



13th September 2023

Mr. Zhiwen Teh
President
TrueTech Inc
8 THE GRN STE A, DOVER, DE USA 19901

Subject: Written Assurance of Compliance - FDA Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP)

Dear Mr. Zhiwen Teh,

Overview

I am writing on behalf of Coopercabruca to provide you with a written assurance of our compliance with the FDA Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) requirements for the importation of cacao nibs to TrueTech Inc under the small importer modified exemptions rule. As a trusted supplier of cacao nibs, we are committed to ensuring the safety and quality of our products in accordance with regulatory standards.

Coopercabruca is dedicated to upholding the highest food safety standards, and we are proud to affirm that our operations are compliant with the regulations set forth by Brazil's FITOSanitario certification. FITOSanitario (copy attached) is equivalent to the FDA regulations in the USA, ensuring that our products meet stringent safety and quality criteria. Each shipment will have the following accompanying certifications:

- CIC (Cacao Innovation Center) certification along with it to ensure quality assurance,
- IBD NOP certification for the farm
- FITO Sanitario certification

To address potential hazards associated with cacao nibs, Coopercabruca has implemented comprehensive preventive controls across our entire production process. Our commitment to food safety begins with the selection of raw materials. We source cacao beans exclusively from reputable and approved farms, ensuring that they adhere to the highest agricultural and handling practices.



Once the cacao beans are received at our facility, we meticulously sort, clean, and sanitize them to remove any foreign material or contaminants. The beans then undergo a thorough fermentation and roasting process, which not only enhances the flavor profile of the cacao nibs but also contributes to the elimination of pathogens.

Following roasting, the cacao nibs are cooled, crushed, and packaged in a controlled environment. Our packaging materials are carefully chosen to prevent cross-contamination and maintain the freshness of the product. Stringent quality checks are conducted throughout the packaging process to ensure that the cacao nibs meet our strict specifications.

Furthermore, Cooperbruca has established a robust traceability system that allows us to track each batch of cacao nibs from their origin to the final packaged product. This traceability mechanism enables us to promptly identify and address any potential issues that may arise.

In support of our commitment to transparency, we are pleased to attach a scanned copy of the GAP certification awarded to Cooperbruca by the Brazilian government. This certification validates our compliance with GAP's regulations and further underscores our dedication to product safety.

With this letter, we also aim to provide a comprehensive overview of our commitment to compliance with the FDA Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) requirements. As a trusted supplier of cacao nibs, Cooperbruca is dedicated to upholding the highest food safety standards and ensuring the safety and quality of our products in accordance with regulatory standards.

In the following sections, we will delve into the specific processes and measures that we have implemented to address potential hazards associated with cacao nibs and to ensure their safe importation and consumption. Our adherence to Brazil's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards, equivalent to FDA regulations, underscores our commitment to product safety and transparency.

Hazard Analysis

Critical control points

This section identifies the critical control points in the process from harvesting to shipping roasted cacao nibs to TrueTech Inc. These are where preventive controls can be applied to minimize or eliminate the risk of food safety hazards.



These hazards can include biological, chemical, or physical contaminants that could pose a risk to human health if not properly managed. Identifying and controlling critical points is crucial for ensuring the safety of imported food products and preventing potential health risks to consumers.

Harvesting

Harvesting stage involves carefully picking ripe cacao pods from the trees. Pods are collected to ensure they are free from visible signs of contamination, damage, or insect infestation. Proper hygiene practices are followed during harvesting to prevent microbial contamination.

Fermenting

During fermentation, cacao beans are placed in controlled environments where microbial reactions occur. This stage is vital for flavor development. Proper temperature and time controls are maintained to ensure uniform fermentation and prevent undesirable microbial growth.

Drying and Sorting

After fermentation, cacao beans are dried to a specific moisture content to prevent mold growth and maintain quality. The beans are sorted to remove any foreign particles, ensuring that only clean beans proceed to the next stage.

Roasting

Roasting cacao beans brings out their rich flavors. Controlled temperatures and times are employed to achieve the desired flavor profile while minimizing the formation of undesirable compounds like acrylamide.

Cracking and Winnowing

The roasted cacao beans are cracked to remove the outer shell, yielding cacao nibs. Winnowing is performed to separate nibs from the shells, ensuring that the final product is free from shell fragments.

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Packaging

The final product, cacao nibs, is carefully packaged in a controlled environment to maintain freshness and prevent contamination. Airtight packaging is used to protect against oxidation and moisture.

Shipping

Cacao nibs are shipped to their destination using proper packaging to ensure they reach their destination in optimal condition. Temperature and humidity controls are maintained during shipping to preserve quality.

These objective descriptions outline each stage of the cacao nibs' journey and highlight key considerations to ensure compliance with FSVP regulations.

Potential hazards at critical points

Harvesting:

- **Biological Hazards:**
 - Microbial Contamination (Salmonella)
 - Insect Infestation
- **Physical Hazards:** Foreign objects like rocks, dirt, or debris from the field

Fermenting:

- **Biological Hazards:**
 - Microbial Growth (Salmonella)
 - Undesirable Fermentation
- **Chemical Hazards:** Contamination from pesticides or chemicals used in cacao plantations
- **Physical Hazards:** Inclusion of non-cacao materials in fermentation containers

Drying and Sorting:

- **Biological Hazards:** Mold growth due to improper drying practices.
- **Chemical Hazards:** Residues from cleaning agents or pesticides.
- **Physical Hazards:** Inclusion of foreign objects during drying and sorting.

Roasting:

- **Biological**

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- Acrylamide Formation
- Over-Roasting
- **Physical Hazards:** Foreign objects like metal fragments from roasting equipment.

Cracking and Winnowing:

- **Biological**
 - Particulate Contamination
 - Cross-Contamination
- **Physical Hazards:**
 - Inclusion of shell fragments or foreign materials in cracked cacao beans.

Processing and Packaging:

- **Biological Hazards:** Cross-contamination from other ingredients.
- **Chemical Hazards:** Residues from cleaning agents or equipment.
- **Physical Hazards:**
 - Inclusion of foreign objects during the packaging process.
 - Metal fragments from processing equipment.

Shipping:

- **Biological Hazards:**
 - Humidity Exposure
 - Cross-Contamination
- **Physical**
 - Physical damage due to improper packaging or handling during transit.

Preventative Controls

The following preventive controls aim to prevent the risk of hazards introduced throughout the entire process of preparing roasted cacao nibs, from harvesting to shipping. Regular training, stringent cleaning procedures, and rigorous testing are crucial to maintaining the safety of the product and ensuring compliance with FDA regulations.

Implementation at critical control points

Harvesting

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit

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			or injury		
Microbial Contamination (salmonella)	Biological	Medium	Medium	We only harvest mature and perfect fruit directly from the tree. We utilize Garra tool to handle the fruit to ensure against broken skin which is a vector for contamination.	Harvested mature fruit does not have broken skin which will allow contamination to happen.
Insect Infestation	Biological	Low	Low	For organic cacao, natural organic insect repellents are used. When the environment is balance insect infestation is unlikely	NA
Foreign objects like rocks, dirt, or debris from the field	Physical	Low	Low	When fruits are harvested and broken and the beans are extracted. But the actual removal of this foreign objects are done at the later stage during drying	NA.

Fermenting

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Microbial Growth (salmonella)	Biological	Medium	Medium	This hazard is controlled during the roasting critical control point	NA
Undesirable Fermentation	Biological	Medium	Medium	There are three traditional organic measures for this Measure 1: Smell test. Ensure there are no traces of putrefy smell Measure 2: Ensure PH is below 6. The batch cannot be too alkaline. 4.8 to 5.8PH is ideal Measure 3: Professional taste test.	Ensure there are no traces of putrefy smell Measure to ensure the PH of completed needs to be between 4.8 to 5.8PH Professional taste tester will indicate during tasting
Inclusion of non-cacao materials in fermentation containers	Physical	Low	Low	Fermentation is done in a wood box in the house of fermentation. Nothing else is allowed in the house besides the cacao nibs to be fermentation	Only cacao beans should be allowed to be placed in fermentation containers. No foreign objects will be allowed in the house of fermentation.

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Contamination from pesticides or chemicals used in cacao plantations	Chemical	Low	Low	The facility will be located on the farm which has been organically certified. There will be no pesticide or artificial chemicals on the premise	To ensure no pesticide or chemicals are brought on to the premise The farmer continues to maintain organic certification for each batch of shipment. The certificate is an analysis report by CIC
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Drying and Sorting

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Mold growth due to improper drying practices.	Biological	Medium	Medium	<p>Turnover the beans frequently in the sun which still contain humidity often to ensure against mold.</p> <p>First 2 days: When sample of cacao nibs is squeezed, if there is humidity, there is liquid dropped</p> <p>Beans will be turned over every 30 minutes in the sun</p> <p>When sample of cacao nibs is hand squeezed, it cracks</p> <p>3rd day: Beans will be turned over every 1 hour in the sun</p> <p>4th to 7th day: 4 to 5 times a day.</p>	<p>No visible mold</p> <p>Lab testing from CIC shall indicate mold shall not be above 3% threshold.</p>
Inclusion of foreign objects during drying and sorting process	Physical	Medium	Medium	Before the dried cacao nibs are collected, they are processed through sieve	Visibility ensure there are no more foreign objects after the sieving process
Residues from cleaning agents or pesticides	Chemical	Low	Medium	The facility will be located on the farm which has been organically certified. There will be no pesticide or artificial chemicals on the premise	<p>To ensure no pesticide or chemicals are brought on to the premise</p> <p>The farmer continues to maintain organic certification for each batch of shipment. The certificate is an analysis report by CIC</p>

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Roasting

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Microbial Growth (salmonella)	Biological	Medium	High	The roasting process itself will kill off the microbial growth. The internal temperature of the cacao nibs during roasting reaches 180°C for 30 minutes.	CIC will provide certification that Mycotoxin levels in cacao nibs are below the regulatory limits..
Acrylamide Formation	Biological	Medium	Low	Daily cleaning to ensure properly functioning equipment Required maintenance is performed when malfunction is observed before cacao nibs are processed	Machine is cleaned everyday Mechanics will provide certification that maintenance has been done.
Over-Roasting	Biological	Low	Low	Daily cleaning to ensure properly functioning equipment Required maintenance is performed when malfunction is observed before cacao nibs are processed	Machine is cleaned everyday Mechanics will provide certification that maintenance has been done.
Foreign objects like metal fragments from roasting equipment.	Physical	Medium	Medium	The stove is sealed during roasting Regular maintenance is done on the stove.	Mechanics will provide certification that maintenance has been done.

Cracking and Winnowing

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Particulate Contamination	Biological	Low	Low	The machine is sealed. Daily cleaning to ensure properly functioning equipment Required maintenance is performed when malfunction is observed before	Mechanics will provide certification that maintenance has been done.

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				cacao nibs are processed	
Cross-Contamination	Biological	Low	Low	<p>Clean and sanitize winnowing equipment between batches. Implement proper allergen controls to prevent cross-contact.</p> <p>The facility only processes cacao nibs</p>	<p>No cross-contact with allergens should occur during winnowing.</p> <p>Visual check to ensure undesirable ingredients are in the facility</p>
Inclusion of shell fragments or foreign materials in cracked cacao beans.	Physical	Medium	Low	<p>Use proper cracking and winnowing equipment to minimize shell fragments. Implement visual inspections and sieving to remove foreign materials.</p> <p>Workers are to wear hair mesh and gloves.</p>	Shell fragments in cracked cacao beans shall be less than 3%.

Processing and Packing

Hazard		Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Mycotoxin Contamination	Biological	Low	Medium	<p>Implement proper drying and storage practices to prevent mold growth. Regularly test for mycotoxins and reject contaminated batches.</p> <p>Package is sealed properly to ensure against moisture content</p>	CIC will provide certification that Mycotoxin levels in cacao nibs are below the regulatory limits.
Oxidation	Biological	Medium	Low	NA	NA
Metal fragments from processing equipment.	Biological	Low	Low	<p>Implement effective quality control measures to detect and remove foreign objects during processing. Regularly inspect equipment for signs of wear or damage.</p>	Visual inspection that the final product should be free from foreign objects.
Foreign objects introduced during the packaging process.	Physical	Low	Low	<p>Implement controls to prevent foreign objects from entering packaging materials. Use metal detectors or sieves to catch any contaminants before sealing.</p>	The final packaged cacao nibs should be free from foreign objects.
Residues from heavy metals.	Chemical	Low	Medium	<p>Implement a rigorous cleaning and sanitation program to ensure that heavy metals are not introduced during the packing and process of cacao nibs in the facilities.</p>	CIC will provide certification that there are no traces of heavy metals.



Shipping

Hazard	Type	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls	Critical Limit
Humidity Exposure	Biological	Medium	Low	The package used for shipping will be sealed and resistant to humidity. Use sturdy and appropriate packaging materials to protect cacao nibs during shipping.	Package should be well sealed. During visual inspection upon arrival of cargo, the package should not be damaged.
Cross-Contamination	Biological	Low	Low	The package used for shipping will be sealed and resistant to humidity. Use sturdy and appropriate packaging materials to protect cacao nibs during shipping.	Package should be well sealed. During visual inspection upon arrival of cargo, the package should not be damaged.
Physical damage due to improper packaging or handling during transit.	Physical	Medium	Low	The package used for shipping will be sealed and resistant to humidity. Use sturdy and appropriate packaging materials to protect cacao nibs during shipping.	Package should be well sealed. During visual inspection upon arrival of cargo, the package should not be damaged.

Prevention against allergens introduction

Our following preventive measures aim to prevent the risk of allergen introduction and cross-contact throughout the entire process of preparing roasted cacao nibs, from harvesting to shipping. Regular training, stringent cleaning procedures, and rigorous testing are crucial to maintaining the safety of the product and ensuring compliance with FDA regulations.

Allergen	Probability	Severity of Illness or injury	Preventive Controls
Milk	Medium	Medium	No milk products will be brought on the facility
Eggs	Medium	Medium	No eggs will be brought on the facility
Fish & Crustacean shellfish	Low	Medium	No fish & crustacean shellfish will be brought on the facility
Tree nuts	Low	Medium	No tree nuts will be brought on the facility
Peanuts	Medium	High	No peanuts will be brought on the facility



Wheats	Medium	Medium	No wheats will be brought on the facility
Soybeans	Low	Medium	No soybeans will be brought on the facility

Prevention against intentional adulterations

In our commitment to upholding the highest standards of food safety and quality, Coopercabruca affirms our unwavering dedication to maintaining the integrity of our products throughout every stage of the supply chain. We wish to assure TrueTech Inc that, in accordance with FDA's Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) requirements, we pledge not to engage in any of the below listed intentional adulterations that compromise the safety, purity, and authenticity of our cacao nibs. Our commitment to transparency, traceability, and the meticulous execution of preventive controls reflects our steadfast adherence to regulatory guidelines and industry best practices. TrueTech Inc can trust that our products are delivered with utmost integrity, ensuring the health and satisfaction of consumers.

Potential Adulterations	Description	Preventive Controls
Dilution with Inferior Ingredients	Roasted cacao nibs could be mixed with cheaper or inferior ingredients to increase volume, which might decrease the quality and nutritional value of the product.	An integrity seal will be adhered to the package prior to leaving the facility
Addition of Undeclared Allergens	Adding allergenic ingredients like nuts, dairy, or soy without proper declaration on the label can pose a risk to consumers with allergies.	All facilities will only process allergens
Mislabeling Origin	Falsely labeling the origin of the cacao could deceive consumers about the source and quality of the product.	We will conduct a taste sampling test since the taste is very specific to the location
Use of Unauthorized Additives	Adding unapproved additives, preservatives, or flavors to the roasted cacao nibs could be harmful to consumers' health.	No additives are being introduced in the entire process as it is entirely organic.
Adulteration with Unsafe Substances	Adding unsafe substances or contaminants that may not be detectable through routine testing can pose health risks.	No additives are being introduced in the entire process as it is entirely organic.
Contamination with Heavy Metals	Roasted cacao nibs could be contaminated with heavy metals like lead or cadmium, which can be harmful if consumed over time.	CIC will provide certification that there are no traces of heavy metals.
Use of Unsanitary Processing	If the cacao nibs are processed in unsanitary conditions, they could become contaminated with pathogens that may cause foodborne illnesses.	FitoSanitario certification will be provided for each shipment



Substitution with Lower-Quality Varieties	Substituting higher-quality cacao with lower-quality varieties could affect the flavor, aroma, and overall quality of the product.	We will conduct a taste sampling test since the taste is very specific to the location.
Economic Adulteration	Mixing cacao nibs with fillers or additives to reduce production costs while maintaining the appearance of quality.	CIC will provide certification that there are no traces of unauthorized additives within the shipment.

Conclusion

We greatly value our partnership with TrueTech Inc and the trust you have placed in Coopercabruca as your supplier. Should you require any additional documentation or information regarding our compliance or preventive controls, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are fully dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our supply chain and ensuring the safety of the cacao nibs we provide.

With the overview provided, thank you for your continued collaboration and support. We look forward to contributing to the success of our shared endeavors.

Sincerely,

Orlantides Santos Pereira
President
Coopercabruca (DUNS: To be filled)
coopercabruca@gmail.com
+55 73 9978-8453