HFI-35 729

12/9/97

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
4298 Elysian Fields Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70122-3896
Telephone (504) 589-7166
Fax (504) 589-4657

December 11, 1997

WARNING LETTER NO. 98-NOL-08

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. J. Roy Wooley
Vice President and General Manager
Vend Foods Inc.
723 Senter Street
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Dear Mr. Wooley:

During an inspection of your sandwich manufacturing plant, between September 16-18, 1997, our investigators documented numerous insanitary conditions in your manufacturing process the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the Act). These conditions cause your finished sandwich product to be adulterated within the meaning of Sections 402(a)(4).

The objectionable insanitary conditions documented include:

1. residues and debris from previous operations remained on processing equipment during subsequent operations;
2. employees routinely prepared product after handling various insanitary items, without first washing and sanitizing their hands;
3. live and dead insects (roaches and flies) present inside and outside the plant, including the sandwich preparation area, and flies on food contact surfaces;
4. structural deficiences including an opening to the outside in the northeast corner of the plant;
5. condensate drips from a rusted shelf onto cardboard cases of various food products in the materials walk-in cooler and mold growing on the walls and shelf in the same cooler;
6. incoming products and various containers of food items stored on the floors;
7. various containers placed on insanitary surfaces, that are moldy or encrusted with residues and dirt from previous operations, and then placed directly on food contact surfaces;
8. plastic wrap used to cover sandwiches after the wrap had been dragged along the floor in a heavy foot traffic area;
9. numerous other improper employee practices which could result in contamination of your finished product.

You should take prompt action to correct these deviations. Failure to promptly correct these deviations may result in regulatory action without further notice. This may include seizure and/or injunction.

You should notify this office in writing, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter, of the steps you have taken to correct the noted violations, including an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of similar violations. If corrective actions cannot be completed within fifteen (15) days, state the reason for the delay and the time within which the corrections will be completed.

Your response should be directed to Nicole F. Hardin, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 4298 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122-3896. Should you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter, or if you desire a meeting with the Agency staff, you may contact Mrs. Hardin at telephone number (504)589-7166.

Sincerely,

Martin Goldstein

James E. Gamet
acting District Director
New Orleans District

Enclosure: FDA-483

/tjt