



05 August 2010

FDA ADVISORY

No. 2010 - 008

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) strongly objects to and refutes the sweeping statements, insinuations, innuendos, and false conclusions made in the full-page Paid Advertisement entitled "FOOD OR POISON" published in the Philippine Star (page 17, August 4, 2010 issue) and in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (page A15, August 5, 2010 issue).

Clearly, the FDA is not and should not be dragged into and be involved in the looming battle between and among businesses producing, importing, distributing, and supplying wheat flour in the country. As the primary government agency tasked with, among others, determining and regulating the safety and quality of food, the FDA fervently performs its duty without taking any sides and without favoring anyone.

As a matter of fact, when its attention was called as regards the unconfirmed reports that wheat flour from Turkey was suspected of being contaminated with mycotoxin, the FDA, to avoid accusations of being biased for or against Turkish wheat flour, had intensely and consistently conducted monitoring, surveillance, sample collection, and testing of ALL imported and locally milled wheat flour. Verily, the FDA testing results, utilizing the same ELISA testing method used by the Istanbul University, would categorically demonstrate and confirm that **NONE** of the one hundred eighteen (118) samples collected from March 2010 to July 2010 have concentrations of *Ochratoxins A* and *Aflatoxin* (mycotoxins) that have exceeded the allowable limit. Many of the samples, in fact, revealed that *Ochratoxins A* and *Aflatoxin* were not even detected, again utilizing the same ELISA testing method used by the Istanbul University. The list of wheat flour collected from March 2010 to July 2010 and their respective producers, importers, distributors, or suppliers is attached hereto as Annex "A".

Accordingly, the FDA confirms the issuance of DOH-FDA Advisory Number 2010-004 dated April 14, 2010 and maintains its position that the samples of Turkish wheat flour collected from the various markets were tested to be "safe and fit for consumption".

Meanwhile, the Paid Advertisement's inference and use of the study of the Istanbul University (which was published in the Journal of Food and Drug Analysis) that the Turkish flour being imported into the Philippines is contaminated with cancer-causing mycotoxin is **ERRONEOUS** and **BASELESS**. The Faculty of Veterinary, Department of Food Hygiene and Technology, Istanbul University, and authors Ali Aydin, Ugur Gunsen and Salih Demirel, in their study entitled *"Total Aflatoxin, Aflatoxin B1 and Ochratoxin A levels in Turkish Wheat Flour"* published in the Journal of Food and Drug Analysis (pp. 48-53, Vol. 16, No. 2, 2008), said that these were *"not in accordance with our (author's) findings"*.

Moreover, the FDA strongly denies the Paid Advertisement's insinuations and innuendos as regards the Turkish Embassy having been provided with advanced copy of the wheat flour test results. Obviously, the test results were only given to the Turkish Embassy at the time when they had become official and anybody who would have wanted a copy thereof from the FDA would also have been given the test results had they simply asked for the same.

Finally, the FDA takes this opportunity to assure the public that it is committed in its mandate of continuously ensuring the availability and supply of safe food products in the country. Nevertheless, in the event that there are indeed violations of the country's food safety laws, rules and regulations, among others, the FDA will not hesitate in running after, prosecuting, and punishing such offenders and violators to the full extent of the law.


NAZARITA T. TACANDONG, RPh, MPA
Acting Director IV

ANNEX A

LIST OF WHEAT FLOUR COLLECTED AND TESTED FROM MARCH 2010 TO JULY 2010 WHICH CONFORMS TO FDA STANDARDS ON MYCOTOXIN ANALYSIS

| No. | PRODUCT NAME | BRAND NAME | MANUFACTURER | COUNTRY |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Cinderella Soft Wheat Flour Bleach | Cinderella | RFM Corporation | PHILIPPINES |
| 2 | Wheat Flour | Kale UN | Kale Madencilik San Jetic AS | TURKEY |
| 3 | Poodle Wheat Flour | Poodle | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 4 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 5 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 6 | Cougar Wheat Flour | Cougar | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 7 | Hard Wheat Flour | Dan Vil | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 8 | Wheat Flour | Koala Brand | Doric Unna Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 9 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 10 | Soft Wheat Flour | Dan Vil | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 11 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 12 | Wheat Flour | White Bear | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 13 | Soft Wheat Flour | Cougar | Tekirdag Un San Tic Ltd. Sti | TURKEY |
| 14 | Imported Wheat Flour | NO BRAND | Goksular UN VE Gida San Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 15 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 16 | Wheat Flour | San Miguel Mills- Customized Flour | San Miguel Flour Mills | Batangas City |
| 17 | Wheat Flour | Banana Brand | Tekirdag Un San Tic Ltd. Sti | TURKEY |
| 18 | Flour (unlabeled) | First Quality | Made in Turkey | TURKEY |
| 19 | Flour (unlabeled) | NO BRAND | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 20 | Flour (unlabeled) | NO BRAND | Not indicated | TURKEY |
| 21 | Flour (unlabeled) | Ylang Ylang | Made in Turkey | TURKEY |
| 22 | Flour | Superior Patent | Liberty Flour Milling Corp. | Mandaluyong City |
| 23 | Flour | Maxwill | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 24 | Flour | Crown | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 25 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 26 | Wheat Flour | Exan | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 27 | Wheat Flour | Isla Brand | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 28 | Wheat Flour | Red Horse | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 29 | Wheat Flour | Eris Un | Erisflourmills | TURKEY |
| 30 | Wheat Flour | Kung Fu Girls | Suphan Tarim Urunleri San Vic A | TURKEY |
| 31 | All Purpose Four | Gold Medal | General Mills, Inc. | USA |
| 32 | All Purpose Four | Swans Down | General Mills, Inc. | Makati City |
| 33 | Wheat Flour (repacked) | Allegedly "UNot indicated" | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 34 | Wheat Flour (repacked) | Allegedly "ISLAND" | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 35 | Bread Flour | NO BRAND | Wellington Flour Mills 2, Pilmico Foods Corp. | Not indicated |

ANNEX A

| No. | PRODUCT NAME | BRAND NAME | MANUFACTURER | COUNTRY |
|-----|---|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 36 | All Purpose Four | NO BRAND | Wellington Flour Mills 2, Pilmico Foods Corp. | Not indicated |
| 37 | Wheat Flour | Banana Brand | Tekirdag Un San Tic Ltd. Sti | TURKEY |
| 38 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 39 | Wheat Flour | Crown | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 40 | Wheat Flour | Gold Soft | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 41 | Hard Wheat Flour | Diamond Premium | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 42 | Bread Wheat Flour | Diamond Premium | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 43 | Soft Wheat Flour | Countess | San Miguel Mills | Batangas City |
| 44 | Harina de Pandesal | NO BRAND | San Miguel Mills | Batangas City |
| 45 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 46 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 47 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 48 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 49 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 50 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 51 | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 52 | Wheat Flour | Koala Brand | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 53 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 54 | Hard Wheat Flour | NO BRAND | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 55 | Soft Wheat Flour | Sunrise | Morning Star Flour Mills | Pasay City |
| 56 | Soft Wheat Flour | Queen | San Miguel Mills | Batangas City |
| 57 | Soft Wheat Flour | Sun Goddess | Philippine Flour Mills | Quezon City |
| 58 | Hard Wheat Flour | Angel White | Morning Star Flour Mills | Pasay City |
| 59 | Soft Wheat Flour | White Bear | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 60 | Soft Wheat Flour | White Bear | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 61 | Hard Wheat Flour | King | San Miguel Mills | Batangas City |
| 62 | Hard Wheat Flour | Angel White | Morning Star Milling Corp. | Pasig City |
| 63 | Hard Wheat Flour | El Superior | Liberty Flour Milling Corp. | Mandaluyong City |
| 64 | Cake Flour | Wooden Spoon | Pilmico | Not indicated |
| 65 | All Purpose Four | Wooden Spoon | Pilmico | Not indicated |
| 66 | Soft Wheat Flour | Amigo Gold | Philippine Foremost Milling Corp. | Not indicated |
| 67 | Wheat Flour (fortified with Vitamin A & Iron) | Poodle | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 68 | Soft Wheat Flour | Isla | General Milling Corp. | Cebu City |
| 69 | Customized Wheat Flour | San Miguel | San Miguel Mills | Mabini, Batang |
| 70 | Hard Wheat Flour | Sun Moon Star | Pilmico | Iligan |
| 71 | Soft Wheat Flour (Imported) | Supernova | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 72 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 73 | Vienna Wheat Flour | Vienna | Guangzhou Four Gardener Flour Co. Ltd. | CHINA |
| 74 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 75 | Imported Wheat Flour | NO BRAND | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 76 | Wheat Flour | Golden Peacock Brand | Ulusoy Un Sanayi Vetic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 77 | Wheat Flour (APF) | Golden Wheat | Wellington Flour Mills | Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City |

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| No. | PRODUCT NAME | BRAND NAME | MANUFACTURER | COUNTRY |
|-----|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 78 | Soft Flour | Filipina Soft Flour | Wellington Flour Mills | Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City |
| 79 | Wheat Flour | Wellington Wheat Flour | Wellington Flour Mills | Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City |
| 80 | Imported Soft Wheat Flour | Supernova | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 81 | Chia Fha Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles Wheat Flour | Chia Fha Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 82 | Chia Fha Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles Wheat Flour | Chia Fha Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 83 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 84 | Majestic Hard Wheat Flour | Majestic | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 85 | Hi-Pro Hard Wheat Flour | Hi-Pro | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 86 | Senorita Soft Wheat Flour | Senorita | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 87 | Cinderella Soft Wheat Flour | Cinderella | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 88 | White King All Purpose Flour (Wheat Flour) | White King | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 89 | White King Cake Flour (Wheat Flour) | White King | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 90 | Republic Special Wheat Flour | Republic Special | RFM Corporation | Pasig City |
| 91 | All-Purpose Flour | Wooden Spoon | Pilmico | Iligan City |
| 92 | Soft Wheat Flour | El Supremo | Delta Milling Industries, Inc. | Libis, Quezon City |
| 93 | Wheat Flour | Bosphorus Soft | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 94 | Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles | NO BRAND | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 95 | Fancy Patent Flour for Noodles | NO BRAND | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 96 | Wheat Flour | Mango | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 97 | All-Purpose Flour | Cream | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| 98 | Wheat Flour | Diamond Premium | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 99 | Wheat Flour | Fancy Patent Flour For Noodle | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 100 | Wheat Flour | Fancy Patent Flour For Noodle | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |
| 101 | Wheat Flour | Koala Brand | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 102 | Wheat Flour | Kung Fu Girls | Suphan Tarim Urunleri San Vic A | TURKEY |
| 103 | Wheat Flour | White Bear | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 104 | Wheat Flour | Koala Brand | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 105 | Wheat Flour | Eksan | Eksan Gida Tarim San VE Tiehs | TURKEY |
| 106 | Wheat Flour | Poodle | Doruk Una Deger Katma Gida San VE tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| 107 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Ticaret A.S. | TURKEY |
| 108 | Wheat Flour | White Bear | Tur Un Gida San. VE Tica S.A. | TURKEY |
| 109 | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Ticaret A.S. | TURKEY |
| 110 | All-Purpose Flour | Maya | Liberty Flour Milling Corp. | Blumintritt St., Mandaluyong City |

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| No. | PRODUCT NAME | BRAND NAME | MANUFACTURER | COUNTRY |
|------------|--|---|---|---|
| <u>111</u> | Hard Spring Wheat Flour | El Superior | Liberty Flour Milling Corp. | Blumintritt St., Mandaluyong City |
| <u>112</u> | Wheat Flour | Eksun Brand | Eksun Gida Tarim San VE Tic A.S. | TURKEY |
| <u>113</u> | Hotcake Mix | Pillsbury Hot Cakes Creamy Vanilla | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| <u>114</u> | Cereal | Natural Nutritious Cereal | Not indicated | Not indicated |
| <u>115</u> | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Ticaret A.S. | TURKEY |
| <u>116</u> | Hard Wheat Flour | Vienna Brand | Guangzhou Baiyun District Industrial Zone, Jiahe | CHINA |
| <u>117</u> | Wheat Flour | Dolfin | Ulusoy Un Sanayi VE Ticaret A.S. | TURKEY |
| <u>118</u> | Taiwan Flour Fortified w/ Vit. A & Iron | NO BRAND | Chia Fha Enterprises Co., Ltd. | TAIWAN |