

ACTION ALERT

August 12, 2003

Counterfeit Coupons

The following Alert was received from the Coupon Information Center, a not-for-profit organization of manufacturers, dedicated to fighting coupon misredemption and fraud, and that encourages integrity in the redemption of manufacturers coupons. CIC supports federal, state and local law efforts to identify, investigate and prosecute coupon misredemption.

Warning: Watch out for Counterfeit Coupons

“Home made” counterfeit coupons are currently being circulated on the Internet through auction services, message boards, e-mails and other methods. Please do not accept counterfeit coupons.

Watch out for:

- “Home made” – produced on home computer printers
- Printed on standard photocopy/computer paper
- Uneven edges from being cut out by hand or paper cutters
- Altered expiration dates
- May involve Free Product

The following is a **partial** list of counterfeit “Free Product” coupons identified thus far:

- Maybelline Wetshine Diamonds Lipstick;
- Salon Selectives Hair Products;
- Entenmann’s Products;
- Rolls of Reynolds Aluminum Wrap;
- Mott’s Apple Sauce Six Pack;
- Haagen Dazs IceCream Coupons;
- Ball Park Franks;
- Planter’s Nuts Coupons;
- Pairs of No Nonsense Hosiery;
- Electrasol;
- Snyders of Hanover Pretzels;
- Tropicana Products up to \$6.00 off;
- Thomas Toast R Cakes Coupons No Exp;
- Dove Body Wash/Bars up to \$6.99;
- Dove Hair Care up to \$4.99;
- Slimfast On 1 can or Bar many coupons;
- Pepsi 12 Pack Coupons Exp. 12/31/03;
- Lender’s Bagels No. Exp;
- Peter Pan Peanut Butter;

Scott's Tissue;
Scott's Mega Roll Paper Towels Coupons;
Speedstick Deodorant for Women/Men;
Velveeta Loaf Coupons No Exp.;
Progresso Soup No Exp.;
Birds Eye Veggies Coupons;
StarKist Tuna Coupons;
Mountain Dew Live Wire 12Pk.;
M&M's Candy;
Frito-Lays;
Ragu Spaghetti Sauce.

N.G.A. recommends retailers see a complete list of **“Counterfeit Coupons”** and download the sample **“Public Service Announcement for Retail Stores”** flyer (264 k .pdf) that informs consumers that **“We do not accept Counterfeit Coupons.”** Retailers are encouraged to inform and educate managers and check-out clerks to pay particular attention to coupons for “Free Products” and look out for coupons that may have an old print date from the 1980's but a current expiration date (a sign that an old coupon has been altered.) If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Wenning or Mike Mason at N.G.A. at (703) 516-0700, or Bud Miller of CIC at (703) 684-5307.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Tom Wenning at publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org.

Would you prefer to receive Action and Recall Alerts via e-mail? E-mail us at publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org.

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