authority was denied entrance to any facility, foreign or domestic, or denied access to any records regarding microbiological or chemical testing performed on products processed at the facility. This request encompasses denials of initial requests for entry or any such testing record regardless of whether the plant or its records were to be made available for inspection at a later date.**

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no instances in which FDA or any State regulatory authority was denied entrance to our facilities or denied access to any records regarding microbiological or chemical testing performed on products processed at a facility.

I trust this is the information you require. Please let me know if we can be of any further help to you in this investigation.

We are continuing our review for the international information that was requested. We will forward an additional response to the Committee on or before June 3, 2008 as requested.

Sincerely,



Kurt Schmidt

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable John M. Shimkus
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations