

CHICLE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
CHICLE DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.

500 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

February 26th 1936

Messrs. Nelson L. Buck

J.C. Cox

W.C. Arkell

P.L. Becker

J.S. Ellithorp

C.W. Dunn

S.C. Prescott

R.A. Kehoe.

Gentlemen:-

I enclose copy of a letter from Dr. Cowgill, dated February 24th, in which he gives me the specifications of the government with reference to various articles deleterious to food.

In order to be thoroughly protected at the end of this investigation, I would suggest that you authorize the examination of the latex which has been sent up to see if any of these other substances are present in any appreciable amounts.

Very truly yours,

CHICLE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

S.S. Yates
S.S. Yates,
President

SSY-W

Encl.

cc: GRC

KE 0006440

200 EIGHTH AVENUE
CHICHO DEVELOPMENT CO.
FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

February 24th 1936

Mr. S. S. Yates, President
ChicHO Development Company
500 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Mr. Yates,

In answer to your letter of February 11th asking about present government tolerances I submit the following data.

Some years ago the U.S. governmental authorities specified that copper and zinc should not be present in amounts greater than 30 and 100 parts per million, respectively. Upon consulting Dr. Bailey of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station I learn that to the best of his knowledge there has never been any action taken with respect to these particular metals.

The other tolerances that have been definitely stated and which have served as the basis for regulatory actions, refer to arsenic, fluorine and lead; the exact tolerances for these elements are 1.4, 1.4 and 2.5 p.p.m. respectively. From time to time in the past these have been subjected to slight changes as improvements in the methods of spraying fruit trees have been developed. The figures just given are the present tolerances.

The research division of the Food and Drug Administration is studying in this connection some other elements which are present in foods in relatively minute amounts. Perhaps the most interesting work along this line at the present time concerns the element selenium, which occurs in appreciable amounts in certain soils of the middle and far-western states, and which has been found to be extracted and concentrated in certain plants, notably the wheat plant, with the result that the plant is rendered toxic and therefore unfit to use as a food. It would not be surprising if, after more research has been done, some regulations and a tolerance for selenium should be established. When in Washington, January 2nd, Dr. Skinner, Director of the Research Division of the Food and Drug Administration, told me confidentially that in addition to selenium, some other element, at present unidentified, is responsible for certain phenomena of toxicity now being studied in the western states by the federal government; one guess that was serving as a basis for further research was that this element might be molybdenum.

From the standpoint of your particular problem I think it would be sufficient to make a few chemical analyses of representative products of interest for the different metals mentioned above, but most particularly for arsenic and fluorine, because these two are at present very much at the focus of attention of the government officials.

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CHICLE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

500 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

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I do not know to what extent you are interested in the regulations of foreign countries. For the manufacturers of certain products that are exported in large quantities, such foreign regulations may be of particular interest. As an illustration one may cite the fact that Austrian regulations specify more than 100 parts per million of tin as injurious to health; in this particular case, however, there are no records of action having been taken under this regulation. An illustration of another kind of regulation is seen in the Public Health Regulations for the United Kingdom which specifically forbid the addition to articles of food for sale of any coloring matters which are compounds of any of the following metals; antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, lead and zinc. Many of the countries have a law forbidding the use of any solder in the sealing of a food container which solder contains more than 10 percent of lead. It is probably reasonable to believe that, if a product meets all the requirements of the laws of the United States, it is not likely to encounter any difficulty in foreign countries.

I hope that this information may prove helpful
to you.

Very truly yours,

signed - - George R. Cowgill.

cc: to Mr. Charles Wesley Dunn

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