

Jordan Aubey

From: Lawless, Julie <julie.lawless@effem.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 2:21 PM
To: Jordan Aubey
Subject: Mars Petcare follow up

Importance: High

Hi Jordan –

Thanks for contacting us on this one. I want to ensure you have all the correct information from us, so here is what we just talked about over the phone:

Statement:

On August 23, 2012, a lawsuit was filed by a small group of associates at our Joplin, Mo. manufacturing facility, alleging exposure to elevated levels of phosphine while at work.

At Mars Petcare, the safety of our associates is our top concern and we're confident our site programs meet all federal safety standards to protect their health and well-being. That's why we have worked closely with OSHA representatives and an independent third party to investigate this claim. Both our OSHA and independent third party testing results confirm our phosphine levels to be well below OSHA guideline standards.

As the plaintiffs change their claims, we continue to investigate and analyze our records and work with the appropriate agencies. As a result, we remain confident that our site practices continue to ensure the health and safety of our associates.

Additional Info:

Phosphine

Phosphine is an FDA-approved fumigant used during the storage or transportation of many agricultural products such as nuts, seeds, grain, coffee and tobacco. It's been used for decades in both the human food and pet food industries.

Prior to shipment to our facility, some of the inbound railcars are gassed with phosphine to fumigate their contents. These railcars are clearly marked with a placard which prohibits receiving associates from opening the railcars. A third party group of experts is called onsite to open these railcars and off-gas their contents. Once the safety of our associates and product quality has been verified according to OSHA standards and guidelines, the contents are transported into the storage areas of our manufacturing plant.

The type of phosphine used to fumigate the ingredients used in pet food production is activated when it reaches a certain temperature and moisture level. By design, the physical and chemical properties allow the phosphine to activate and then dissipate at a controlled rate. Any residual phosphine, if there were any, would be destroyed in the extrusion (cooking) and baking process of our foods as those temperatures and moisture levels are many times higher than those needed to cause the phosphine to activate. Our products are tested by various state and federal agencies for phosphine. We have had no reports that any of our products have been found to contain phosphine. **To reiterate and refute the claims made during the interviews today about the safety of our pet food – our pet food is safe.**

Aflatoxin

Aflatoxin, at high levels, can harm animals or humans only if ingested. It will not cause injury simply by breathing it in. Each and every load of corn shipped to our factories is checked according to USDA/FDA guidelines for aflatoxin BEFORE it is unloaded into the factory. Any load that exceeds the specification limit is rejected. We disqualify suppliers if they

violate our Toxin Control Policy. Our products are constantly checked by retailers and government agencies for aflatoxin. We have had no reports that any of our products have been found to contain aflatoxin. The Mars mycotoxin control policy has been recognized as industry –leading by government and industry organizations.

The Mo Dept of Agriculture performed testing on samples as part of this investigation. Their results stated “No aflatoxins were detected in the submitted samples”. If you’d like to speak with the investigator, her name is Yvonne Barr. She can provide you with more information.

Next Steps:

We are currently in the early stages of discovery with the lawsuit, as the plaintiffs’ claims continue to change. There is no trial date set.

Okay, please let me know if you need any other information. Sorry if I’m overwhelming you, but just want to make sure you’ve got all the correct info on these technical subjects.

Thanks, Julie

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