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December 23, 2003

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Sirs:

Re: Recommendations for Amendments to New FDA Requirements Relating to The Bio-terrorism Act (BTA)

We are writing to submit recommendations for amendments to new FDA paperwork requirements on food importation instituted on December 12, 2003. These administration amendments directly relate to the US bio-terrorism legislation passed in June 2002.

The purpose of our recommendations is to help achieve the principle goals of the BTA, which we believe to be:

1. Protect US food supply sources from acts of terrorism from abroad.
2. Streamline and make more efficient the importation of food items to the US from other countries.

To date, Reunion Island Coffee has complied with all the stipulations laid out by the FDA to qualify as a safe exporter of food items to the US including:

- a) Making changes to our physical plant structure to secure access to our coffee roasting, packaging and shipping areas as well as all offices.
- b) Performing background checks on Reunion Island staff to ensure no one has links to any known terrorist groups.
- c) Becoming registered under C-TPAT.
- d) Attempting to work only with suppliers and shippers who will eventually be registered under C-TPAT.
- e) Providing FDA/Customs four hours' prior notice of shipments of coffee online such that prior approval is obtained before our shipper arrives at the border.

O2N-0278

C289

TEL. 905.829.8520
416.747.5282
800.565.5950
FAX 905.829.8521

REUNION ISLAND COFFEE LIMITED
2421 ROYAL WINDSOR DRIVE
OAKVILLE, ON L6J 7X6 (CANADA)
WWW.REUNIONISLANDCOFFEE.COM

Prior to December 12, 2003, for coffee shipments valued at \$200.00 or greater, we were required to break down our coffee exports under four categories as follows:

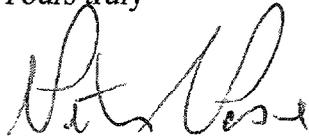
1. Roasted whole bean coffee.
2. Roasted whole bean decaffeinated coffee.
3. Roasted ground coffee.
4. Roasted decaffeinated ground coffee.

The new requirements effective as of December 12, 2003, require us to further break down shipments of coffee of any value according to package size and case count. This new stipulation will be extremely onerous both in terms of the time required to complete our customs' paperwork and also the brokerage costs incurred by being charged for every additional line item reported. To illustrate this point, please review the attached list of products we export broken down under each of the above-noted coffee categories. For example, under "Whole Bean Roasted Coffee" we have 32 different case sizes when each possible portion is taken into account.

We recently calculated how many additional line items would have to be reported under the new regulations compared to how a shipment was previously reported. The number of line items reported increased from an average of 10 to more than 25 and the time required to prepare customs paperwork more than doubled.

We are requesting that the ruling regarding the breakdown of shipments into separate items re package size and case count be eliminated not only due to time/cost concerns, but also because we feel this new ruling would not, in fact, enhance security.

Yours truly



Peter Pesce
President

REUNION ISLAND COFFEE - PACKAGE SIZE AND CASE COUNT

WHOLE BEAN ROASTED COFFEE

8 oz x 1
8 oz x 6
8 oz x 12
8 oz x 24
8 oz x 36
8 oz x 48
12 oz x 1
12 oz x 6
12 oz x 12
12 oz x 24
12 oz x 36
1 lb x 1
1 lb x 5
1 lb x 10
1 lb x 15
1 lb x 20
1 lb x 25
1 lb x 30
2 lb x 1
1 kilo x 1
1 kilo x 2
1 kilo x 6
1 kilo x 12
1 kilo x 24
5 lb x 1
5 lb x 2
5 lb x 3
5 lb x 4
5 lb x 5
5 lb x 6
5 lb x 7
5 lb x 8

REUNION ISLAND COFFEE - PACKAGE SIZE AND CASE COUNT

DECAFFEINATED WHOLE BEAN ROASTED COFFEE

8 oz x 1
8 oz x 6
8 oz x 12
8 oz x 24
8 oz x 36
8 oz x 48
12 oz x 1
12 oz x 6
12 oz x 12
12 oz x 24
12 oz x 36
1 lb x 1
1 lb x 5
1 lb x 10
1 lb x 15
1 lb x 20
1 lb x 25
1 lb x 30
1 kilo x 1
1 kilo x 2
1 kilo x 6
1 kilo x 12
1 kilo x 24
5 lb x 1
5 lb x 2
5 lb x 3
5 lb x 4
5 lb x 5
5 lb x 6
5 lb x 7
5 lb x 8

REUNION ISLAND COFFEE - PACKAGE SIZE AND CASE COUNT

GROUND ROASTED COFFEE

1.25 oz x 20
1.25 oz x 24
1.50 oz x 64
1.75 oz x 24
2 oz x 24
2 oz x 64
2 oz x 96
2.25 oz x 64
2.25 oz x 96
2.5 oz x 64
2.5 oz x 96
3 oz x 64
8 oz x 24
10 oz x 24
12 oz x 24
14 oz x 24
16 oz x 24

REUNION ISLAND COFFEE - PACKAGE SIZE AND CASE COUNT

DECAFFEINATED GROUND ROASTED COFFEE

1.25 oz x 20
1.25 oz x 24
1.50 oz x 64
1.75 oz x 24
2 oz x 24
2 oz x 64
2 oz x 96
2.25 oz x 64
2.25 oz x 96
2.5 oz x 64
2.5 oz x 96
3 oz x 64
8 oz x 24
10 oz x 24
12 oz x 24
14 oz x 24
16 oz x 24