

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2022

Mr. Andy Jassy
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amazon.com, Inc.
410 Terry Avenue N. Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Jassy:

It has come to our attention through the independent reporting of the *New York Times* and our own efforts that Amazon is providing minors and adults with easy access to sodium nitrite, a deadly chemical popularized on Sanctioned Suicide, a website which “provides explicit directions on how to die.”¹ A recent study based on data from the National Poison Data System found that suicide attempts associated with sodium nitrite poisoning in the United States were first reported in 2017 and these reported attempts have been increasing in frequency ever since.² Accordingly, our questions are centered around your sale of sodium nitrite from 2016, right before this spike, to the present day. When a person is having suicidal thoughts, limiting fast access to methods by which to die can make the difference between life and death, making the fact that sodium nitrite can be sold and delivered overnight with Amazon Prime, a grave concern.

Our questions are as follows:

- 1) How many sodium nitrite units has Amazon sold in the United States between January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2022? How many units has Amazon sold worldwide in that same timeframe?
 - i) How many units were sold by Amazon (such as via first party vendor arrangements)?
 - ii) How many units were sold by third party sellers?
 - iii) How many units of sodium nitrite were delivered same-day or two-day?
 - iv) How do the sales break down by the product’s level of purity?
 - v) How do the sales break down on a year-by-year basis since 2016?
- 2) Since January 1, 2016, how many minors (known or predicted to be under 18 algorithmically) have purchased sodium nitrite on Amazon?
- 3) How many unique listings for sodium nitrite has Amazon hosted since January 1, 2016?

¹ Megan Twohey and Gabriel J.X. Dance, *Where the Despairing Log On, and Learn Ways to Die*, N.Y TIMES (Dec. 9, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/12/09/us/where-the-despairing-log-on.html>.

² Sean D. McCann, Marit S. Tweet & Michael S. Wahl, *Rising Incidence and High Mortality in Intentional Sodium Nitrite Exposures Reported to US Poison Centers*, 59:12 CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY 1264-1269, (2021).

- 4) Since January 1, 2016, has Amazon received any requests to take down a product listing for sodium nitrite? If so, how many requests and how did Amazon respond?
- 5) Since January 1, 2016, have any reviews been taken down from product pages for sodium nitrite?
 - i) If so, how many reviews has Amazon removed?
 - ii) How many one-star reviews have been left for sodium nitrite products?
 - iii) How many reviews have mentioned the dangers of ingesting sodium nitrite or references to fatalities?
 - iv) Has Amazon ever taken action (e.g.: suspended the customer's ability to leave reviews) against individuals who wrote a review about a sodium nitrite product?
- 6) Since January 1, 2016, how many different customers have purchased sodium nitrite?
 - i) How many customers were individuals?
 - ii) How many customers were businesses?
 - iii) How many customers who bought sodium nitrite purchased it one time only?
- 7) Since January 1, 2016, does Amazon know how many of its customers who have purchased sodium nitrite have died by ingesting it? If so, how many?
- 8) Since January 1, 2016, how many customers have purchased sodium nitrite and then had a considerable drop-off in their Amazon account activity?
- 9) What actions, if any, has Amazon taken to address the dangers of sodium nitrite in the United States? In other countries?
- 10) Does Amazon provide any clear labeling on its product pages for sodium nitrite that indicate its toxicity in specific concentrations?
- 11) Does Amazon provide any clear labeling on its product pages for sodium nitrite that indicate what to do in the event of ingestion in large concentrations?
- 12) Does Amazon have an internal policy system or procedure when it is reported to Amazon that an Amazon product has caused a customer's death? Contributed to a customer's suicide?
- 13) Does Amazon have cookies or other methods to track what website directed a customer to its website? If so, how many visitors to sodium nitrite product pages were on Google immediately before coming to Amazon? How many visitors were on Sanctioned-Suicide.org before coming to Amazon?
- 14) How many searches for sodium nitrite has Amazon had since January 2016? Please break that down by year. Did Amazon retarget ads for sodium nitrite based on any of these searches?
- 15) What did the process involve in making HiMedia a first party vendor? Please provide step-by-step details about the process of contracting with HiMedia, the creation of the sodium nitrite product page, the decision-making around the photography and product description, the role Amazon played

with regards to the product inventory acquisition, shipping, replenishment of inventory, price-setting, customer service, and user complaints.

Please send us your responses to these questions by February 1, 2022.

Sincerely,

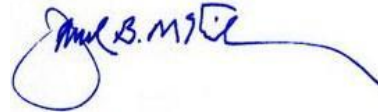


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