



Press Release

Laval, 23 October 2020

The Lactalis Group guarantees the quality of its products.

The Lactalis Group would like to provide a number of clarifications and corrections in response to the investigation conducted by a consortium of media outlets; as well as to the *Envoyé Spécial* report that was broadcast on the France 2 television network on 22 October 2020. The first point to make clear is that the Lactalis Group is not above the law. It is subject to frequent controls and incurs penalties if justified.

The Lactalis Group cannot accept the allegation that 38 of its 60 production sites fail to comply with the environmental laws.

The Lactalis Group acknowledges that breaches have occurred occasionally over the last ten years. To remedy them, numerous wastewater treatment plants have been or are being upgraded or replaced. In just the last five years, 22 wastewater treatment plants have been built or upgraded for a total cost of €35 million. As an example, the St Just de Claix and Retiers sites are now equipped with the latest generation wastewater treatment plants. Pollutants are no longer discharged into the waterways concerned, contrary to the allegations of the *Envoyé Spécial* report, which broadcast images dating from 2017.

Our sites undergo numerous inspections by the authorities. If a problem is detected, the Lactalis Group's teams react promptly to resolve it effectively.

The Lactalis Group categorically affirms that it does not water down its milk and that it does not recycle tainted cheeses.

Our cheese factories and dairies are regularly inspected by French and foreign authorities, and our customers and independent laboratories conduct unannounced audits of our facilities. Compliance with food safety standards is an integral part of the manufacturing process of our products.

Dairy products are recycled in accordance with the HACCP processes (a method for analysing and controlling food safety risks) implemented in cheese factories and dairies. Milk and cream by-products generated at the start and conclusion of production sequences are recovered during the preparation of products. After this stage, the products are pasteurised to guarantee their compliance with the highest sanitary standards. The proportion of water in the finished products is under no circumstances increased.

The "standardisation calculation" document that was falsely presented as a guide to watering down milk actually concerns a cheese manufacturing process regulated by the Cheese Decree. The allegations in this regard are therefore utterly unfounded.

The Lactalis Group is firmly committed to a progress initiative guided by the desire to offer healthy, delicious and high-quality products.

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