

Jason Clevenger

From: Carando Foods [CarandoFoods@farmland.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 9:35 AM
To: Jason Clevenger
Subject: RE: J. Clevenger - gluten question

Hi Jason:

The information remains the same. Have a great Fall season!

Leslie

>>> "Jason Clevenger" <hvresearch@gmail.com> 10/16/2007 6:10:32 PM >>>
Hello,

I am writing to enquire if there has been any change in the status of the Gluten-Free labeling of your products. As the holidays approach, we strive to provide our members with up-to-date information so that they can make informed choices at the supermarket.

We look forward to your reply.

Best regards,
Jason

Jason Clevenger, Ph.D.
Managing Scientist
Exponent, Inc.
21 Strathmore Rd
Natick, MA 01760 USA
(508) 652-8502 (office)
(508) 397-4953 (mobile)
(508) 647-1899 (fax)

From: Carando Foods [mailto:CarandoFoods@farmland.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2007 9:39 AM
To: hvresearch@gmail.com
Subject: J. Clevenger - gluten question

Dear Jason:

Thank you for contacting Carando Foods. I know this is a long email, but please bear with me and read to the end.

Thank you for contacting Carando Foods as we value your comments and concerns. Consumer reactions are a very important part of assessing our customer's needs and maintaining the quality we strive for in every Carando product. However, we cannot absolutely guarantee that any of our products would be gluten free. Spice formulations from our suppliers and secondary suppliers, can change from time to time and still be correct under USDA labeling requirements. Because of this, along with the possibility of cross contamination from the secondary suppliers to our own main ingredients, we cannot absolutely guarantee that any of our products would be gluten free.

We wish we had a different answer for you and others who have contacted us, but we just cannot guarantee that a product, at any given time would not contain the ingredients you are questioning.

Farmland Foods (owner of Carando) does offer a new line of "All Natural" fresh pork items. The "All Natural" is stated on the label, along with no antibiotic residues, no added hormones, no artificial ingredients and minimally processed. While it

does not have a gluten free guarantee on the label, perhaps you can better evaluate if this fits into any information that you may have.

If you have a question about a specific ingredient listed on our product labels, you can direct your questions to Sandy Gronau, with our Quality Assurance Team. You can reach Sandy at 1-800-831-1812 x7469. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM CST. She would need to know the exact product you have - a UPC # is helpful, the ingredient and what your concern is. Sometimes she is able to answer a question to a consumer's satisfaction regarding gluten and whether they are comfortable trying a particular product. At this time, we just do not "guarantee" our products to be gluten free.

For example, many consumers inquire about modified food starch. We primarily use corn, but a small number of our products use a potato based modified food starch. Also, the dextrose in our products is corn based. And, the glaze packets for our Spiral Sliced Hams contain wheat.

Also, for a great website to learn what the USDA defines as "natural flavorings", "spices", etc. please go to <http://www.usda.gov/> www.usda.gov as there is a lot of information available about what companies can use as ingredients under those guidelines. For example, if you enter "natural flavorings" and the word "pork" in their search area you can pull up some helpful information. I've attached an article from this website.

I do hope that our labels become more concise in the future, but for now I hope this information is helpful. Have a great day, and again, thank you for contacting us.

Sincerely,

Leslie Thomas
Consumer Services
Carando Foods
PO Box 20121
Kansas City, MO 64195

www.carando.com <http://www.carando.com/> www.farmlandfoods.com
<http://www.farmlandfoods.com/> www.farmlandfoodservice.com
<http://www.farmlandfoodservice.com/>

>>> <hvresearch@gmail.com> 04/18/07 9:27 PM >>>

Jason [hvresearch@gmail.com] has a question/comment about:
My name is Jason Clevenger, and I am the director of product research for the Healthy Villi organization. The Healthy Villi is a Boston-based support and outreach group for those suffering from celiac disease, which is an autoimmune response to proteins contained in wheat, rye, and barley.

The ingestion of these proteins by someone who has celiac disease can cause damage to the lining of the small intestine as well as contribute to other illness. Celiac disease, once thought rare, is estimated to affect 1 in 133 Americans. The only known effective management for celiac disease is a gluten-free diet, which involves a complete avoidance of any gluten protein from wheat, rye, or barley as well as any associated derivatives that may contain residual gluten.

Since it is of paramount importance to those suffering from celiac disease that they avoid gluten in its various forms, we are writing to you to request information about which (if any) of your products can be considered gluten-free. The Healthy Villi intends to distribute this information to its 1000+ members, so that they can make informed buying decisions for products that will make positive contributions to their gluten-free diet. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and thanks in advance for your response.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you or anyone in your organization has questions or comments about celiac disease or the gluten-free diet.

Very best regards,
Jason Clevenger, Ph.D.
Healthy Villi
(508) 397-4953
<http://www.healthyvilli.org/>

Name: Jason Clevenger
Email: hvresearch@gmail.com
Address: 78 Westminster Ave
City: Watertown
State: MA
Zip: 02472
Phone No: 508-397-4953
Grocery Store: Stop & Shop, Watertown MA
Date: 4/18/2007 9:26:07 PM