



Little Secrets, LLC

6525 Gunpark Dr, Ste. 370-246
Boulder, CO 80301

January 9, 2023

To: National Co+op Grocers

Re: Response Requested: Heavy Metals in Chocolate

1. What practices does your brand currently employ to ensure that your products are safe and free of harmful heavy metals? **The raw materials used in our products manufactured in Europe are subject to the EU regulation for mycotoxins (Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs) and are compliant with this regulation.**
2. Do you all test finished products for heavy metals? **We do not currently test finished products for heavy metals**
3. What practices does your brand employ in your sourcing to ensure that your suppliers are testing for the presence of harmful heavy metals? **Our co-manufacturers demonstrate compliance to EU regulations and conduct analyses on raw materials that may contain heavy metals.**
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 do not currently test our finished goods for heavy metals.**
5. What changes in sourcing/testing are underway or planned as a result of Consumer Reports' research? **We believe the raw materials testing and compliance with EU regulations that our suppliers adhere to is sufficient currently. Our products do not have high cocoa content unlike the products tested by Consumer Reports.**
6. Solving the heavy metal contamination issue is an industrywide issue. Is your brand working with any industry groups/brand coalitions to solve this challenge? **Not currently, but we are researching how our brand can best contribute.**

Please let me know if you have any questions or further concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Reynolds".

Liz Reynolds
Director of Operations