

Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
Room 1061  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852

6521 7 MAY -7 10:09

April 30, 2007

Dear FDA Management:

This letter is in regards to the following matter:  
**FDA Petition for the Requirement of Iodized Salt on Ingredient Labels**

**Petition Summary:**

According to a recent publication, over 13 million Americans are estimated to have thyroid disease with approximately 20,000 new thyroid cancer diagnoses each year. As a patient with thyroid cancer, I am required to follow a strict low iodine diet lasting 3 weeks on average occurring at least once a year for treatment and follow-up diagnosis. The diet alone is quite challenging, but what makes it worse is the lack of information included in food ingredient labels. Iodized salt is one of the most critical ingredients that must be avoided on this diet to ensure successful treatment and diagnosis of the disease. The requirement that food manufacturers indicate whether salt in their ingredients supplies iodine is critical to millions battling thyroid disease and should be implemented as soon as reasonably possible.

**Action requested—**

Requirement that food manufacturers state whether or not the salt in their ingredients supply iodine.

**Statement of grounds—**

- 1) *Thyroid Cancer Low Iodine Diet*: <http://www.thyca.org/rai.htm#diet>  
“Currently, manufacturers of processed foods in the USA generally use non-iodized salt. However, food processing techniques can change and labels are not always accurate or up to date.” – Thyroid Cancer Survivor’s Association
- 2) *Thyroid Disease is Far More Widespread than Originally Thought* (Shomon, Mary):  
Thyroid-Info Web Site: <http://www.thyroid-info.com/articles/thyroid-prevalence.htm>
- 3) Canaris, G. J., et al. (2000) *The Colorado Thyroid Disease Prevalence Study*. Archives of Internal Medicine. 160(4): 526-534.

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**Environmental impact—**

None; Supplies information to consumer only.

The undersigned certifies, that, to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, this petition includes all information and views on which the petition relies, and that it includes representative data and information known to the petition which are unfavorable to the petition.

Thank you for considering this important matter,



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