

**VIII. Registration**

**REGISTRATION FORM—PUBLIC MEETING ON ALLERGENS IN FOODS**

Instructions: Please register using this form by close of business on August 6, 2001, electronically at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/meetings/meetingdocket.cfm>. Once on this Internet site, select Docket No. 00P-1322 (Food Labeling and Allergen Contamination Control) and follow the directions. You may also register by mail at Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 70852.

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Please indicate the type of organization you represent:

Industry \_\_\_\_\_

Government \_\_\_\_\_

Consumer Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Media \_\_\_\_\_

Law Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Other (specify)  SELF

Do you wish to make an oral presentation?

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, you must also submit the following:

1. A brief written statement of the general nature of the views you wish to present,

SEE ATTACHED

00P-1322

APC46

*My daughter, Nancy, has an acute anaphylactic reaction to peanuts, peanut oils and*  
*to describe the simple fact that trace amounts of a*

*... been exposed to peanut oils. The first*  
*incident occurred when she was six months old: she ate a piece of bread that had touched*  
*peanut butter. She ate no peanuts, no peanut butter, not even a visible amount of oil.*  
Within minutes her face and throat began to swell and she had difficulty breathing. We  
were out to dinner. Due to our Nanny's keen instincts and quick reaction, Nancy is here  
with me today.

When Nancy was three years old, I bought her an unlabelled heart shaped Valentines Day  
cookie. I was told that the wrapped cookie contained no nuts. At home that evening,  
Nancy took two bites of the cookie and began to scream. Within seconds she began to  
transform before our eyes into what looked like the victim of a prize fighter: her lip began  
to swell and turned a deep blood red, her eye became swollen and blue, her skin pallor  
became pasty. She was being beaten: only from the inside out. We called our doctor and  
administered medication. She became unable to speak and then vomited many times. I  
held her in my arms as her body convulsed. The night's trauma seemed to subside, but  
later Nancy's lungs became compromised and asthma set in. She missed the following  
week of school as her tiny damaged lungs struggled for air. She has told me since that she  
felt like she was drowning under water, but from the inside out. She was medicated with  
large doses of inhaled and oral steroids which made her shaky, irritable, took her appetite  
and caused night terrors. Two bites of a cookie that, as it turned out contained ground  
nuts in the batter. Nancy is not allergic to other nuts. Think how little it took: two bites of  
a cookie merely laced with a mixture that contained a few peanuts. We are told that if  
Nancy actually got a peanut, we would have little time to save her life.

We began letting Nancy only eat labeled foods and foods from home. Yet a few years  
ago, Nancy ate a chocolate Kellogg's Rice Crispy Treat that said nothing of peanuts or  
peanut traces. After a few bites, she said, "Mommy. This has peanuts." I read the label.  
Nothing. She began to swell. I gave her medicine. We were fine. Within a few months,  
these same treats began to carry the label, "May Contain Peanuts." We were lucky. The  
traces must have been small. Were the traces large, Nancy would have had to get an  
injection and she would have been hospitalized. At four, Nancy learned not to trust  
labels.

The United States has an outstanding government that promises to protect its people. Is  
this the kind of protection we offer to our children? Should we teach our children that if  
ingredients are printed on a label that is regulated by the United States that this cannot be  
trusted? That it may not be accurate at worst or not understandable at best? That the food  
industry is allowed to slip by and threaten lives? What message about government and  
rules and fair play are we sending our children if we allow poor manufacturing and  
labeling practices to continue?

Foods must be labeled in plain English so that Nancy's parents, grandparents, relatives, teachers or nanny can read the label and know what's inside. If I as a consumer have a question regarding the food, I should have a number on the label to call. In a recent example, the outside container of a Kellogg's Chocolate Rice Crispies Treat said that they did not contain nuts. The individually wrapped treats said, "May contain peanuts." I called. As it turned out, the line had been changed and made peanut free, the labels on the outside had been changed to reflect this. The individual wrappers had not. A confused customer should be able to contact a food manufacturer. Small packagers can get waivers from the government. Luckily, there are few that would qualify. Most packagers are large and should be required to provide access to the company in the case of an accidental ingestion, emergency or question.

My husband is in the securities business. The government often requires members of the exchange to provide customers with large amounts of information about securities transactions. Providing this information requires capital and inhibits profits. Yet my husband's firm complies quickly and accurately and willingly because it is for the good of the customer and required by law. Yet food labeling is not a matter of profits, it is a matter of life and death. Should we not require more stringent regulations from a business that could literally take my daughter's life? Manufacturers should welcome the opportunity to better serve the customer and those who choose not to should not be in the business of feeding our people.

The government has the opportunity to teach my daughter that change can happen and that she will be able to trust what she reads again. Please serve my daughter, our families and the millions of others who are affected. There is a ripple effect. For the millions of allergic people, there are tens of millions who are affected: relatives, caregivers, and teachers think of the number of people who are involved in the feeding of a single child. All these people will be served with accurate and readable labels.

2. The names and addresses of all persons who will participate in the presentation.

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