



January 12, 2017

RE: Availability of Primex shortening

Due to the FDA ban on trans fats in human foods, Primex, a trans fat containing shortening, will at some point no longer be produced. We have recently learned that the manufacturer predicts that Primex will no longer be available after June 2017. You are receiving this announcement because you have previously purchased diets containing Primex from us and we wanted to update you on this situation.

Moving forward, there are several options. We can substitute a non-trans fat containing shortening made by the same manufacturer. This is called Primex-Z and since it has no trans fat, there will be no issues with its availability. If however, the phenotype you are studying depends on trans fats, this may not be the best option for you.

We have also found a source of hydrogenated corn oil (HCO), containing a slightly higher percentage of trans fats as compared to Primex (Primex: 28%; HCO: 34% w/w). Based on conversations with the manufacturer of this trans fat source, we do not expect this to become unavailable since its main application is in topical lotions. At this point there are no data comparing Primex with HCO in an animal model.

With either of these options (or any others that may be available), we suggest that you run studies in parallel with the replacement fat source vs. Primex so that you can decide if the replacement is suitable for your research. To this end, Research Diets Inc. would like to offer you, at no charge, either of these diets made with these two alternative fat sources to study along with your Primex containing diet.

If you are interested in this offer or have questions and comments, please email us at Info@researchdiets.com and someone from our science team will return your email.

Thank you for your continued business and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Ricci".

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