SNOKIST GROWERS
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August 8, 2011

VIA EMAIL

Miriam Burbach
FDA Seattle District
Director, Compliance Branch
22201 23rd Drive SE
Bothell, WA 98021

Dear Ms. Burbach:

I would like to thank you for the time you and Mr. Breen took to meet with Jim, Dave, Ken, and me last week. I want to respond to several issues that were discussed at the meeting.

First, regarding the Report of Sample Analysis that you gave to me at the meeting, I believe the samples (664440) referenced in the analysis were collected from a pallet of product that Snokist had placed in our salvage area because it showed evidence of a leaking can. The 24 cans that were analyzed included the leaking can. Of course, because the seam of this can was compromised, it will show the Gram positive rods, yeast and detinning referenced in the analysis. The product in the other cans is within normal specification ranges. As stated in our response to the Form 483 Observations, it is our policy to remove any pallet with evidence of a leaking can from the warehouse to a salvage area where cans are inspected and any damage removed. I thought it was important to reiterate our procedure used to insure the safety of our products.

Secondly, we talked about installing "dud" detectors on our labeling lines. There is a detector on one of our (b) (4) lines and it is functioning properly. I have enclosed copies of the quotes for additional (b) (4) vacuum detectors for (b) (4) lines. These will be part of our capital program for this year and our objective is to have them installed by the end of the calendar year.

Third, you inquired about the product involved in the voluntary recall and other product codes that have been returned to Snokist. I have included a summary of the products returned to our location through Friday, August 5. In addition to the product returned, we have been notified of (b) (4) cases of product that was destroyed at various user locations. Snokist authorized the destruction of quantities of less than (b) (4) to minimize freight costs. Additionally, we have been notified by FNS and PCP that Friday, August 28 will be the deadline for all destruction and pick-up requests and this has been communicated to all state locations.

Finally, I have included a copy of attendees and a topic summary for seam evaluation training that was held July 8, 2011 prior to the start of cherry processing. I have also included an agenda for supervisory

training that will be held next week. Supervisory training is conducted every year before the start of the pear pack, but this year will have a greater emphasis on food safety.

Again, I want to thank you for meeting with us and if I can provide any further information regarding our response to the Form 483 or item discussed last week, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Robert Lemke
Director of Operations

Copy: Charles Breen, FDA
Jim Davis, Snokist
(b) (4)