

News Release

Barry Callebaut's Wieze chocolate factory back to normal capacity

Wieze, Belgium, October 20, 2022 – Barry Callebaut, the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality chocolate and cocoa products, announced today that the cleaning of its factory in Wieze, Belgium, is nearing completion and, as a result, is back to operating at normal capacity.

Peter Boone, CEO of Barry Callebaut Group, commented: "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our customers for their understanding during this difficult period, and to all our employees who worked tirelessly for weeks to get the Wieze factory up and running again."

Food Safety is paramount for the Group and this was a very exceptional incident. Not only does Barry Callebaut have a Food Safety charter and procedure in place, but also over 230 colleagues working on food safety and quality in Europe and over 650 worldwide. At the site in Wieze, employees are trained to recognize food safety risks. This allowed the teams to quickly identify the risk, complete the root cause analysis and start the cleaning process.

Background

Barry Callebaut detected a salmonella-positive chocolate production lot at its Wieze factory in Belgium on June 27, 2022. On June 29, 2022, a lecithin batch from a supplier was identified as the root cause and Barry Callebaut halted all chocolate production lines at the factory as a precautionary measure, which prevented affected chocolate products from entering the retail market. Barry Callebaut duly and proactively informed the Belgian Food Safety Authorities (FAVV) and remained in continuous collaboration with them on this incident.

On August 8, 2022, the first cleaned and disinfected production lines were reopened, marking an important milestone in this cleaning operation, unprecedented in scale for Barry Callebaut, as well as the successful conclusion of the first phase of its recovery plan. In the ensuing weeks, the Wieze factory continued to gradually ramp up to normal capacity. The cleaning procedure was a very time-consuming process, which had to be strictly followed in order to ensure food safety and the safety of our employees.

About Barry Callebaut Group (www.barry-callebaut.com):

With annual sales of about CHF 7.2 billion (EUR 6.6 billion / USD 7.9 billion) in fiscal year 2020/21, the Zurich-based Barry Callebaut Group is the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality chocolate and cocoa products – from sourcing and processing cocoa beans to producing the finest chocolates, including chocolate fillings, decorations and compounds. The Group runs more than 60 production facilities worldwide and employs a diverse and dedicated global workforce of more than 13,000 people.

The Barry Callebaut Group serves the entire food industry, from industrial food manufacturers to artisanal and professional users of chocolate, such as chocolatiers, pastry chefs, bakers, hotels, restaurants or caterers. The global brands catering to the specific needs of these Gourmet customers are [Callebaut®](#) and [Cacao Barry®](#), [Carma®](#) and the decorations specialist [Mona Lisa®](#).

The Barry Callebaut Group is committed to make sustainable chocolate the norm by 2025 to help ensure future supplies of cocoa and improve farmer livelihoods. It supports the [Cocoa Horizons Foundation](#) in its goal to shape a sustainable cocoa and chocolate future.

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