

# Sweet danger claim

CHOCOLATE contains potentially dangerous levels of lead and cadmium, according to the American Environmental Safety Institute.

The institute, in a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles, has accused several big chocolate makers — including Hershey Foods, Nestle SA, Kraft Foods and Mars Inc — of violating a Californian law which requires consumers be warned before they are exposed to dangerous chemicals.

The lawsuit also seeks restitution for consumers who bought chocolate products without the warnings and civil financial penalties which can run as high as \$5000 a day a violation.

A spokesman for Switzerland's Nestle said the confectioners would fight the claims.

—KNIGHT-RIDDER TRIBUNE

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