DEC 4 2002

11-22-02

Dear Mr. Foret,

I recently purchased chocolate bars from Costco labeled, "0 Sugar Carbs". The bars were manufactured by or for Carbolite Foods, Inc., and contain Maltitol as the primary sweetener. The back of the container reveals each bar contains 25-26 carbohydrates, which seemed confusing to me.

I did a little research on Maltitol and it seems it is actually considered a carbohydrate source, although not a true sugar. Again, somewhat confusing.

Do these bars contain 27 grams or two grams of carbohydrate?

I read your letter, from the FDA website, to Mr. Gerry Morrison of Morico Foods, written on 6/20/01. At the time, you warned him regarding this issue. However, the bars are still being sold, although the serving size was amended.

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What is the science behind the [redacted] carbohydrate claim? Is maltitol really a carbohydrate [redacted] does this compounds delayed gastro-intestinal absorption come into play with this issue?

I have enclosed a copy of your letter to Mr. Morrison for your convenience.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Mr. John B. Foret
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Office of Nutritional Products
Labeling and Dietary Supplements (HFS-810)
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Washington, DC 20204