



Representing the Candy, Chocolate & Gum Industries since 1884 28 '03 DEC 23 P3:18

December 23, 2003

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Registration of Food Facilities; Docket No. 02N-0276

The National Confectioners Association (NCA) appreciates this opportunity to submit comments regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) interim final rule on food facility registration. 68 Fed. Reg. 58,894 (Oct. 10, 2003).

NCA is the not-for-profit trade association representing more than 650 confectionery manufacturers and suppliers in the United States.

FDA deserves praise for publishing an interim final rule on registration that is reasonable and workable, and we appreciate FDA's responsiveness to the concerns raised by NCA and other members of the regulated community. NCA also appreciates FDA's educational publications and outreach activities to explain the application of the interim final rule to specific situations. We hope that FDA will periodically update its questions and answers document, as it has promised to do.

NCA requests that FDA consider providing some sort of verification system whereby companies would be able to confirm that the facilities of their suppliers, customers, or others are registered with FDA. We are aware that the Bioterrorism Act prohibits FDA from making publicly available information that discloses the identity or location of a registered facility. 21 U.S.C. § 350d(a)(4). However, we do not think FDA would be prohibited by the statute from responding to a yes/no inquiry as to whether a specific facility is registered.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lawrence T. Graham*

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