

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY
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Andrew D. Hendry
Senior Vice President
General Counsel and Secretary

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Energy and Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your letter of April 13, 2010 addressed to Mr. Ian Cook, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Colgate-Palmolive Company ("Colgate-Palmolive"). Mr. Cook has asked me to respond on Colgate-Palmolive's behalf.

Colgate-Palmolive shares your desire to protect the health and safety of consumers. The safety of its products and the well-being of its consumers have always been of paramount importance to Colgate-Palmolive throughout its 200 year history. Colgate-Palmolive has a long record of an uncompromising commitment to protecting its consumers, as well as providing a positive influence in the communities in which it does business.

Please convey my thanks to Dr. Freedhoff and Dr. Joseph from your office for taking the time recently to meet with Colgate-Palmolive's representatives to discuss the important matters covered by your letter. We hope that your staff found our discussions as useful and informative as we did.

Colgate-Palmolive was pleased to hear during the meeting that your office agrees that the efficacy of Colgate Total® is unquestioned. The significant oral care health benefits of Colgate Total® have been recognized by regulatory authorities and dental professionals around the world for the past 15 years, and we are proud of the important role Colgate Total® plays in helping prevent gum disease, as well as its potential contribution to overall systemic health.

With respect to your request that Colgate-Palmolive evaluate the safety of triclosan in Colgate Total®, you should know that Colgate-Palmolive has thoroughly reviewed the safety of triclosan and will continue to do so. In addition, extensive safety data, as well as Colgate-Palmolive's analysis of such data, have been provided to regulatory authorities as appropriate. Like all ingredients found in Colgate-Palmolive's products, before triclosan was used in Colgate Total® it was subject to a stringent internal safety

review. Over the past 15 years, Colgate-Palmolive has continued to conduct additional studies, adding to the substantial data supporting the safety of Colgate Total®. In addition, Colgate-Palmolive scientists also review and analyze new scientific information for its relevance to the safety of Colgate Total®. This information has also been provided on a timely basis to regulatory authorities around the world. Indeed, as part of its New Drug Application for Colgate Total® originally approved in 1997, Colgate-Palmolive has been providing and continues to provide safety information regarding Colgate Total® to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for more than a decade.

Further, as discussed in detail in the attached Overview of Triclosan Safety in Colgate Total®, Colgate-Palmolive's own review of the safety data supports the safe use of triclosan in Colgate Total®.¹ This safety data includes data related to the issues that you raised in your letter -- endocrine disruption, potential for antimicrobial resistance and environmental safety. It is important to note that regulatory authorities in the United States and around the world have repeatedly reviewed the safety of triclosan, and determined that it is safe for use in toothpaste. These reviews have been ongoing and include very recent positive findings regarding the safety of triclosan.

For example, in its 2009 opinion regarding human safety, the EU's scientific committee specifically found that the use of triclosan in toothpaste, shower gels and hand soaps at currently-regulated levels was safe. Additionally, on three recent occasions (2002, 2006 and 2010), the EU scientific committees also concluded that the use of triclosan in cosmetic products has not been shown to contribute to antimicrobial resistance. Further in 2008, the Australian regulatory authorities (NICNAS) found triclosan to be safe for use in cosmetic products, including toothpaste. Similarly, the FDA recently acknowledged the clear benefit in helping prevent gingivitis provided by Colgate Total®, and also indicated that while it continues to study the issue, the current safety evidence does not support a recommendation of changing consumer use of triclosan-containing products. As a result, Colgate believes that triclosan as used in its products, including Colgate Total®, is safe.

As was discussed and agreed with your staff, the issues raised in your letter regarding the efficacy of antibacterial hand soap are better addressed by the industry as a whole, and not by any one individual company. However, please be aware that all of Colgate-Palmolive's triclosan-containing products, including antibacterial hand soaps, meet all applicable regulatory requirements for safety and efficacy. In addition, our SoftSoap® Antibacterial Handsoap is the only SoftSoap® line sold in

¹ Drs. Freedhoff and Joseph requested that we provide them with detailed safety data on the use of triclosan in Colgate Total®. Therefore, for ease of reference, we are including this information as a separate appendix.

the United States containing triclosan. None of Colgate-Palmolive's other consumer soap or shower gel products sold under other brands in the United States, including Irish Spring, contains triclosan. Further, later this year, Colgate-Palmolive plans to be introducing into the U.S. market a new, improved antibacterial dishwashing formula that does not contain triclosan. This formula will replace Colgate-Palmolive's current Palmolive antibacterial dishwashing product. The above described changes in antibacterial product offerings reflect the evolving preferences of Colgate-Palmolive's consumers and other constituents, which preferences help guide Colgate-Palmolive's decisions regarding product offerings.

Finally, in response to the concern raised in your letter, please be advised that Colgate-Palmolive does not specifically market to children any of its products that contain triclosan. Likewise, none of the triclosan-containing products sold by Colgate-Palmolive are intended to come into contact with food.

Colgate-Palmolive remains committed to ensuring the safety of its products and will continue to work with the U.S. FDA and other regulatory bodies around the world to ensure the safety of its consumers. I trust that this response addresses the issues and concerns raised in your letter.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew D. Hendry
Senior Vice President
General Counsel and Secretary

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member

The Honorable Fred Upton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment