

MAY 23 1991

Mr. James R. Frank  
Treasurer  
Landfill Alternatives, Inc.  
628 East North Street  
Elburn, IL 60119

Dear Mr. Frank:

This responds to your letter of April 11, 1991, and telephone conversation of April 29, 1991, concerning the use of post-consumer polystyrene food-contact items for further use in the manufacture of egg cartons.

The statements and information which you provided and upon which we are basing our decision include the following pertinent facts:

1) The only food-contact use permitted for your post-consumer polystyrene resin is as egg cartons to package in-shell eggs.

2) Your recycling operation includes previously used polystyrene items that were originally regulated for food-contact use. Your post-consumer polystyrene material includes; (a) curbside household items pre-sorted from garbage and washed by consumers, (b) food-contact items collected from food service institutions and washed in your plant, and (c) plant scraps purchased from fabricators of polystyrene food packaging.

3) You stated that if the material shows little or no evidence of separation or efforts by suppliers to limit contamination, you refuse to accept it for processing. Additionally, your recycling staff at your recycling facility is instructed to remove post-consumer recyclable items that are visibly contaminated from the recycling process.

4) You also stated that the recycled polystyrene is washed with hot water for 15 minutes. After drying,

the cleaned polystyrene is inspected along with polystyrene not requiring cleaning. These materials are placed in a 15 minute drying bin. The

recycled polystyrene may be

further processed into pellets, and sold in pellet form.

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We find, therefore, that if the above conditions are met, we would offer no objections to your offering for sale your post-consumer polystyrene for use in the manufacturing of egg cartons.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Alan M. Rulis, Ph.D.  
Director  
Division of Food and Color Additives  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition