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Heavy Metals in Chocolate

Berhe Tesfahun National Co+op Grocers 2610 University Ave. West, Suite 150 St. Paul, MN 55114

Below are answers to your questions about the potential of heavy metals in our Cocomels products that include dark chocolate.

- 1. What practices does your brand currently employ to ensure that your products are safe and free of harmful heavy metals?
 - a. Cocomels chocolate lots are tested for heavy metals by supplier; lab results are provided along with lot specific COAs.
- Do you all test finished products for heavy metals?
 a. Cocomels has not tested finished goods.
- 3. What practices does your brand employ in your sourcing to ensure that your suppliers are testing for the presence of harmful heavy metals?
 - a. Cocomels receives test results for individual ingredient lots.
- 4. Does your brand currently offer any products that have reliably and consistently tested below California's Maximum Allowable Dose Levels for these metals?
 - a. We do not test our finished goods. Only ingredients.
 - b. If so, which products? N/A
- 5. What changes in sourcing/testing are underway or planned as a result of Consumer Reports' research?
 - a. Cocomels has set internal maximum allowable limits to heavy metals with our supplier network.
- 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?
 - a. Cocomels is working with our network of brokers, suppliers, and manufacturers to address this issue.

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Paolo Mario Bonetti – VP of Manufacturing Operations Madhava Foods, Ltd Tel: 303-823-9900 Ext. 101 qc@madSweets.com