



WARNING LETTER

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Efrain Villalobos
Nikte's Wholesale, LLC
7408 Spring Flower Rd. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121-6402

RE: 649469

Dear Mr. Villalobos:

This letter is to advise you that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviewed your websites at the Internet addresses www.agrodine.com and www.cbdwarehouseusa.com in January 2023, May 2023, and June 2023, respectively, and have determined that you take orders there for various human products, which you represent as containing Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Customers place orders for these products on Agrodine.com and cbdwarehouseusa.com and are charged by Nikte's Wholesale, LLC. FDA has determined that your Delta-8 Gushers, Delta-8 THC Lemonade 500mg, Medicated Jolly Rancher Gummies Sour, and Delta-8 THC Hot Cheetos products are adulterated under section 402(a)(2)(C)(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FD&C Act), 21 U.S.C. 342(a)(2)(C)(i), because they bear or contain an unsafe food additive. Furthermore, it is a prohibited act to introduce adulterated food into interstate commerce under section 301(a) of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. 331(a).

As explained further below, introducing or delivering these products for introduction into interstate commerce violates the FD&C Act. You can find the FD&C Act and FDA regulations through links on FDA's home page at www.fda.gov. You can find specific information about how FDA regulates cannabis-derived products at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-regulation-cannabis-and-cannabis-derived-products-including-cannabidiol-cbd>.

FDA has observed a proliferation of products containing the cannabinoid, Delta-8 THC, and has recently expressed serious concerns about products containing Delta-8 THC that include: 1) Delta-8 THC products have not been evaluated or approved by FDA for safe use and may be marketed in ways that put the public health at risk; 2) FDA has received adverse event reports involving Delta-8 THC containing products; 3) Delta-8 THC has psychoactive and intoxicating effects; 4) FDA is concerned about the processes used to create the concentrations of Delta-8 THC claimed in the marketplace; and 5) FDA is concerned about Delta-8 THC products that may be consumed by children, as some packaging and labeling may appeal to children.

See <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/5-things->

There is no food additive regulation that authorizes the use of Delta-8 THC. We are not aware of any information to indicate that Delta-8 THC is the subject of a prior sanction (see 21 CFR Part 181). Furthermore, we are not aware of any basis to conclude that Delta-8 THC is GRAS for use in conventional foods. FDA's regulations in 21 CFR 170.30(a)-(c) describe the criteria for eligibility for classification of a food ingredient as GRAS. The use of a food substance may be GRAS based on either scientific procedures or, for a substance used in food before 1958, through experience based on common use in food (see 21 CFR 170.30).

We know of no basis for general recognition of safety for Delta-8 THC based either on scientific procedures or common use in food prior to January 1, 1958. Based on our review of published, scientific literature, existing data and information do not provide an adequate basis to conclude that the use of Delta-8 THC in food meets the criteria for GRAS status. Some of the available data raise serious concerns about potential harm from Delta-8 THC. Our review of published scientific literature identified potential for adverse effects on the central nervous and cardiopulmonary systems. In addition, studies in animals have suggested that gestational exposure to Delta-8 THC can interfere with neurodevelopment. Therefore, based on our review, the use of Delta-8 THC in conventional food does not satisfy the criteria for GRAS status under 21 CFR 170.30.

FDA is not aware of any other exception to the food additive definition that would apply to Delta-8 THC for use as an ingredient in a conventional food. Therefore, Delta-8 THC added to a conventional food is a food additive under section 201(s) of the FD&C Act and is subject to the provisions of section 409 of the FD&C Act. Under section 409, a food additive is deemed unsafe unless it is approved by FDA for its intended use prior to marketing. Delta-8 THC is not approved for use in any conventional food. Food containing an unsafe food additive within the meaning of section 409 is adulterated within the meaning of section 402(a)(2)(C)(i) of the FD&C Act. Therefore, your Delta 8 THC Gushers, Delta-8 THC Lemonade 500mg, Medicated Jolly Rancher Gummies Sour, and Delta 8 THC Hot Cheetos products are adulterated within the meaning of section 402(a)(2)(C)(i) of the FD&C Act because they bear or contain an unsafe food additive. Introduction of an adulterated food into interstate commerce is prohibited under section 301(a) of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. 331(a).

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive statement of violations that may exist in connection with your products. You are responsible for investigating and determining the causes of any violations and for preventing their recurrence or the occurrence of other violations. It is your responsibility to ensure that your firm complies with all requirements of federal law, including FDA regulations.

This letter notifies you of FDA's concerns and provides you an opportunity to address them. Failure to adequately address this matter may result in legal action including, without limitation, seizure and injunction.

Please notify FDA in writing, within fifteen working days of receipt of this letter, of the specific steps you have taken to address any violations. Include an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of violations, as well as copies of related documentation. If you cannot complete corrective actions within fifteen working days, state the reason for the delay and the

time within which you will do so. If you believe that your products are not in violation of the FD&C Act, include your reasoning and any supporting information for our consideration.

Your response should be sent to CFSANResponse@fda.hhs.gov. Please include “CMS 649469” in the subject line of your email.

Unfair or Deceptive Marketing

In addition, the FTC has reviewed the online marketing of the Delta-8 THC products referenced above. Section 5 of the FTC Act prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. This prohibition includes practices that present unwarranted health or safety risks. Commission Policy Statement on Unfairness, 104 F.T.C. 1070, 1071 (1984) (appended to *Int’l Harvester Co.*, 104 F.T.C. 949 (1984)); *see also Philip Morris, Inc.*, 82 F.T.C. 16 (1973) (alleging that distribution of sample razor blades without protective packaging in home-delivered newspapers was a health and safety hazard, particularly to young children, that violated Section 5). Preventing practices that present unwarranted health and safety risks, particularly to children, is one of the Commission’s highest priorities. FTC Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026 at 5.

As noted above, your various Delta-8 THC products have an appearance and form similar to conventional candies, foods, and beverages often consumed by children. For instance, your Delta-8 Sour Gushers product is marketed in packaging that strongly resembles the packaging for Super Sour Gushers fruit snacks, including: a yellow background; brightly-colored design elements evoking liquid splotches, including green elements at the top and bottom; and the depiction of several individual fruit snacks, including a red fruit snack gushing red liquid beneath the word “Gushers.” Your Delta-8 THC Hot Cheetos are marketed in packaging that resembles the packaging for Cheetos Crunchy Xtra Flamin’ Hot Cheese Flavored Snacks, using the same black and orange color scheme, the use of the Cheetos name and logo, and a depiction of flames at the top and bottom of the package. Your Medicated Jolly Rancher Gummies Sour are marketed in packaging that

cannabis products can result in serious health consequences in children.³ Given the significant number of adverse events reported in connection with ingestion of edible products containing THC, advertising and packaging your Delta-8 THC products in a manner that is likely to be particularly appealing to young children could present an unwarranted risk to health and safety.

You must immediately cease marketing edible Delta-8 THC products that imitate conventional foods using advertising or packaging that is likely to be appealing to young children. The FTC also strongly urges you to review all of your marketing and product packaging for similar edible THC products, and to take swift and appropriate steps to protect consumers, especially young children.

With regard to the FTC-related issues described in this letter, please notify Christine DeLorme, attorney with the FTC's Division of Advertising Practices, via electronic mail at cdelorme@ftc.gov with 15 working days of receipt of this letter of the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Ms. DeLorme at (202) 326-2095.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Oxenham
Director
Office of Compliance