



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
College Park, MD 20740

May 18, 2005

Dr. Wayne Coates
University of Arizona
Southwest Center for Natural Products
Research and Commercialization
250 East Valencia Rd
Tucson, AZ 85706-6800

Dear Dr. Coates:

This is in response to your letter and accompanying information of April 29, 2005, in which you requested information about the regulatory status of chia (*Salvia hispanica*). Chia is considered a food and hence is exempt from regulation, unless there are safety concerns. It appears that chia has been consumed by native cultures for long periods of time, and we are not aware of any safety concerns.

I hope this answer has been helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me again should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karin Ricker, Ph.D.
Consumer Safety Officer,
Division of Biotechnology and
GRAS Notice Review, HFS-255
Office of Food Additive Safety
Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition

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