AMERICAN LABORATORIES INCORPORATED

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March 4, 1999

To: Our Valued Customers

Subject: Bovine Origin Products

With reference to the concerns about Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), we wish to advise you as follows:

American Laboratories, Inc. does not purchase, process, or offer for sale any Bovine products originating from any country in which Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is currently known to exist. These countries are identified and listed as "Restricted" for the importation of ruminants, meat and meat products from ruminants, and certain other runminant products by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as it was published in the Federal Registar: January 6, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 3), Rules and Regulations, Pages 406 - 408. The countries which are there identified as BSE affected are Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Romania, The Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Falkland Islands).

Our plant is registered with both the U.S.D.A. (# 5805) and the F.D.A. (Establishment # 1920841). We are inspected by both the F.D.A. and the U.S.D.A., and our processing records are reviewed by both agencies.

The attached article is a copy of the latest statement issued by the U.S.D.A. on BSE. This statement verifies that BSE is not known to exist in the U.S.A. and further explains some of the background, history, and preventative measures taken.

Thank you for your considerations and if you have any further questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact us.

Yours very truly,

Allen L. Asherin
Vice President Regulatory Affairs

ALA:ccc
enc.

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To: Our Valued Customer
Subject: Glandular Products

This is in regards to the concerns expressed by the Food and Drug Administration in their letter.

First of all, we DO NOT purchase, process or offer any Bovine product which is from France, Great Britain, Ireland, Oman or Switzerland.

Compared to the total products that we provide, we do process 95% of all bovine products offered and origin of the raw material is from the United States. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is not known to exist in the United States. We will only use product which has been collected under United States Department of Agriculture inspection. All animals have received anti and post mortem inspection and have been found suitable for consumption by mankind. Our plant is registered with the USDA (Establish 5805) and FDA (Establishment 19-20841).

For the product which we process but originates outside the U.S., we must obtain a USDA Import Permit. This permit requires that the country of origin be identified. Along with this, we have to advise under what conditions the product is collected. The frozen product is shipped in a refrigerated container which has been sealed under USDA regulations. Upon arrival in our plant, we will process the product in the same manner as the product which is of U.S. origin.

For any product which may be provided to us in a processed form, we again must obtain a USDA Import Permit. To the best of our knowledge, we are the only U.S. firm offering glandular products which obtains the USDA Import Permit for each product imported. We must provide the actual processing procedure which includes time and temperature that the product has been subjected. The USDA will review and only after meeting their criteria, will they issue us the Import Permit. Upon receipt of any finished powder, we will blend in a P-K blender to assure a homogenous product. Each product is tested in our laboratory for chemical and microbiological characteristics. No other importer can provide this quality assurance.