



1/16/2024

## Gluten Free Compliance Declaration

Albanese Confectionery Group, Inc.

The following declaration information is in regard to the 'gluten free' statement provided on all Albanese gummi products:

In general, August 5, 2013, FDA issued a final rule, foods may be labeled "gluten-free" if they meet the definition and otherwise comply with the final rule's requirements. More specifically, the final rule defines "gluten-free" as meaning that the food either is inherently gluten free; or does not contain an ingredient that is:

- 1) A gluten-containing grain (e.g., spelt wheat);
- 2) Derived from a gluten-containing grain that has not been processed to remove gluten (e.g., wheat flour); or
- 3) Derived from a gluten-containing grain that has been processed to remove gluten (e.g., wheat starch), if the use of that ingredient results in the presence of 20 parts per million (ppm) or more gluten in the food.

Also, any unavoidable presence of gluten in the food must be less than 20 ppm.

Manufacturers can voluntarily use the gluten-free claim to clearly inform consumers about which of their foods meet FDA's gluten-free requirements.

The final rule does not specifically require manufacturers to test for the presence of gluten in their starting ingredients or finished foods labeled gluten-free. However, manufacturers are responsible for ensuring that foods bearing a gluten-free claim meet the requirements of the final rule. Among other requirements, this means that any unavoidable gluten present in a food labeled gluten-free is less than 20 ppm. Manufacturers may choose to use effective quality control tools to ensure that any foods they label gluten-free do not contain 20 ppm or more gluten, such as:

- Conducting in-house gluten testing of starting ingredients or finished foods,
- Employing a third-party laboratory to conduct in-house gluten testing,
- Requesting certificates of gluten analysis from ingredient suppliers, or
- Participating in a third-party gluten-free certification program.

This is to reaffirm and reassure that to the best of our knowledge and by the information received from our raw material suppliers, we have confirmed that all gummies manufactured at Albanese Confectionery Group Inc., are correctly declared as gluten free.

Thank you,

Albanese Quality Assurance