



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

JUN 3 2004

Food and Drug Administration  
College Park, MD 20740

Fran L. Rivard, B.A., LPN  
1800 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Apt 120  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Dear Ms. Rivard:

This letter is in response to your request, dated April 1, 2004, to the Food and Drug Administration requesting facts sheets on *trans* fatty acids. Specifically, you request information about "no *trans* fats" having to be listed on our food sources in the nutrition facts section by 2006. You request information about a bill passed by congress prohibiting *trans* fat in our food sources. Finally, you requested fact sheets about how dangerous *trans* fats can be to health.

The recent *trans* fat rule that you are referring to requires the gram amount of *trans* fat to be declared on the Nutrition Facts panel directly below the declaration for saturated fat. This *trans* fat labeling rule published in the July 11, 2003 Federal Register and can be found at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~acrobat/fr03711a.pdf>. This rule becomes effective January 1, 2006 for all food under FDA jurisdiction. At the same time that this rule published, FDA published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to solicit information and data that potentially could be used to establish new nutrient content claims about *trans* fatty acids (*trans* fat); to establish qualifying criteria for *trans* fat in current nutrient content claims (i.e., low saturated fat) and health claims that contain a message about cholesterol-raising lipids; and, to develop a DV for *trans* fat to help consumers make heart-healthy food choices. We also requested comments on whether we should consider statements about *trans* fat, either alone or in combination with saturated fat and cholesterol, as a footnote in the Nutrition Facts panel or as a disclosure statement in conjunction with claims to enhance consumers' understanding about such cholesterol-raising lipids and how to use the information to make healthy food choices. The comment period for the ANPRM was open from July 11 to October 9, 2003 and is currently open to accept comments until June 18, 2004.

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For further information about *trans* fat, please visit our web site at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/lab-cat.html> and scroll down to the bottom. We provide questions and answers, example labels, and background information about *trans* fat. I have also asked our Industry Activities staff to send you any fact sheets we have on *trans* fat.

I hope the above information helps.

Sincerely,



Julie Schrimpf, PhD  
Consumer Safety Officer  
Office of Nutrition Products, Labeling  
and Dietary Supplements  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition