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VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

WARNING LETTER

FLA-01-17

November 28, 2000

Danilo V. Fernandez, President
Naviera Coffee Mills
2012 E. 7th Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33605

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

Inspection of your coffee mill on June 7-8, 2000 revealed serious violations of Sections 403(a)(1) and 403(i)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), and the regulations for food labeling [Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 101 (21 CFR 101)] causing several of your finished coffee products to be misbranded.

The inspection documented your receipt and use of chicory in several of your coffee products, which are labeled as coffee but failed to bear a list of ingredients that included chicory. Samples collected during the inspection were analyzed by our Southeast Regional Laboratory and revealed the following:

Café Norma - Analysis found 15-19% chicory by weight in each of three bags examined. The label identified the product as coffee but failed to bear a list of ingredients that included chicory. In addition, the average net weight of the three bags examined was 97.9% of the declared net weight.

Naviera Coffee - Analysis found 17-21% of chicory by weight in each of three bags examined. The label identified the product as coffee but failed to bear a list of ingredients that included chicory. In addition, the average net weight of the three bags examined was 97.3% of the declared net weight.

Café El Aquila - Analysis found 0.5-2% chicory by weight in each of three bags examined. The label identified the product as coffee but failed to bear a list of ingredients that included chicory.

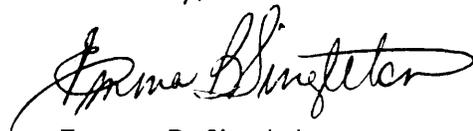
These products are misbranded within the meaning of Section 403(a)(1) of the Act in that the labels falsely represent the products to be coffee, whereas the products also contain chicory. These products are also misbranded within the meaning of Section 403(i)(2) of the Act in that the labels fail to bear the common or usual name of each ingredient.

The above violations are not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. It is your responsibility to ensure that all coffee products produced, labeled, and distributed by your firm are in compliance with the Act and the regulations. We may take further action if you do not promptly correct these violations. For instance, we may seize your products and/or enjoin your firm from operating.

Please respond in writing within three (3) weeks from your receipt of this letter. Your response should outline the specific steps you will take to correct these violations. You may wish to include in your response documentation such as revised labels or other useful information that would assist us in evaluating your corrections. If you cannot complete all corrections before you respond, we expect that you will explain the reason for your delay and state when these violations will be corrected.

Please send your reply to Jimmy E. Walthall, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 555 Winderley Place, Suite 200, Maitland, Florida 32751, telephone (407) 475-4731.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma R. Singleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "S".

Emma R. Singleton
Director, Florida District