

Nestlé Waters North America Statement in Response to the Environmental Working Group's "2011 Bottled Water Scorecard"

Nestlé Waters North America agrees with the Environmental Working Group (EWG) that people have a right to know where their water comes from and what's in it – and they should be able to easily find that information. In fact, we think it is a brand advantage to make quality information – from source to processing to contents – easily accessible to consumers. This information supports the confidence people have in our product quality.

Our labels are the gateway to the full extent of the water quality information about our brands:

- **Water Source Identification**: We identify spring and purified water sources on all of our bottled water brand labels.
- **Quality Reports**: Since 2005, we have made [detailed water quality reports](#) publicly available for all of our brands. These reports are comparable to those published by public water utilities and are based on independent testing results from certified laboratories.
- **Easy Access to Information**: All our retail labels include a toll-free phone number and website address to find quality testing results. Online reports allow us to convey information in a clear, thorough manner that a small label cannot.

EWG's scorecard, released on January 5, 2011 attempts to catalogue and rank the information printed on bottled water product labels. The Nestlé Waters North America brands evaluated received grades from a "B" to a "D," and it is gratifying to know that the EWG report found absolutely no violations of any federal labeling laws and regulations for any bottled water product.

What is disconcerting about the scorecard, however, is that its peculiar rating system leads to inaccurate conclusions as to the steps we take to lead people to water quality reports for our brands.

For example, every one of our labels provides consumers with the means to access complete water quality information, yet EWG's scorecard suggests that some of our domestic spring water brands are rated in the "D" category because they do not do so. There's a number and website on every Nestlé Waters bottle.

Adopting Further Steps in Transparent Labeling

Notwithstanding our disagreement with EWG's scoring method, we intend to use this report as an opportunity to spark an accurate and complete dialogue on the water we drink, and to focus on the main point on which EWG and Nestlé Waters agree: People have a right to know what is in their water.

We think that can be best achieved by finding one best way to do so, across the country. EWG's scorecard holds up California as the standard for the best reporting law. We agree.

- Within the next few months, labels on all ½ liter Nestlé Waters products, (which account for about 80 percent of our single serve sales) will state the source of the water and two ways for consumers obtain "a report on water quality." All other sizes will follow over the course of 2011.
- We have publicly endorsed U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg's call for a federal standard for all bottled water companies to communicate water quality — from water sources to test results — in a transparent way, and will continue our discussions with his staff as they draft legislation to do so.

Nestle Waters comments further on the EWG scorecard:

Our Quality Process

All our products come from carefully selected sources, use [state-of-the-art filtration and quality control processes](#), and are bottled in sanitary conditions. In high-risk areas like bacteriological contamination and lead, our standards meet FDA regulations that are more stringent than the EPA's standards for tap water.

Nestlé Waters tests more than 200 times per bottling line every day to meet FDA standards, as well as Nestlé Waters' own quality standards. Our bottling plants undergo independent annual inspection and are also subject to both state and federal regulations.

On Compliance

- The FDA has strict bottled water Standards of Identity that require labels correctly classify different types of bottled water, such as spring, purified, and distilled water.
- All packaged foods and beverage products, including bottled water, have extensive labeling requirements including the name and place of business of the manufacturer.

To learn more, check out our [quality reports](#) and this [series of videos](#) addressing important questions about bottled water and our company.

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