

DEC - 5 1991

Mr. Jack L. Samuels  
Suite 340  
540 Frontage Road  
Northfield, Illinois 60093

Dear Mr. Samuels:

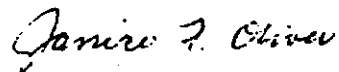
A letter dated October 18, 1991, written to you by Joe K. Holloway of the Division of Regulatory Guidance has come to my attention. Mr. Holloway's letter responded to your letter of August 12, 1991, to Dr. David Kessler, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, concerning the labeling on "Sun-Bird" Stir-Fry Oriental Seasoning Mix, distributed by S&B International Corporation, Torrance, California. Specifically, the label included the statement "No MSG Added", however, hydrolyzed vegetable protein was listed in the ingredient statement for the product.

I regret that you were informed that this product label does not appear to violate labeling regulations. Such a statement is inconsistent with FDA's position that a food label that declares "No MSG Added" is false and misleading under section (403(a)(1)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act when the label also lists any hydrolyzed protein as an ingredient since it contains MSG.

I have directed our Los Angeles District to consider regulatory action against the Sun Bird product mentioned in your letter and any other product which is similarly labeled in a misleading manner.

I thank you for your continued interest in this important consumer matter. If you have information concerning other labels that state "No MSG" but contain hydrolyzed protein, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,



Janice F. Oliver  
Director  
Office of Regulatory Guidance  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition