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## **IACM Reaffirms Safety of FD&C Yellow No. 5 & FD&C Yellow No. 6**

**Washington, DC, March 14, 2013** – Ensuring the safety of color ingredients used in the products consumers enjoy – and maintaining the public’s confidence in that safety – is the color industry’s primary goal. The International Association of Color Manufacturers (IACM), which represents both color manufacturers and consumer product companies that use color, understands that the safety of the food supply is of paramount importance to all consumers.

In response to recent reports, IACM wants to reiterate that FD&C Yellow No. 5 and Yellow No. 6 have been thoroughly tested and are safe for use. Opinions to the contrary are simply not supported by the numerous safety studies and expert reviews that have been conducted.

FD&C color additives are among the most tested food additives in the world. Through exhaustive testing and expert review of those tests, both FD&C Yellow No. 5 and FD&C Yellow No. 6 have been approved for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in Europe by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and internationally by the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/ World Health Organization/Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). Neither of these colors is banned by the European Union. In fact, their safety for use in food in Europe was re-affirmed as recently as 2010 for FD&C Yellow No. 5 and 2011 for FD&C Yellow No. 6. Internationally, JECFA recently re-evaluated FD&C Yellow No. 6 and confirmed that it is safe for use. Furthermore, as recently as 2010, EFSA reviewed all reported cases and evidence related to alleged and rare instances of allergic reactions and concluded that they are unlikely to be triggered by oral consumption of food colors, including FD&C Yellow No. 5 and FD&C Yellow No. 6, either individually or in combination.

Despite assertions to the contrary, neither FD&C Yellow No. 5 nor FD& C Yellow No. 6 is carcinogenic. This has been shown in numerous scientific studies. In addition, the presence of any contaminants derived from the manufacturing process is negligible and below any level of possible concern. In the US, every batch of FD&C Yellow No. 5 and FD&C Yellow No. 6 is analyzed and certified as safe for use by the FDA, and this testing is conducted before the batch can be used in any product sold in the US.

In addition, in 2011, the FDA Food Advisory Committee, an expert panel of pediatricians, toxicologists, behavioral scientists, food scientists, and scientists in related fields, met for a two-day meeting to look at all of the available study data exploring color additive intake and hyperactive behavior. The Committee concluded, based on all available evidence, that there is no causal relationship between the intake of color additives and hyperactivity in children.

We are confident in reassuring all consumers, including mothers of young children, that both FD&C Yellow No. 5 and FD&C Yellow No. 6 are safe ingredients. Our industry remains vigilant about the safety of our products through additional testing and close monitoring of new scientific developments related to color additive safety. We will continue to work closely with regulatory authorities around the world to ensure that food colors are safe.

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*The International Association of Color Manufacturers (IACM) is the trade association that represents the manufacturers and end-users of coloring substances that are used in foods, including natural and artificial colors.*