



## NCA Government Affairs Journal

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### NCA Takes Part in Guadalajara Seminar

NCA participated in a Good Manufacturing Practices Seminar in Guadalajara, Mexico at the Confit EXPO, the Mexican candy trade show, on August 4th. **More than 100 people attended a standing room only presentation on FDA import/export regulations and general good manufacturing practices.** The Mexican Confectionery Association has since pledged to hold follow-up in-depth meetings throughout the country to specifically address the lead issue.

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### Study Offers Positive Results for Confectionery

Further proof that confectionery is not contributing to America's increasing obesity rates can be found in a study published in the July 2004 issue of the peer-reviewed Journal of the American Dietetic Association. The authors collected dietary intake data for 10-year-old children over a twenty-year period (1973-1994) and **determined that the amount of candy consumed, as well as the percentage of children consuming candy, decreased significantly during that time.** Other foods whose quantity decreased were fats/oils, desserts, eggs and milk. Foods consumed in greater amounts over the 20-year period included fruits, mixed meats, poultry and cheese. While the percentage of children consuming salty snacks and sweetened beverages did not increase, the quantity consumed per child increased.

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### Clarification Sought for Lead in Mexican Candy Wrappers

**NCA met with Consumer Product Safety Commission officials** to seek clarity on their July letter to NCA regarding **lead on candy wrappers imported from Mexico.** **NCA informed CPSC that while the industry believes its products are safe, we take the issue seriously.**

### Let Congress Know About Confectionery, Register for NCA's Washington Forum

Do you complain about the federal government on a routine basis? Along with your vote in November, another way to express your concerns (or complaints) to your federal elected officials is by registering for **NCA's Washington Forum September 8 and 9 in Washington, DC.** Participants will have an opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and their staffs to explain the issues that are important to your businesses. In 2005, the federal government will consider new dietary guidelines for Americans and a new food guide pyramid. Congress will debate related diet and health legislation. As in all business endeavors, it's important to build a relationship with government officials rather than contacting them only when there's a issue where we are seeking their assistance. To register, contact [Mindy Ambrose](#).

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### CA Lead Bill Passes Senate, On to Assembly

**A bill setting a 0.2 ppm lead safety standard for candy products containing chili and tamarind fruit passed the California Senate on August 18 and is awaiting final approval by the Assembly.** While the bill now applies to both domestic and imported candy containing chili or tamarind, CONMEXICO, the Mexican grocery manufacturers trade association, testified that the bill was a trade barrier, as it would mainly affect products from their country. A motion to apply the standard to all candy products was offered but failed by voice vote in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

NCA had indicated our opposition to the measure in testimony, pointing out the federal Food and Drug Administration is the appropriate government agency to set lead safety standards. **We think the hard work done by many in the food industry to fight the bill ultimately persuaded legislators to approve a measure that was much less broad in scope than earlier versions of the legislation,** which at various points called for inspecting all candy in California and setting a zero tolerance for lead. For more details, contact [melane.rose@candyusa.org](mailto:melane.rose@candyusa.org) or [steve.lodge@candyusa.org](mailto:steve.lodge@candyusa.org).

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### CA Wants to Remove Snack Foods from School Vending Machines

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A shocking and disappointing move (SB 1566) in the **California state legislature would remove snack foods from school vending machines while allowing soft drinks and other beverages to remain at the high school level.** Science and statistics have had no sway with the legislature so far as the bill has passed the Senate and has been forwarded by various Assembly committees to the floor for consideration by the full Assembly. NCA will soon send an Action Alert to our California members, requesting that they contact Governor Schwarzenegger and ask that he veto the restrictive legislation. You can reach us at [steve.lodge@candyusa.org](mailto:steve.lodge@candyusa.org) for more info.

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