

Subject: **Boycott Policy**

Date Approved/Last Revised: **April 2003**

Responsible Body: **Policy**

References: SNFC Merchandising Policy

Boycotts

A boycott is a policy decision made by the Board not to carry some or all products of a certain manufacturer, supplier or nation, not because of the physical or nutritional characteristics of the products themselves, but rather because of the social, political or environmental consequences of the way they are grown, obtained and/or marketed.

The purposes of a boycott are (1) to educate people about the issues involved and (2) to apply economic leverage to the offending manufacturer, supplier or nation.

A. Alternatives to Boycotting

SNFC prefers to pursue other ways of handling social, political and environmental concerns, such as those listed below, rather than boycotts. If these are unsuitable, or have been tried and do not satisfy the concerns of owners, a boycott will then be considered.

1. Single Product Concerns: Decisions involving a single product are handled by The Merchandising Policy, Product Recommendations.
2. Decisions by Buyers: Buyers may decide not to purchase some or all products of certain manufacturers, suppliers, or nations because of low social, political or environmental value, as discussed in the Merchandising Policy.
3. Education: Educational posting is always done before a boycott is undertaken, and may be the most appropriate action. (See Section C., Educational Posting, below.)

B. Investigation of Concerns for Boycotts

If there is a concern about a particular manufacturer, supplier or nation, a concerned owner, staff member, or the Policy Committee may initiate an investigation. A concerned owner or staff member should go first to the Policy Committee and ask them to join in pursuing the investigation.

The Policy Committee shall investigate all aspects of the issue to the best of its ability. At a minimum, this must consist of written requests to concerned parties for information. Information may also be obtained from other organizations.

Specific questions to be asked include, but are not limited to:

- What is the issue? Treatment of workers? Marketing practices? Political contributions by the manufacturer?
- Who is calling for a boycott? Consumers? Workers? A union organization? Or an outside group?
- Does the boycott have specific goals? If so, what are they?
- Who would benefit if the objectives of the boycott were achieved?
- How would the boycott affect SNFC?

C. Educational Posting

Merchandising Policy Binder: Information about companies that are under investigation (as in Section B.) and about current SNFC boycotts and proposed boycotts shall be available in a binder at the store's information desk.

Other Educational Posting: When a manufacturer, supplier or nation is under investigation as in Section B., the Policy Committee shall direct the posting of brief summaries of the pertinent information on an appropriate notice board in the store, in the newsletter, and/or near the affected product(s) on the

shelf (as appropriate). Such educational posting must remain in place until the initial reasons for concern have been rectified, or for three months, whichever comes first.

D. Three Month Review

If three months pass before the cause of concern is rectified, the Policy Committee has two options:

- Continue the posting for another three months and then review again, or
- If posting will not provide enough education and/or economic leverage, propose a boycott.

E. Proposal to Boycott

After educational posting has been in place for three months, the Policy Committee may propose a boycott to the Board of Directors. The recommendation is then subject to a vote of the Board. If the committee proposes a boycott, educational posting shall remain in place until action is taken as a result of the Board of Directors' vote on the boycott.

F. Results of Board Vote on Boycott

Vote to Boycott

If the Board votes to boycott some or all products of a manufacturer, supplier or nation, the following steps shall be taken:

- The Board shall notify the manufacturer, supplier or nation in the form of a letter.
- All unopened stock shall be returned, if possible. If not, the department may sell it off, with signage that informs shoppers why it is being discontinued. The products will not be carried as long as the boycott is in effect.
- Notice of the vote results and of the products, companies and/or nations to be boycotted shall be posted on an appropriate notice board in the store, in the Merchandising Policy Binder, in the newsletter, and/or near the affected product(s) on the shelf (as appropriate).

Vote Against Boycott

If the Board of Directors votes not to boycott, the following steps shall be taken:

- Notice of the vote results shall be posted on an appropriate notice board in the store and in the newsletter.
- Educational posting for the product shall continue at the discretion of the Policy Committee.

G. Repeal of Boycotts

The Board of Directors may repeal a boycott if information is received that the initial reasons for the boycott have been rectified. The new information shall be posted on an appropriate notice board in the store, in the Merchandising Policy binder, and/or in the newsletter. The decision shall be made by the Board after this posting has occurred, to allow for owner input.

A boycott may also be repealed by the same procedure as it was initiated, beginning with a new investigation (Section B.), and ending with a vote by the Board of Directors.

H. Annual Review of Boycotts

All boycotts shall be reviewed annually by the Policy Committee. At a minimum, the committee shall write again to all sides for information, and report any new information to the Board.