



Know your environment.
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October 24, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey L. Harmening
President and CEO
General Mills
1 General Mills Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55426

RE: Glyphosate in oat-based foods marketed to children

Dear Mr. Harmening:

The Environmental Working Group remains deeply concerned about the level of the herbicide glyphosate found in General Mills' oat-based products, notably Cheerios, especially those that are marketed to children. With the release of additional test results today, we write to reiterate the request we made in repeated communications with your company prior to and following the release of an initial round of product testing by EWG two months ago.

We have received no response to inquiries to your company. It is time for General Mills to take action that prevents contamination of your products with glyphosate and to announce that action to the public.

Altogether, in two rounds of testing commissioned by EWG, we found that samples of eight General Mills products¹ had levels of glyphosate ranging from approximately 2.9 times more to approximately 7.3 times more than what EWG scientists consider protective of children's health with an adequate margin of safety.

The legal limit for glyphosate set by the Environmental Protection Agency, in 2008, is 30 parts per million. As with many federal health and safety limits, the fact that the level of glyphosate our laboratory analyses found in General Mills products is legal does not mean that it is fully protective of children's health.

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organization, found glyphosate to be "probably carcinogenic" to humans. In 2017, state scientists in California listed the pesticide as a chemical known to cause cancer. Both

¹ Cheerios Toasted Whole Grain Oat Cereal, Apple Cinnamon Cheerios, Very Berry Cheerios, Chocolate Cheerios, Frosted Cheerios, Fruity Cheerios, Honey Nut Cheerios and Cheerios Oat Crunch Cinnamon.



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agencies have staunchly defended their position from attacks by Monsanto, the pesticide's manufacturer.

The EPA standard is outdated and not one based on the best and most current science. The EPA's standards for pesticides are heavily influenced by the political clout of the chemical agriculture and pesticide industries.

EWG and multitudes of concerned parents believe that cancer-causing pesticides do not belong in food, especially when the most vulnerable consumers are at risk. As part of an EPA risk assessment, the agency estimated exposure levels of glyphosate in the diets of adults and children. The EPA found that 1- to 2-year-old children are likely to have the highest exposure levels, estimated at twice that of California's No Significant Risk Level and 230 times greater than EWG's health benchmark.

Our findings prompt us to ask whether General Mills conducted any of its own testing for glyphosate in General Mills' oat-based foods? If so, we request that you make the results public. We believe that parents would like to know whether the results of testing conducted by General Mills are at odds with EWG's findings.

Growing oats does not require the use of glyphosate as a pre-harvest drying agent, and there are conventional and organic oat growers who do not use it or other weed killers for this purpose. So, as we did two months ago, we are calling on General Mills to take a simple step to protect children: On behalf of parents and other concerned consumers, source your oats from growers that do not treat their crops with glyphosate.

We look forward to hearing from you promptly with an update. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Cook

President
Environmental Working Group

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