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Food and Drug Administration  
Baltimore District Office  
Central Region  
900 Madison Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2199  
Telephone: (410) 962-3396  
FAX: (410) 962-2307

August 30, 1999

**WARNING LETTER**

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Robert A. Bratti, President  
Cumberland Pasta Company, Inc.  
31-39 Thomas Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Dear Mr. Bratti:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted an inspection of your pasta (macaroni, spaghetti, and noodles) manufacturing facility on August 11-14 & 18, 1999. The inspection revealed numerous deviations from the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Regulations, Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 110. The deviations cause the pasta products manufactured in your facility to be adulterated within the meaning of Section 402(a)(4) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), in that they were prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions whereby they may have become contaminated with filth.

The deviations observed on all four floors and on pasta handling equipment included: live and dead mice, live and dead beetle-type insects, live and dead insect larva, live and dead roaches, rodent excreta pellets, gnawed non-food material, spilled product, and numerous holes in floors and walls. Structural defects observed included gaps along the bottom edge of a loading door leading to the outside. Examination of bags/boxes of three types of pasta (Rotini, Ditalini, and Ziti) manufactured by your firm and stored in various areas of the facility, revealed live and dead adult beetles and insect larva, insect larva cast skins, gnawed holes and rodent excreta pellets on the bag/box surfaces and/or in with the product. A copy of the FDA-483, Inspectional Observations, is enclosed for your information.

The above list is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies observed at your facility. It is your responsibility to assure that your establishment is in compliance with all requirements of the FD&C Act. Failure to do so may result in regulatory action being taken by the FDA without further notice, such as seizure or injunction.

Please notify this office in writing, within 15 working days of receipt of this letter, of the specific steps you have taken to correct the noted violations and to prevent their recurrence.

Your response should be addressed to Rosalie Bucey, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 900 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, telephone number 410/962-3591, Ext. 143.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Strachan  
Acting District Director

Enclosure: FDA-483