

CRN Associate Membership Application

Application revised July 2013



Council for Responsible Nutrition

The Science Behind the Supplements

The Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN) is the leading trade association representing ingredient suppliers and manufacturers and marketers of dietary supplements and functional foods. CRN and its members are committed to providing consumers with safe, effective products made to quality standards. CRN's mission is to sustain and enhance a climate for our member companies to responsibly develop, manufacture and market dietary supplements and their ingredients. We are pleased to consider new members who share our values and goals for the industry and our commitment to our consumers.

To become an Associate Member of CRN, complete and return this application to CRN. Applications require the approval of CRN's Board of Directors.

1. Tell us about your company

Company Name (as it should appear on our membership roster):

Primary Company Contact _____ Title _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Primary Contact Email _____ Company Website _____

Company President / CEO _____

President's Phone _____ President's Email _____

Please provide a brief paragraph that describes your company and its business (*or attach a separate page*):

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2. Determine your company's dues – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate Members—Any company or person who supplies services, products (other than dietary ingredients) or other support to a company or person eligible for Voting Membership is eligible for Associate Membership. This includes testing laboratories, consultants, law firms, packaging manufacturers, machinery providers, consumer research firms, trade media, advertising agencies and many others. A company who manufactures a dietary supplement, functional food or nutritional ingredient or markets or distributes a dietary supplement, functional food or nutritional ingredient under its own brand qualifies as a Voting Member of CRN and may not join as an Associate Member.

Dues for Associate Members are based on the size of the firm. Please estimate the number of fulltime equivalent staff positions who work on matters related to dietary supplements and functional foods.

SIZE OF FIRM	CRN ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES
1 – 2 fulltime equivalent staff	\$1,500
3 – 5 fulltime equivalent staff	\$2,500
6 – 10 fulltime equivalent staff	\$5,000
More than 10 fulltime equivalent staff	\$7,500
TOTAL DUES. CRN will invoice.	\$ _____

Dues and contributions to CRN are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes, but may be partially deductible as a business expense. That portion of member dues attributable to lobbying activity is not tax deductible.

3. Sign and certify the information provided

I certify that the information included with this application is true and complete to the extent of my knowledge, and I understand that my signature below indicates my obligation to fulfill my commitment.

I have read the CRN Code of Ethical Principles (attached) and verify that my company is in compliance with these commitments to ethical behavior with which CRN member companies agree to abide. I pledge that my company will strive to uphold these principles during its membership with CRN.

This application must be signed by an officer or senior executive in your company. Dues are non-refundable once the application has been approved by CRN's Board of Directors.

Company Contact (please print) _____

Title _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

4. Send CRN the completed application, dues, and supporting documents

BY MAIL: Director, Membership Development, Council for Responsible Nutrition,
1828 L Street, NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20036

BY EMAIL: chyland@crnusa.org

BY FAX: (202) 204-7701

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Code of Ethical Principles

(Adopted March 2008)

CRN and its members share a commitment to improving public health through nutrition, including the appropriate use of dietary supplements. In pursuit of this goal, CRN's members pledge to observe and uphold the highest ethical principles in their dealings with their customers, suppliers, competitors, regulators and consumers in order to foster confidence in our products. In particular, CRN and its members commit themselves to the following ethical principles:

- 1. CRN's members are committed to marketing products that will improve the personal health of consumers and the public health.**

CRN and its members should support nutrition research and education, including the role of the federal government in conducting research, on the relationships between dietary supplements and health in order to expand scientific information and knowledge about the role of safe and beneficial dietary supplements in improving personal and public health.

- 2. CRN and its members are committed to observing all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.**

CRN and its members recognize the important role of laws and regulations, and the state and federal agencies that implement them, to assure that the best interests of the public are promoted and protected. Although CRN may on occasion advocate for changes in those laws that are inconsistent with the best interests of the public and the industry, CRN members should adhere to all relevant laws and regulations while they are in place.

- 3. CRN members are committed to marketing dietary supplements with truthful and non-misleading labeling and advertising.**

CRN members should make only those representations in labeling and advertising that are supported by competent and reliable scientific reasonable and credible evidence to substantiate those claims; that accurately represent the findings of scientific or consumer research; and that are supported by scientifically-valid methods to verify the labeled composition of the product.

- 4. CRN and its members are committed to taking appropriate action to support the safety of their products.**

CRN members should market ingredients and products that have been demonstrated to be safe through appropriate scientific evidence and, where appropriate, evidence of safe use in previously marketed products, and should undertake additional evaluation or testing whenever new safety issues arise.

- 5. CRN and its members are committed to responsible self-regulation to foster consumer confidence in the quality of products and the truthfulness of advertising.**

CRN and its members should foster and encourage the development and implementation of voluntary standards for responsible business behavior within the dietary supplement industry and in the wider community.

- 6. CRN's members are committed to observing fair business practices in their dealings with consumers, the general public, and other industry members.**

CRN and its members should recognize that the credibility of individual companies and of the dietary supplement industry as a whole depends upon fairness in the marketplace, with respect to individual consumers, the public at large, government agencies, state and federal legislatures, the professional and academic communities, and fellow members of the dietary supplement industry and its supporting suppliers.

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CRN Bylaws Provisions Relevant to Membership & Dues

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 2.01. Membership.

A person (which shall include a corporation, a partnership, or any other organization) who is actively engaged in the manufacture or distribution of a dietary ingredient or a dietary supplement, or of a functional food, and a person who supplies products, services, or other support to such person, or who supports the purpose of the Council set forth in Section 1.02, shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council. For purposes of this section, a dietary supplement shall be defined as that term is defined in U.S. Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(ff)). A functional food shall be defined as any product properly labeled as a food under the federal Food, Drug, & Cosmetic Act that is formulated specifically to increase the intake of nutrients or other compounds and for which the manufacturer makes structure/function or health claims in its labeling.

Section 2.02. Classes of Members. There shall be three classes of members:

- (a) **Voting Member.** A person who manufactures a dietary supplement, a functional food or an ingredient intended for one of these products, or who markets or distributes a dietary supplement or functional food under its own brand or label, or who facilitates the sale of these products, shall be eligible for membership in the Council as a voting member. Voting members shall be divided into two categories:
 - (1) **Finished Product Members.** There shall be two subcategories:
 - (a) **Branded Product Members.** A member who manufactures or markets a dietary supplement or functional food, under its own brand or label.
 - (b) **Contract Manufacturer Members.** A member who manufactures finished dietary supplements or functional foods on behalf of, or for resale to, another business for sale under another brand or label.
 - (2) **Ingredient Members.** There shall be two subcategories:
 - (a) **Ingredient Manufacturers/Formulators.** A member who manufactures an ingredient (including excipients, flavorings or colorants) for use in a dietary supplement, or a nutritional ingredient for use in a functional food. For purposes of this section, a "nutritional ingredient" shall mean a dietary ingredient as that term is defined in the U.S. Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(ff)). "Manufactures" shall include harvesting, processing or substantially altering the ingredient or holding unique patents or other intellectual property to prepare the ingredient for inclusion in a dietary supplement or for inclusion of a nutritional ingredient in a functional food product.
 - (b) **Ingredient Distributor and Representative Member.** A member who sells or facilitates the sale of ingredients intended for inclusion in a dietary supplement or of nutritional ingredients for inclusion in a functional food, but does not manufacture, harvest, process or otherwise substantially alter the composition of such ingredients. This class of membership is generally limited to firms that do not hold a patent or other intellectual property in the ingredient and do not market the ingredient under their own unique brand.
- (b) **Associate Member.** A person who is eligible for membership in the Council and is not actively engaged in the manufacture of an ingredient, a dietary supplement or a functional food but who provides products, services, or other support to voting members, or who supports the purpose of the Council set forth in Section 1.02, shall be eligible to join the Council as an associate member.
- (c) **International Member.** A person who is otherwise eligible for membership in the Council but does business exclusively outside the U.S. shall be eligible to join the Council as an international member. A foreign affiliate of a person eligible to be a Voting Member shall be eligible for international membership only if the person eligible for Voting Membership is in fact a Voting Member.

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Section 2.03. Election of Members.

Members of the Council shall be elected by majority vote of the Board of Directors or of the Executive Committee.

Section 2.04. Removal of Members.

A member of the Council may be removed by two-thirds vote of the votes entitled to be cast by all of the Council members or of the Board of Directors, provided that a member may be removed only at a meeting where prior notice of this issue has been given.

Section 2.05. Resignation of Members.

A member of the Council may resign by giving notice in writing to the Council. A member shall be liable for dues and assessments for the full calendar year during which the member gives a notice of resignation.

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ARTICLE IV – Dues and Assessments

Section 4.01. Annual Dues.

Each year the Board of Directors shall prescribe the dues rates for the classes of members for the following calendar year. The Council shall promptly send to each member written notice of the prescribed dues and the due date or dates of payment thereof. The dues of Voting Members shall be determined by the Board of Directors from year to year on the basis of the total sales derived by the member's business in the U.S. from the activities described in Section 2.01 for its most recently completed fiscal year. A person may be a Voting Member of CRN in more than one category, and in such case shall pay dues in each category commensurate with its sales in that category.

Section 4.02. Special Assessments.

Members of the Council shall pay such special assessments as the Board of Directors may from time to time levy in order to defray extraordinary or unusual expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Council, provided that no member shall become obligated to pay such an assessment until it has been ratified by a majority vote of the members of the Council. Payment by a member, in whole or in part, of any special assessment shall constitute the member's vote to ratify such assessment.

Section 4.03. Non-Payment of Dues or Assessments.

Renewal dues are payable within the first sixty (60 days) of a calendar year. The failure of any member of the Council to pay dues or assessments within thirty (30 days) after the due date thereof shall result in such member's suspension from the Council until such payment is received except in extenuating circumstances communicated to and accepted by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Once a new dues year begins, that member must reapply for membership if it fails to pay its dues within the prescribed time period. A firm that fails to pay its dues in a timely manner in a particular year, may not allow its membership to lapse and then rejoin later that calendar year at a pro-rated amount; dues for the entire year are payable upon an application to rejoin in the same calendar year except in extenuating circumstances communicated to and accepted by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Members whose dues are more than thirty (30 days) delinquent may be assessed a reasonable interest charge on those dues, up to 1.5% per month.