DR. BRONNER'S ALL-ONE! In all we do, let us be generous, fair & loving to Spaceship Earth and all its inhabitants. For we're All-One or None! All-One!

MEMO

DATE	January 10, 2023
FROM, TITLE	Liz Schwartz, Quality Assurance Supervisor
SUBJECT	Re: Heavy Metals in Dr. Bronner's Magic All-One Chocolate

To National Co+op Grocers,

We are writing in response to your inquiry for clarification on how Dr. Bronner's addresses Lead and Cadmium potential in our Magic All-One Chocolate.

We are aware of the Consumer Report's article highlighting the concentrations of certain heavy metals in dark chocolates outside the limits set by California's Proposition 65. Dr. Bronner's can assure our retailers and customers that our Chocolate products are safe and in compliance with relevant regulations for Chocolate products.

For further information, please reference our comments to your questions:

1. **What practices does your brand currently employ to ensure that your products are safe and free of harmful heavy metals?**

   We closely monitor the quality of the cacao used from approved suppliers including the regular screening for the presence of heavy metals such as Lead and Cadmium to ensure our products meet relevant safety standards.

2. **Do you all test finished products for heavy metals?**

   We run routine testing on all of our chocolate SKUs to ensure we meet the relevant set standards.

3. **What practices does your brand employ in your sourcing to ensure that your suppliers are testing for the presence of harmful heavy metals?**

   Our cacao is carefully sourced from West Africa which shows less prevalence of heavy metals compared to other growing regions. Additionally, these raw materials are organic and therefore much more likely to be free from lead/cadmium commonly found in pesticides and phosphate fertilizers. Additionally, all of Dr. Bronner's cacao suppliers are organic and fair trade. Any new cacao suppliers go through a comprehensive vetting process and must have consecutive batches of cacao liquor tested for heavy metals before their cacao is approved for use in Dr. Bronner's Chocolate. All of Dr. Bronner's ingredients used to make our chocolate are traceable back to their source.

4. **Does your brand currently offer any products that have reliably and consistently tested below California's Maximum Allowable Dose Levels for these metals? If so, which products?**

   All 7 Chocolate SKUs meet the relevant safety guidelines set forth for the chocolate industry.

5. **What changes in sourcing/testing are underway or planned as a result of Consumer Reports' research?**

We will continue our heavy metal testing and will continue to rely on our supply chain transparency to identify safety concerns. We believe in constant improvement, and we regularly evaluate our testing protocols to ensure that we are using the best industry practices to measure the quality and safety of our products.

6. **Solving the heavy metal contamination issue is an industrywide issue. Is your brand working with any industry groups/brand coalitions to solve this challenge?**

   As a new brand in the chocolate category, Dr. Bronner's engages chocolate industry experts, our manufacturer partners, and other leading natural chocolate brands to make sure that chocolate supply chain practices deliver safe high-quality products. Additionally, Dr. Bronner's participates in joint trade groups including the B Corp community, OSC, Naturally Network, and more. Further, Dr. Bronner's works closely with our cacao farmers on the ground and allies across the industry to implement and model many leading agricultural methods to heal soil and strengthen communities. All-One!

Thank you.

Regards,

Liz Schwartz

Liz Schwartz
Quality Assurance Supervisor

Dr. Bronner's
Family Soapmakers Since 1858
P.O. Box 1958, Vista, CA 92085
ALL-ONE!

The information present herein is believed to be accurate but is not warranted. Recipients are advised to confirm in advance that the information is current, applicable, and suitable to their circumstance.