



## STATEMENT ON APPLE JUICE

Members of the Apple Processors Association, representing the nation’s apple processing industry, are aware of the findings and recommendations in the Consumer Reports investigation issued in January 2019 and would like to clarify outcomes related to the nutrition and safety of apple juice.

It is important to note that heavy metals occur naturally in the air, water, and soil, making them nearly impossible to avoid. The apple processing industry takes consumer safety seriously, and mitigates risk by following FDA-sanctioned Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) programs. These programs require manufacturers to perform a risk analysis for physical, chemical, and biological contaminants, and to validate various mitigation steps. This is a mandatory requirement by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Manufacturers are routinely audited by the FDA, US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and state departments of agriculture to ensure that processors are in compliance with all food regulations. Apple Processors ensure that trace quantities of heavy metals are within FDA tolerances. FDA has not expressed any recent concerns about the trace levels of heavy metals in juice and maintains confidence in the safety of apple juice.

### **About the Apple Processors Association**

The Apple Processors Association (APA) was founded in 1987, and is a national association of companies and farmer-owned cooperatives that manufacture quality apple products from whole apples. Members include apple grower/processor cooperatives and companies, along with suppliers to the industry. APA processor members each grow a portion of the apples they process in local orchards. APA members produce a majority of the nation’s applesauce, apple juice, and specialty products.

All members of APA stress quality and safety in their food processing operations. They pasteurize their juice products, and hot-fill their food containers, reinforcing their commitment to quality and safety during their food processing operations.

APA has its headquarters in the heart of the Nation’s Capital, providing a highly visible and effective voice for the apple products industry. Its experienced staff works daily with Congress, federal regulatory agencies — such as FDA, EPA, and USDA — and major allied food and industry organizations. More information can be found at [www.AppleProcessors.org](http://www.AppleProcessors.org).

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