

April 2022

Re: Supplier Review Process

Ardent Mills has a supplier review process that reviews the food safety assessment, hazard analysis, and related factors as part of our supplier approval process. We have included key requirements noted in FSMA related to supply chain program as noted in 117.405.

Through the combined efforts of both Ardent Mills and our suppliers, we can mitigate food safety risks, reduce quality incidents, and ensure that all brands are protected. Our Supplier and External Manufacturer Management Process, or SEM Process, allows us to verify that our suppliers and external manufacturers can provide safe and healthy finished products and ingredients. The current scope of the SEM Process is human and animal food finished products, ingredients, food contact packaging, and food contact processing aids.

Required elements for our Food Safety & HACCP program include the following primary areas: Food Safety & HACCP or equivalent risk-based process controls; Food Safety and Quality Management System; Management of Change; Control of Documents and Records; Supplier/External Manufacturer Qualification; Facility Security and Product Defense; Employee Training; Environmental Monitoring/Pathogen Testing; Foreign Material Control; Personal Hygiene; Allergen Control; Pest Control; Manufacturing Records; Rework, Reprocessing, Reconditioning, and Waste Management; Calibrations; Maintenance; Cleaning and Sanitation; Product Traceability and Labeling; Receiving, Storage, and Shipping.

Documentation to include: Product description; Technical data specification, including physical, chemical/analytical, and microbiological standards and tolerance, along with testing procedure references; Packaging information; Recommended storage and shipping conditions and storage limits; Ingredient declaration, including approximate percentage composition of ingredient(s) in descending order; Allergen information; Country of Origin of all components; Manufacturing location; Third party audits to include GFSI, ISO, and industry specific certifications upon review to be made (if third party audit is not available or approved, then Company Specific Questionnaire is to be completed).

The overall material risk is a score that takes into account the inherent risk of the material, any Ardent Mills mitigation steps, and the intended use of the final product.

Sincerely,
Ardent Mills Regulatory Team
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