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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Refer to: CFN 1110920

m4238r
Food and Drug Administration
Baltimore District Office
Central Region
900 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201-2199
Telephone: (410) 962-3396
FAX: (410) 962-2307

September 13, 2000

WARNING LETTER**CERTIFIED MAIL**
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Edith P. Moser, President
Virginia Wholesale Co., Inc.
70 Commonwealth Avenue
Bristol, Virginia 24201

Dear Ms. Moser:

During a Food and Drug Administration inspection of your food storage warehouse located at 70 Commonwealth Avenue, Bristol, Virginia, conducted August 29-31, 2000, our investigator observed significant insanitary conditions. At the conclusion of the inspection, you were issued a Form FDA-483, Inspectional Observations, which delineated a number of gross insanitary conditions present in your warehouse at the time of that inspection. These conditions cause food products stored in your facility to be adulterated within the meaning of Section 402(a)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the Act). The following is a list of some of the insanitary conditions observed during the inspection:

1. Insect activity in the form of numerous live/dead beetles, moths, and/or larvae in or on various lots of food products such as flour, corn meal mix, biscuit mix, and various animal feeds, located along the south wall in the southwest corner of the warehouse.
2. Approximately 50 rodent excreta pellets on the bottom wooden shelf in the southeast corner of the cooler between cartons of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
3. An estimated 50-100 rodent excreta pellets in an approximate 30-foot area along the east wall of the southeast corner of the warehouse.
4. At least 8 rodent excreta pellets on the floor under the pallet containing [REDACTED] brand plain, all-purpose enriched, bleached flour stored in the southeast corner of the warehouse.
5. A build-up of frost and/or ice noted on all walls, ceiling, and the floor and on cartons of product in the freezer.
6. Empty product wrappers, cans/bottles, and other miscellaneous trash throughout the warehouse, including areas along the east wall of the cooler and southeast corner of the warehouse, next to the loading dock where empty cartons and distressed merchandise is held prior to sale as salvage.

This is not the first time that food products stored in your facility have been found to be insect-infested. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services inspected your facility on October 28, 1999 and found bagged beans containing insects and insect frass, which were destroyed in their presence.

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. It is your responsibility to ensure adherence to each requirement of the Act and regulations.

Your voluntary action to correct some of the aforementioned deficiencies by destruction of those lots of food products found to be insect-infested, such as animal feed, flour, corn meal, biscuit mix, etc., has been documented in our records. However, you may need to take additional measures to prevent the introduction of pests, such as insects and rodents, into your facility, which may cause the food articles stored in your facility to be adulterated.

You must 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. If corrective action cannot be completed within 15 days, state the reason for the delay and the time within which the corrections will be completed.

Your reply should be sent to the Food and Drug Administration, Richmond Resident Post, at 10710 Midlothian Turnpike, Suite 424, Richmond, VA 23235, to the attention of Scott J. MacIntire, Compliance Officer. Mr. MacIntire may be reached at 804-379-1627, extension 14.

Sincerely,



Lee Bowers
Director, Baltimore District

cc: Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Division of Consumer Protection
Office of Dairy and Food
1100 Bank Street, Suite 510
Richmond, Virginia 23219