

Table 4: Status of FDA Response to Citizen Petitions on GRAS Substances Filed from 2004 through 2008

Subject of citizen petition	Concerns raised	Date filed	180-day letter sent	Decision
Milk protein concentrate	Lack of evidence for GRAS status	4/28/2004	No	Pending
Partially hydrogenated vegetable oils	Increased risk of coronary heart disease from trans fats	5/18/2004	12/21/2004	Pending
Aluminum-based food additives	Link to Alzheimer's disease and elderly cognitive impairment	9/14/2005	3/13/2006	Pending
Salt	Risk of elevated blood pressure from excess consumption of salt	11/8/2005	6/5/2006	Pending
Carbon monoxide gas in fresh meat packaging	Consumer deception and food safety risks	11/15/2005	No	Pending
Carbon monoxide gas in fresh tuna packaging	Consumer deception and food safety risks	3/16/2006	No	Pending
Diacetyl	Lung disease and impairment from inhalation of the substance	9/12/2006	3/6/2007	Pending
Iodized salt	Lack of information on food ingredient labels	5/7/2007	11/2/2007	Pending
Monosodium glutamate	Substance's links to rise in obesity, diabetes, and autism	12/28/2007	7/18/2008	Pending
Carrageenan and similar substances	Harmful effects on human intestinal cells	6/11/2008	12/9/2008	Pending
Stevia extracts	Therapeutic uses of the substances and questions about their safety	10/7/2008	12/16/2008	Petition denied

Source: GAO analysis of FDA data.

Note: Information in the table is as of December 2009.