

February 7, 2024

Jeffrey L. Harmening
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
General Mills, Inc.
Number One General Mills Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55426

Via e-mail

Dear Mr. Harmening,

We write to urge General Mills to commit to reducing the levels of plasticizers in several of your products, especially Annie's Organic Cheesy Ravioli. As part of this process, we encourage you to conduct testing to identify points in the process where plasticizers are entering the production chain and take steps to reduce exposure.

In a recent [test](#) of a wide variety of foods, Consumer Reports found plasticizers in every food product at very high levels, including several General Mills products. **The highest phthalate levels in our tests were found in a can of Annie's Organic cheesy ravioli, with a reading of 53,579 nanograms per serving.**

Other General Mills products with concerning readings include:

- Yoplait Original Low Fat Yogurt (French Vanilla): 10,948 nanograms
- Cheerios Original: 10,980 nanograms
- Green Giant Cream Style Sweet Corn (can): 7,603 nanograms
- Progresso Vegetable Classics Vegetable Soup (can): 2,888 nanograms

It is important to emphasize that any tolerable daily intake levels that currently exist for certain phthalates do not reflect the most current scientific knowledge and are not adequately protective of public health. In addition, harmful effects from these chemicals may be cumulative, so steady exposure to even very small amounts over time could increase health risks.

As our article notes, growing research shows that these plasticizers can interfere with the production and regulation of estrogen and other hormones. This disruption in hormone levels can contribute to an increased risk of birth defects, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, certain cancers, neurodevelopmental disorders, and infertility.

Because of the number of ways that plasticizers can enter our food supply, we recognize that these chemicals cannot be completely avoided. However, our test results revealed that some products had much lower levels compared to others. This demonstrates that, even though these chemicals are ubiquitous in food, it is possible to reduce their presence, and consumers expect the industry to achieve these lower levels.

We hope General Mills will commit to take the necessary steps to reduce the levels of plasticizers in your products. Please provide a response to this letter by February 27, 2024. If you or a member of your team would like to discuss this, please contact me at 202-744-5291. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Ronholm
Director, Food Policy
Consumer Reports