



Media Backgrounder – the *Nutricia Cuijk* Production Facility

The newly built *Nutricia Cuijk* production facility, based in Cuijk, the Netherlands, is Danone's state-of-the-art, sustainable, facility and will primarily produce specialized infant formula that meets the needs of infants diagnosed with specific medical conditions, such as cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA), as well as standard infant formula.

The two-step production process at Cuijk

The factory at Cuijk is split into two separate sections – **Powder Production & Blending and Packaging** – with specific processes taking place in each part.

Powder production – in this part of the factory, the various ingredients are processed into liquid product and then spray-dried into powder. The processes happening in this part are:

1. Reception of raw materials and ingredients
 - The various raw materials are delivered to our reception warehouse, consisting of a tank farm for liquid bulk ingredients and a dry warehouse for all other ingredients
 - Liquid raw materials are unloaded at sheltered bays and cooled before being stored in our tank farm. The most important liquid ingredients are demineralized whey, whey protein concentrate, different vegetable oils, glucose and galacto-oligosaccharides (GOS)
 - Dry ingredients in Big Bags (flexible intermediate bulk containers, FIBCs) and other ingredients in 25kg bags, drums and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) are stored in conditioned areas. The most important dry ingredients are lactose, whey protein concentrates, minerals and vitamins, and enzymes
2. Wet phase production
 - In the wet phase department liquid products are prepared for the spray dryer. This happens in three phases: compounding, vegetable oil blending and vegetable oil injection and homogenization
 - Extensively hydrolyzed products – such as specialized formula for children with CMA – include an ultrafiltration step after compounding to remove any remaining large protein fractions that may provoke allergies
 - After the wet phase production, an automated cleaning-in-place process cleans the equipment to avoid contamination, micro-biological growth or pollution
3. Dry phase production
 - After the wet phase, spray dryers transform the liquid product into a dry powder. This process ensures a product with the right quality, color, taste, dissolubility and moisture content

4. Big Bag filling

- After drying, the powder is stored in Big Bags. At this stage, the product is checked for the correct composition, taste and color and microorganisms.

Blending and packing – in this department, the spray-dried powder is blended to become the final product, packed (into boxes or cans) and prepared for distribution around the world

1. Blending

- To arrive at the specific formula, the base powder produced in the production process, needs to be mixed together with other ingredients, such as vitamins and minerals

2. Packing

- We have three different packing lines, hermetically separated from each other to avoid product contamination – currently one canning line is in operation, the eazypack line has been installed, and a second canning line is being planned.

3. Distribution

- Once a batch has received final approval from the quality department, it is released for further distribution. Finished product is typically stored for a maximum of 24 hours in the factory

Quality and food safety

Every product we make needs to be of the highest quality and food safety. The *Nutricia Cuijk* factory has been designed with quality compliance as a starting point. Therefore, we were able to implement the latest technologies and most efficient processes, which have allowed for the integration of the highest standards of quality and food safety into the design and operation of the factory.

Traceability of our products leaving the factory

Our products already carry a number of features, so they are protected on the way to our consumers. Currently, our products are traceable through production date, can sealer number, batch number and sequence number and registration numbers from certifying authorities. In addition to our standard high-quality production process, we are introducing this year innovative technologies to our package design, best compared to a 'product passport'. We will add extra protective layers to packaging, introducing laser marking, an extra quality seal that will show up tampering and unique QR codes on outer and inner packaging.

About Danone (www.danone.com)

Dedicated to bringing health through food to as many people as possible, Danone is a leading global food & beverage company building on health-focused and fast-growing categories in three businesses: Essential Dairy & Plant-Based Products, Waters and Specialized Nutrition. Danone aims to inspire healthier and more sustainable eating and drinking practices, in line with its 'One Planet. One Health' vision which reflects a strong belief that the health of people and that of the planet are interconnected. To bring this vision to life and create superior, sustainable, profitable value for all its stakeholders, Danone has defined its 2030 Goals: a set of nine integrated goals aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Danone commits to operating in an efficient, responsible and inclusive manner; it holds itself to the highest standards in doing business, as reflected by its ambition to become one of the first multinationals certified as B Corp™. With more than 100,000 employees, and products sold in over 120 markets, Danone generated €24.7 billion in sales in 2018. Danone's portfolio includes leading international brands (*Actimel, Activia, Alpro, Aptamil, Danette, Danio, Danonino, evian, Nutricia, Nutrilon, Volvic*, among others) as well as strong local and regional brands (including *AQUA, Blédina, Bonafont, Cow & Gate, Horizon, Mizone, Oikos, Prostokvashino, Silk, Vega*).

Listed on Euronext Paris and on the OTCQX market via an ADR (American Depositary Receipt) program, Danone is a component stock of leading social responsibility indexes including the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes, Vigeo Eiris, the Ethibel Sustainability Index, MSCI Global Sustainability, MSCI Global SRI Indexes and the FTSE4Good Index.

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