



January 19th, 2023

RE: Response Requested: Heavy Metals in Chocolate – Divine Chocolate

Our delicious chocolate is entirely safe to consume. Divine Chocolate prioritizes food safety and product quality. We analyze our bars on a monthly basis for levels of various microbiological and chemical components including cadmium, aluminum, lead, nickel, and copper. For all of our varieties, Divine Chocolate is fully compliant and exceeds ALL safety and quality standards -- including those cited in the Consumer Reports study.

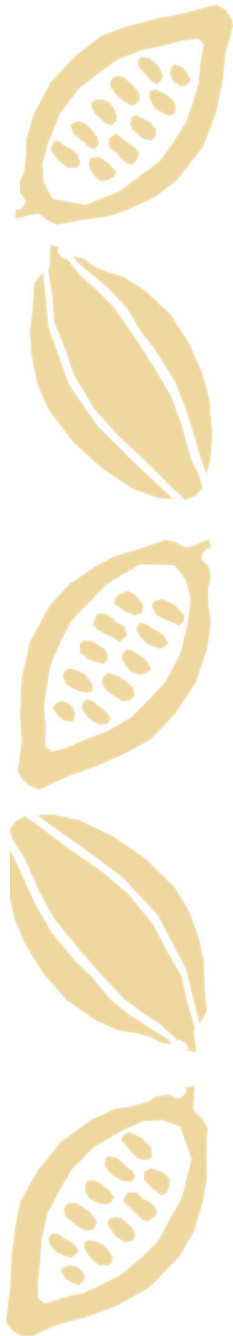
1. What practices does your brand currently employ to ensure that your products are safe and free of harmful heavy metals? → [Using of Ghanaian cocoa which is low in cadmium and lead.](#)
2. Do you all test finished products for heavy metals? → [monitor and test one chocolate bar per month.](#)
3. What practices does your brand employ in your sourcing to ensure that your suppliers are testing for the presence of harmful heavy metals? → [We buy cocoa according to the European food law.](#)
4. Does your brand currently offer any products that have reliably and consistently tested below California’s Maximum Allowable Dose Levels for these metals? If so, which products? → [We cannot guarantee that our chocolates are always below the California’s MADL, however, regarding our analytics in 2022 all Divine chocolates where below the MADIs expect dark ginger orange \(lead above 100%\).](#)
5. What changes in sourcing/testing are underway or planned as a result of Consumer Reports’ research? → [No changes planned. All other cocoa sourcings are higher in cadmium and lead.](#)
6. Solving the heavy metal contamination issue is an industry-wide issue. Is your brand working with any industry groups/brand coalitions to solve this challenge? → [We work together with German Sweet Association \(BDSI\) regarding the problem of aluminum in chocolate. For cadmium \(maximum levels in chocolate are required by the EU\) and lead are currently no projects carried out.](#)

We would like to remember that the Californian’s MADL are just a requirement in California. For the other US states the requirement has no legal relevance.

Please contact michelle@divinechocolateusa.com if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,
Michelle Hyden
Natural Sales Manager
Divine Chocolate - USA

Owned by Cocoa Farmers, Made for Chocolate Lovers
425 8th St. SE, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20003 202.834.8080 michelle@divinechocolateusa.com



Divine Chocolate USA.

425 8th St. SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20003
T: (202) 332 – 8913

divinechocolate.com

Divine™

— CO-OWNED BY COCOA FARMERS —



Divine Chocolate USA.
425 8th St. SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20003
T: (202) 332 – 8913
divinechocolate.com

