

Consumer Group Asks Food Facilities to Accurately Label Sugars

Citizens for Health

WASHINGTON (PRNewswire) — Citizens for Health (CFH), one of the nation's oldest consumer action groups, has filed a petition with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to compel food manufacturers to spell out the type of sweeteners they add to products. CFH asserts that the FDA's proposed new labeling rules will fail to fully inform consumers and may actually make it difficult to discern between natural sugar and other caloric sweeteners including high fructose corn syrup.

Jim Turner, Board Chair of CFH, notes that, "The CFH petition simply seeks transparency regarding what food products contain because U.S. consumers want and need this information to make healthy choices. Consumers have a right to know what goes into their bodies and it's consistent with the FDA's mandate to compel food manufacturers to provide the public accurate label information."

As drafted, the FDA's current label reform proposal groups various sugars and nutritive sweeteners under the broad category of "Added Sugars." These sugars and caloric sweeteners include some familiar names, like brown sugar and honey, but also the man-made sweetener high fructose corn syrup (HFCS). Requiring enhanced labeling detail would mean that each distinct sugar and caloric sweetener used would be listed separately in the Nutrition Facts label. If a product is sweetened with HFCS, the CFH Petition calls for the percentage of fructose it contains to be listed as well. Turner points out that, "Currently the FDA only approves the use of HFCS with a maximum of 55 percent fructose. There have been reports of food and beverage manufacturers using HFCS with as much as 90 percent fructose, which is not generally recognized as safe by the FDA. Studies of food and soft drinks from the grocery shelves have found many contain well over 55% fructose."

Citizens for Health is funded by concerned consumers, non-profit partners, food growers, and businesses. CFH is a non-profit organization providing over 130,000 supporters with consumer news, action alerts, and ways to demand access to healthy food, non-toxic products, and objective, clinically-derived health information. Consumers who wish to learn more about CFH and the petition and who want to tell the FDA they agree with CFH on this labeling matter can visit: <http://foodidentitytheft.com/take-action/> [1]

Source URL (retrieved on 04/25/2015 - 6:34pm):

<http://www.foodmanufacturing.com/news/2014/08/consumer-group-asks-food-facilities-accurately-label-sugars>

Consumer Group Asks Food Facilities to Accurately Label Sugars

Published on Food Manufacturing (<http://www.foodmanufacturing.com>)

Links:

[1] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/FZsS82gOrhoKeopd7bzNEVdTdETpvd7barX29J6XbVEVpjvuvdETp79Lf6zBcsrhmqejhOUOCMqejpnoOWiF3UAglG1DojQzWLEiTBPuE6txfifG-xbundLccEc-O_R-hvhvuppWZOW8UQsLsCUyed7dNTbnjlyCHtN_BgY-F6IK1FJ4SCrLOb2rPUV5xcQsCXCM0rjqEig-4Vjbj9-XfBYDFnO-SDalcdHdQ9yJfypBrW0Fqcfckciz_bCTblCzASbxMwq80JYVjBm7E6y0wmd40BasxjUkd43JoCy0b_FYOpEwDkQg25HdNSvDBzh05t8u uq81113Q3h0cdAtzgSeKrKN_7CvUnxIPB