

GNC HOLDINGS, INC.  
Form 10-K/A  
February 17, 2017

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K/A  
(Mark  
One)

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

OR  
 TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 001-35113

GNC Holdings, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(state or other jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or organization)

20-8536244

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

300 Sixth Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

(Address of principal executive offices)

15222

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (412) 288-4600

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Class A common stock, par value \$0.001 per share New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Non-accelerated filer

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of all common stock (based upon the closing price of the New York Stock Exchange) of the registrant held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2016 was approximately \$1.65 billion.

As of February 9, 2017, the number of outstanding shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "common stock"), of GNC Holdings, Inc. was 68,403,091 shares.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Certain information in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A, not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year, is incorporated by reference in Part III of the Company's Form 10-K, Original Filing, as defined below.

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Explanatory Note:

This Amendment No. 1 to Form 10-K/A (the “Amendment”) is being filed to correct an error under the description of our U.S. and Canada segment under the header “Domestic Franchise Stores” of our Business Strategy section that appears in Item 1, Business of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, originally filed on February 16, 2017 (the “Original Filing”). The third sentence of that section has been amended as follows (insertions and deletions noted): “We believe we have good relationships with our franchisees, as evidenced by our domestic franchisee renewal rate of approximately 91% 95% between 2010 2011 and 2016.”

As required under SEC rules, this Amendment sets forth the complete text of Item 1, Business, as amended. The remainder of the information contained in the Original Filing is not amended hereby and shall be as set forth in the Original Filing. This Amendment continues to speak as of the date of the Original Filing and we have not updated the disclosure in this Amendment to speak to any later date.

## PART I

### Item 1. BUSINESS.

GNC Holdings, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, referred to as "Holdings", "GNC", "the Company", "we", "us" and "our" unless specified otherwise) is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "GNC." Our business was founded in 1935 by David Shakarian who opened our first health food store in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Our principal executive office is located at 300 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222, and our telephone number is (412) 288-4600. We maintain and make available on GNC.com, free of charge, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practical after we electronically file or furnish them to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

#### Business Strategy

Key elements of our business strategy are:

**Leading retailer of nutritional supplements.** Our history and core foundation is as a manufacturer and specialty retailer of high-quality nutritional supplements. Based on our worldwide network of more than 9,000 locations and our online channels, we believe that we are the leading specialty retailer of health, wellness and performance products.

Our objective is not only to manufacture and carry leading brands, but to carry a full range of products within each category and through the training and utilization of our in-store associates become the trusted advisors to the consumers seeking their best selves.

**In-house product development and manufacturing.** Our in-house product development and manufacturing capabilities enable us to offer our customers high-quality proprietary merchandise that can only be purchased through our locations or through GNC.com. Our broad and deep product mix, which is focused on premium, value-added nutritional products, is sold under our GNC proprietary brands and other nationally recognized third-party brands. Our nutritional supplement manufacturing facility in Greenville, South Carolina also manufactures high-quality supplement products for other contract manufacturing wholesale customers.

**Knowledgeable in-store associates.** We believe that the nutritional supplement consumer often desires and seeks out knowledgeable customer service. We differentiate ourselves from competitors in the online or food, drug and mass channels with our well-trained sales associates who are aided by regular trainings and in-store technology. We believe that our engaged customer service is another element of a unique shopping experience that is distinct from that of our competitors.

**Driving constructive industry dialogue.** We remain focused, together with other industry leaders and industry trade associations, on initiatives begun in 2015 to further develop an industry-led coalition designed to raise the bar for transparency and quality throughout the dietary supplement industry. We believe that over time the implementation of higher standards and more stringent industry self-regulation regarding manufacturing practices, ingredient traceability and product transparency will prove beneficial for the industry and lead to improved dialogue with regulators, stronger consumer trust and greater confidence in our industry.

#### Segments

We generate revenues from our three segments, which are U.S. and Canada, International and Manufacturing / Wholesale. The following table outlines our segments. For a description of operating (loss) income by segment, our total assets by segment, total revenues by geographic area, and total assets by geographic area, see Note 17, "Segments," to our audited consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report.

	Year ended December 31,							
	2016		2015		2014			
	(\$ in millions)							
U.S. and Canada	\$2,143.6	84.4 %	\$2,240.5	83.5 %	\$2,207.3	83.1 %		
International	160.7	6.3 %	183.0	6.8 %	174.9	6.6 %		
Manufacturing / Wholesale <sup>(1)</sup>	235.7	9.3 %	235.7	8.8 %	241.2	9.1 %		
Other	—	— %	24.1	0.9 %	31.6	1.2 %		
Total revenue <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2,540.0	100.0 %	\$2,683.3	100.0 %	\$2,655.0	100.0 %		

(1) Excludes intersegment sales

(2) Refer to Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," Note 2, "Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" for details with respect to the revision of sublease rental income. Specifically, sublease rental income received from franchisees is presented as "Revenue" compared with the previous presentation as a reduction to occupancy expense in "Cost of sales, including warehousing, distribution, and occupancy," to conform to the current year presentation

Although we believe that none of our segment operations experience significant seasonal fluctuations, historically we have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, the lowest amount of revenue in our fourth quarter compared with the first three quarters of the year.

#### U.S. and Canada

Our U.S. and Canada segment generates revenues primarily from sales of products to customers at our company-owned stores in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, through product sales to franchisees, royalties on franchise retail sales and franchise fees and through our websites, GNC.com and LuckyVitamin.com.

#### Company-Owned Retail Stores in the U.S. and Canada

As of December 31, 2016, we operated 3,513 company-owned stores across all 50 states and the District of Columbia in the United States and in Canada and Puerto Rico. Most of our company-owned stores in the United States are between 1,000 and 2,000 square feet and are located primarily in shopping malls and strip shopping centers.

Traditional shopping mall and strip shopping center locations generate a large percentage of our total retail sales.

#### Domestic Franchise Stores

As of December 31, 2016, there were 1,178 domestic franchise stores. Our franchise stores in the United States are typically between 1,000 and 2,000 square feet, and approximately 90% are located in strip shopping centers. We believe we have good relationships with our franchisees, as evidenced by our domestic franchisee renewal rate of approximately 95% between 2011 and 2016. Currently, we have 525 franchisees operating stores in the United States. We do not rely heavily on any single franchise operator in the United States, where our largest franchisee owns and/or operates 86 store locations.

All of our franchise stores in the United States offer both our proprietary products and third-party products, with a product selection similar to that of our company-owned stores.

Revenues from our franchisees in the United States accounted for approximately 15% of our total U.S. and Canada segment revenues for the year ended December 31, 2016. New franchisees in the United States are required to pay an initial fee of \$40,000 for a franchise license. Existing GNC franchise operators may purchase an additional franchise license for a \$30,000 fee. Once a store begins operations, franchisees are required to pay us a continuing royalty of 6% of sales and contribute 3% of sales to a national advertising fund. Our standard franchise agreements for the United States are effective for an initial ten-year period with unlimited five-year renewal options. At the end of the initial term and each of the renewal periods, the renewal fee is generally 33% of the franchise fee that is then in effect. The franchisee renewal option is generally at our election. Franchisees must meet certain conditions to exercise the franchisee renewal option. Our franchisees in the United States receive limited geographical exclusivity and are required to utilize the standard GNC store format.

Generally, we negotiate lease terms to secure locations at cost-effective rates, which we typically sublease to our franchisees at cost. Franchisees must meet certain minimum standards and duties prescribed by our franchise operations manual, and we conduct periodic field visit reports to ensure our minimum standards are maintained. If a franchisee does not meet specified performance and appearance criteria, we are permitted to terminate the franchise

agreement. In these situations, we may take possession of the location, inventory and equipment, and operate the store as a company-owned store or rebrand the location.

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#### Websites

GNC.com and LuckyVitamin.com continue to represent a significant part of our business. The ability to purchase our products through the internet also offers a convenient method for repeat customers to evaluate and purchase new and existing products. This additional sales channel has enabled us to market and sell our products in regions where we have limited or no retail operations. We may offer products on our GNC.com website that are not available at our retail locations, enabling us to broaden the assortment of products available to our customers, and our LuckyVitamin.com platform provides a wide range of nationally branded nutritional supplements with a diverse selection of wellness oriented products. Internet purchases are fulfilled and shipped directly from our distribution centers to our consumers using a third-party transportation service.

#### International

Our International segment generates revenue primarily to our international franchisees through product sales, royalties and franchise fees and also includes our China operations and The Health Store.

#### International Franchise Stores

As of December 31, 2016, there were 1,957 international franchise locations operating in 47 international countries (including distribution centers where retail sales are made). The international franchise stores are typically smaller and, depending upon the country and cultural preferences, are located in mall, strip shopping center, street or store-within-a-store locations. In addition, some international franchisees sell on the internet and distribute to other retail outlets in their respective countries. Typically, our international stores have a store format and signage similar to our United States franchise stores. We believe that our franchise program enhances our brand awareness and market presence and will enable us to continue to expand our store base internationally with limited capital expenditures. Our international franchise stores offer a more limited product selection than our franchise stores in the United States, primarily due to regulatory constraints.

Revenues from our international franchisees accounted for approximately 80% of our total international segment revenues for the year ended December 31, 2016. In 2016, new international franchisees were required to pay an initial fee of approximately \$25,000 for a franchise license for each full size store, \$12,500 for a franchise license for a store-within-a-store and continuing royalty fees that vary depending on the country. Our international franchise program has enabled us to expand into international markets with limited investment. We expanded our international presence from 1,307 international franchise locations at the end of 2009 to 1,973 international locations (including distribution centers where retail sales are made) as of December 31, 2016.

We enter into development agreements with international franchisees for either full-size stores or store-within-a-store locations. We enter into distribution agreements for wholesale distribution centers and, in some cases, limited internet distribution. The development agreement grants the franchisee the right to develop a specific number of stores in a territory, often the entire country. The franchisee then enters into a franchise agreement for each location. The full-size store franchise agreement has an initial ten-year term with two five-year renewal options. At the end of the initial term and renewal periods, the franchisee typically has the option to renew the agreement at 33% of the current initial franchise fee that is then being charged to new franchisees. Franchise agreements for international store-within-a-store locations have an initial term of five years, with two five-year renewal options. At the end of the initial term and each of the renewal periods, the franchisee has the option to renew the store-within-a-store agreement for up to a maximum of 50% of the franchise fee that is then in effect. Our international franchisees often receive exclusive franchising rights to the entire country, excluding United States military bases. Our international franchisees must meet minimum standards and duties similar to our United States franchisees.

#### Manufacturing / Wholesale

Our Manufacturing / Wholesale segment is comprised of our manufacturing operations in South Carolina and our wholesale partner relationships. Our manufacturing facility supplies our U.S. and Canada and International segments with proprietary product and also manufactures products for other third parties. Our wholesale partner business includes the sale of products to wholesale customers, the largest of which include Rite Aid, Sam's Club and PetSmart. Our manufacturing operations are designed to ensure low-cost production of a variety of products of different quantities, sizes and packaging configurations while maintaining strict levels of quality control. Our manufacturing procedures are designed to promote consistency and quality in our finished goods. We conduct sample testing on raw

materials and finished products, including weight, purity and micro bacterial testing. The principal raw materials used in the manufacturing process are natural and synthetic vitamins, herbs, minerals and gelatin. We maintain multiple sources for the majority of our raw materials, although certain materials are single-sourced due to the unique nature of the material. In 2016, our largest vendor supplied approximately 10% of our raw materials.



To increase brand awareness and promote access to customers who may not frequent specialty nutrition stores, we entered into a strategic alliance with Rite Aid in December 1998 to open GNC franchise "store-within-a-store" locations. As of December 31, 2016, we had 2,358 Rite Aid store-within-a-store locations. Through this strategic alliance, we generate revenues from sales to Rite Aid of our products at wholesale prices, the manufacture of Rite Aid private label products, retail sales of certain consigned inventory and license fees. We are Rite Aid's sole supplier for a number of Rite Aid private label supplements, pursuant to a supply agreement with Rite Aid that extends through 2017, renewing automatically for one year, unless otherwise elected by either party no later than June 1, 2017. The operating license and consignment agreement that comprise our store-within-a store alliance with Rite Aid each extend through 2019. Rite Aid has committed to open 250 new stores over the five year period ending December 31, 2019.

#### Other

Beginning in October 2013 and through December 31, 2015, revenue also included the results of an additional website, DiscountSupplements.co.uk. Effective December 31, 2015, we sold substantially all of the assets of our Discount Supplements subsidiary.

#### Products

We are a global specialty retailer of health, wellness and performance products, including protein, performance supplements, weight management supplements, vitamins, herbs and greens, wellness supplements, health and beauty, food and drink and other general merchandise. Refer to Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," Note 17, "Segments" for revenue by product category. Our domestic stores offer an extensive mix of brands across multiple categories and products. Through our online channels, GNC.com and LuckyVitamin.com, we offer additional products to online customers. This variety is designed to provide our customers with a wide selection of products to fit their specific needs and to generate a high number of transactions with purchases from multiple product categories. We offer a wide range of high-quality nutritional supplements sold under our GNC proprietary brand names, approximately half of which we manufacture. Sales of our proprietary brands at our U.S. company-owned and franchise stores, GNC.com and wholesale partners including Rite Aid, PetSmart and Sam's Club represented 46% and 52% of total system-wide retail product sales in 2016 and 2015, or \$1,013 million and \$1,197 million, respectively. We also offer products through nationally recognized third-party brand names. Sales of our third-party products at our U.S. company-owned and franchise stores, GNC.com and wholesale partners represented approximately 54% and 48% of total system-wide retail product sales in 2016 and 2015, or \$1,189 million and \$1,120 million, respectively, and together with proprietary sales yielded total U.S. system-wide sales of \$2,202 and \$2,317 million. In 2016 and 2015, we did not have a material concentration of sales from any single product or product line. Our largest vendor supplies approximately 15% of our third-party products.

Effective with the launch of the "One New GNC" on December 29, 2016, the Gold Card Member Pricing program was discontinued in all domestic company-owned and franchise stores on December 28, 2016 and we introduced a free points-based loyalty program, which enables customers to earn points based on their purchases. Points earned by members are valid for one year and may be redeemed for cash discounts on any product we sell at both company-owned or franchise locations. In addition, we offered a paid membership program, "PRO Access," for \$39.99 per year. The program provides members with the delivery of three boxes throughout the membership year as well as the periodic offering of product discounts and opportunities to earn triple points among other benefits. The boxes include sample merchandise and other materials. The impact of these new loyalty programs were not material to the 2016 consolidated financial statements but are expected to be material in 2017 and beyond.

#### Product Distribution

Products are delivered to retail stores and customers who make purchases via one of our websites, via a third party transportation network, through our distribution centers located in: Leetsdale, Pennsylvania; Whitestown, Indiana; Anderson, South Carolina, and Phoenix, Arizona. Our distribution centers support our company-owned stores as well as franchise stores and Rite Aid locations. Each of our distribution centers has a quality control department that monitors products received from our vendors to ensure they meet our quality standards.

#### Employees

As of December 31, 2016, we had approximately 16,800 employees, including approximately 6,500 full-time and 10,300 part-time employees. None of our employees belong to a union or is a party to any collective bargaining or similar agreement. We consider our relationship with our employees to be good.

Competition

The United States nutritional supplements retail industry is a large, highly fragmented and growing industry, with no single industry participant accounting for a majority of total industry retail sales. Competition is based on price, quality and assortment

of products, customer service, convenience of store locations and websites, marketing support and availability of new products. In addition, the market is highly sensitive to the introduction of new products.

We compete with both publicly and privately owned companies, which are highly fragmented in terms of geographical market coverage and product categories. We also compete with other specialty retailers, supermarkets, drugstores, mass merchants, multi-level marketing organizations, mail-order companies, other internet sites and a variety of other smaller participants. In the United States, many of our competitors have national brands that are heavily advertised and are manufactured by large pharmaceutical and food companies and other retailers. Most supermarkets, drugstores and mass merchants have narrow product offerings limited primarily to simple vitamins, herbs and popular third-party sports and diet products. Our international competitors also include large international pharmacy chains and major international supermarket chains, as well as other large U.S.-based companies with international operations. Our wholesale and manufacturing operations compete with other wholesalers and manufacturers of third-party nutritional supplements.

#### Trademarks and Other Intellectual Property

We believe trademark protection is particularly important to the maintenance of the recognized brand names under which we market our products. We own or have rights to material trademarks or trade names that we use in conjunction with the sale of our products, including the GNC brand name. We also rely upon trade secrets, know-how, continuing technological innovations and licensing opportunities to develop and maintain our competitive position. We protect our intellectual property rights through a variety of methods, including trademark, patent and trade secret laws, as well as confidentiality agreements and proprietary information agreements with vendors, employees, consultants and others who have access to our proprietary information. Protection of our intellectual property often affords us the opportunity to enhance our position in the marketplace by precluding our competitors from using or otherwise exploiting our technology and brands. We are also a party to several intellectual property license agreements relating to certain of our products. The duration of our trademark registrations is generally 10, 15 or 20 years, depending on the country in which the marks are registered, and we can renew the registrations. The scope and duration of our intellectual property protection varies throughout the world by jurisdiction and by individual product.

#### Insurance and Risk Management

We are self-insured for certain losses related to health, workers' compensation and general liability insurance and maintain stop-loss coverage with third-party insurers to limit our liability exposure. We face an inherent risk of exposure to product liability claims in the event that, among other things, the use of products sold by us results in injury. We carry product liability insurance with a deductible/retention of \$4.0 million per claim with an aggregate cap on retained losses of \$10.0 million per policy year. We have the ability to refer claims to most of our vendors and their insurers to pay the costs associated with any claims arising from such vendors' products. In most cases, our insurance covers such claims that are not adequately covered by a vendor's insurance and provides for excess secondary coverage above the limits provided by our product vendors.

We also purchase insurance to cover auto liability, network and cyber security, privacy liability and other casualty and property risks. We self-insure certain property and casualty risks such as property damage due to our analysis of the risk, the frequency and severity of a loss and the cost of insurance for the risk.

#### Government Regulation

##### Product Regulation

##### Domestic

The processing, formulation, safety, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, advertising and distribution of our products are subject to regulation by one or more federal agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the "FDA"), the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC"), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (the "CPSC"), the United States Department of Agriculture (the "USDA") and the Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA"), and by various agencies of the states and localities in which our products are sold.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 ("DSHEA") amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the "FDC Act") to establish a new framework governing the composition, safety, labeling, manufacturing and marketing of dietary supplements. Generally, under the FDC Act, dietary ingredients that were

marketed in the United States prior to October 15, 1994 may be used in dietary supplements without notifying the FDA. "New" dietary ingredients (i.e., dietary ingredients that were "not marketed in the United States before October 15, 1994") must be the subject of a new dietary ingredient notification submitted to the FDA unless the ingredient has been "present in the food supply as an article used for food" without being "chemically altered." A new dietary ingredient notification must provide the FDA evidence of a "history of use or other evidence of safety" establishing that use of the dietary ingredient "will reasonably be expected to be safe." A new dietary ingredient notification must be submitted to the FDA at least 75 days before the initial marketing of the new dietary ingredient. The FDA may determine that

a new dietary ingredient notification does not provide an adequate basis to conclude that a dietary ingredient is reasonably expected to be safe. Such a determination could prevent the marketing of such dietary ingredient. In 2011 and 2016, the FDA issued draft guidance governing the notification of new dietary ingredients. Although FDA guidance is not mandatory, and companies are free to use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, FDA guidance is a strong indication of the FDA's "current thinking" on the topic discussed in the guidance, including its position on enforcement. At this time, it is difficult to determine whether the draft guidance, if finalized, would have a material impact on our operations. However, if the FDA were to enforce the applicable statutes and regulations in accordance with the draft guidance as written, such enforcement could require us to incur additional expenses, which could be significant, and negatively impact our business in several ways, including, but not limited to, enjoining the manufacturing of our products until the FDA determines that we are in compliance and can resume manufacturing, increasing our liability and reducing our growth prospects. The FDA or other agencies could take actions against products or product ingredients that in its determination present an unreasonable health risk to consumers that would make it illegal for us to sell such products. In addition, the FDA could issue consumer warnings with respect to the products or ingredients in such products that are sold in our stores. Such actions or warnings could be based on information received through FDC Act-mandated reporting of serious adverse events. For example, the FDC Act requires that reports of serious adverse events be submitted to the FDA, and based in part on such reports, in May 2009, the FDA warned consumers to stop using Hydroxycut diet products, which are produced by Iovate Health Sciences, Inc. ("Iovate") and were sold in our stores. Through December 31, 2016, we estimate that we have refunded approximately \$3.5 million to our retail customers and approximately \$1.6 million to our wholesale customers for Hydroxycut product returns.

We take a number of actions to ensure the products we sell comply with the FDC Act. Some of these actions include maintaining and continuously updating a list of restricted ingredients that will be prohibited from inclusion in any products that are sold in our stores or on our websites. Vendors selling product to us for the sale of such products by us will be required to warrant to us that the products sold to us do not contain any of these restricted ingredients. In addition, we have developed and maintain a list of ingredients that we believe comply with the applicable provisions of the FDC Act. As is common in our industry, we rely on our third-party vendors to ensure that the products they manufacture and sell to us comply with all applicable regulatory and legislative requirements. In general, we seek representations and warranties, indemnification and/or insurance from our vendors. However, even with adequate insurance and indemnification, any claims of non-compliance could significantly damage our reputation and consumer confidence in our products. In addition, the failure of such products to comply with applicable regulatory and legislative requirements could prevent us from marketing the products or require us to recall or remove such products from the market, which in certain cases could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In the past, we have attempted to offset any losses related to recalls and removals with reformulated or alternative products; however, there can be no assurance that we would be able to offset all or any portion of losses related to any future removal or recall.

The FDC Act permits "statements of nutritional support" to be included in labeling for dietary supplements without FDA pre-market approval. Such statements must be submitted to the FDA within 30 days of marketing. Such statements may describe how a particular dietary ingredient affects the structure, function or general well-being of the body, or the mechanism of action by which a dietary ingredient may affect body structure, function or well-being, but may not expressly or implicitly represent that a dietary supplement will diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat or prevent a disease. A company that uses a statement of nutritional support in labeling must possess scientific evidence substantiating that the statement is truthful and not misleading. If the FDA determines that a particular statement of nutritional support is an unacceptable drug claim, conventional food claim or an unauthorized version of a "health claim," or, if the FDA determines that a particular claim is not adequately supported by existing scientific data or is false or misleading, we would be prevented from using the claim.

In addition, DSHEA provides that so-called "third-party literature," e.g., a reprint of a peer-reviewed scientific publication linking a particular dietary ingredient with health benefits, may be used "in connection with the sale of a dietary supplement to consumers" without the literature being subject to regulation as labeling. The literature: (1) must not be false or misleading; (2) may not "promote" a particular manufacturer or brand of dietary supplement; (3) must

present a balanced view of the available scientific information on the subject matter; (4) if displayed in an establishment, must be physically separate from the dietary supplements; and (5) should not have appended to it any information by sticker or any other method. If the literature fails to satisfy each of these requirements, we may be prevented from disseminating such literature with our products, and any dissemination could subject our product to regulatory action as an illegal drug.

In June 2007, pursuant to the authority granted by the FDC Act as amended by DSHEA, the FDA published detailed current Good Manufacturing Practice ("cGMP") regulations that govern the manufacturing, packaging, labeling and holding operations of dietary supplement manufacturers. The cGMP regulations, among other things, impose significant recordkeeping requirements on manufacturers. The cGMP requirements are in effect for all dietary supplement manufacturers, and the FDA is conducting inspections of dietary supplement manufacturers pursuant to these requirements. There remains considerable uncertainty with respect to the FDA's interpretation of the regulations and their actual implementation in manufacturing facilities.

In addition, the FDA's interpretation of the regulations will likely change over time as the agency becomes more familiar with the industry and the regulations. The failure of a manufacturing facility to comply with the cGMP regulations renders products manufactured in such facility "adulterated," and subjects such products and the manufacturer to a variety of potential FDA enforcement actions. In addition, under the Food Safety Modernization Act ("FSMA"), which was enacted in January 2011, the manufacturing of dietary ingredients contained in dietary supplements will be subject to similar or even more burdensome manufacturing requirements, which will likely increase the costs of dietary ingredients and will subject suppliers of such ingredients to more rigorous inspections and enforcement. The FSMA will also require importers of food, including dietary supplements and dietary ingredients, to conduct verification activities to ensure that the food they might import meets applicable domestic requirements. The FDA has broad authority to enforce the provisions of federal law applicable to dietary supplements, including powers to issue a public warning or notice of violation letter to a company, publicize information about illegal products, detain products intended for import, require the reporting of serious adverse events, require a recall of illegal or unsafe products from the market, and request the Department of Justice to initiate a seizure action, an injunction action or a criminal prosecution in the United States courts.

The FSMA expands the reach and regulatory powers of the FDA with respect to the production and importation of food, including dietary supplements. The expanded reach and regulatory powers include the FDA's ability to order mandatory recalls, administratively detain domestic products, and require certification of compliance with domestic requirements for imported foods associated with safety issues. FSMA also gave FDA the authority to administratively revoke manufacturing facility registrations, effectively enjoining manufacturing of dietary ingredients and dietary supplements without judicial process. The regulation of dietary supplements may increase or become more restrictive in the future.

The FTC exercises jurisdiction over the advertising of dietary supplements and over-the-counter drugs and has instituted numerous enforcement actions against dietary supplement companies for failure to have adequate substantiation for claims made in advertising or for the use of false or misleading advertising claims. We continue to be subject to a consent decree issued by the FTC in 1994 covering hair care products.

The FTC continues to monitor our advertising and, from time to time, requests substantiation with respect to such advertising to assess compliance with the outstanding consent decree and with the Federal Trade Commission Act. Our policy is to use advertising that complies with the consent decree and applicable regulations. Nevertheless, there can be no assurance that inadvertent failures to comply with the consent decree and applicable regulations will not occur.

Some of the products sold by franchise stores are purchased by franchisees directly from other vendors and these products do not flow through our distribution centers. Although franchise contracts contain strict requirements for store operations, including compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, we cannot exercise the same degree of control over franchisees as we do over our company-owned stores.

As a result of our efforts to comply with applicable statutes and regulations, we have from time to time reformulated, eliminated or relabeled certain of our products and revised certain provisions of our sales and marketing program.

#### Foreign

Our products sold in foreign countries are also subject to regulation under various national, local and international laws that include provisions governing, among other things, the formulation, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, advertising and distribution of dietary supplements and over-the-counter drugs. Government regulations in foreign countries may prevent or delay the introduction, or require the reformulation, of certain of our products.

#### New Legislation or Regulation

Legislation may be introduced which, if passed, would impose substantial new regulatory requirements on dietary supplements. For example, although not yet reintroduced in this session of Congress, bills have been repeatedly proposed in past sessions of Congress which would subject the dietary ingredient dehydroepiandrosterone ("DHEA") to the requirements of the Controlled Substances Act, which would prevent the sale of products containing DHEA. In March 2009, the General Accounting Office (the "GAO") issued a report that made four recommendations to enhance the FDA's oversight of dietary supplements. The GAO recommended that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services direct the Commissioner of the FDA to: (1) request authority to require dietary supplement

companies to identify themselves as a dietary supplement company and update this information annually, provide a list of all dietary supplement products they sell and a copy of the labels and update this information annually, and report all adverse events related to dietary supplements, not just serious adverse events; (2) issue guidance to clarify when an ingredient is considered a new dietary ingredient, the evidence needed to document the safety of new dietary ingredients, and appropriate methods for establishing ingredient identity; (3) provide guidance to the industry to clarify when products should be marketed as either dietary supplements or conventional foods formulated with added dietary ingredients; and



(4) coordinate with stakeholder groups involved in consumer outreach to identify additional mechanisms for educating consumers about the safety, efficacy, and labeling of dietary supplements, implement these mechanisms, and assess their effectiveness. These recommendations could lead to increased regulation by the FDA or future legislation concerning dietary supplements.

We cannot determine what effect additional domestic or international governmental legislation, regulations, or administrative orders, when and if promulgated, would have on our business in the future. New legislation or regulations may require the reformulation of certain products to meet new standards, require the recall or discontinuance of certain products not capable of reformulation, impose additional record keeping or require expanded documentation of the properties of certain products, expanded or different labeling or scientific substantiation.

#### Franchise Regulation

We must comply with regulations adopted by the FTC and with the laws of several states that regulate the offer and sale of franchises. The FTC's Trade Regulation Rule on Franchising and certain state laws require that we furnish prospective franchisees with a franchise offering circular containing information prescribed by the Trade Regulation Rule on Franchising and applicable state laws and regulations.

We also must comply with a number of state laws that regulate some substantive aspects of the franchisor-franchisee relationship. These laws may limit a franchisor's business practices in a number of ways, including limiting the ability to:

- terminate or not renew a franchise without good cause;
- interfere with the right of free association among franchisees;
- disapprove the transfer of a franchise;
- discriminate among franchisees with regard to franchise terms and charges, royalties and other fees; and
- place new stores near existing franchises.

To date, these laws have not precluded us from seeking franchisees in any given area and have not had a material adverse effect on our operations. Bills concerning the regulation of certain aspects of franchise relationships have been introduced into Congress on several occasions during the last decade, but none have been enacted. Revisions to the FTC rule have also been proposed by the FTC and currently are in the comment stage of the rulemaking process.

Our international franchise agreements and franchise operations are regulated by various foreign laws, rules and regulations. These laws may limit a franchisor's business practices in a number of ways. To date, these laws have not precluded us from seeking franchisees in any given area and have not had a material adverse effect on our operations.

#### Environmental Compliance

In March 2008, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (the "DHEC") requested that we investigate contamination associated with historical activities at our South Carolina facility. These investigations have identified chlorinated solvent impacts in soils and groundwater that extend offsite from our facility. We entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with the DHEC regarding the matter on September 24, 2012. Pursuant to such contract, we are completing additional investigations with the DHEC's approval. We will consult with the DHEC on the next steps in the work after their review of the results of the investigation is complete. At this stage of the investigation, however, it is not possible to estimate the timing and extent of any remedial action that may be required, the ultimate cost of remediation, or the amount of our potential liability. Therefore, no liability has been recorded in the Company's consolidated financial statements. The Company installed and began operating a pilot vapor extraction system under a portion of the facility in the second half of 2016 with DHEC's approval to assess the effectiveness of such a remedial system.

In addition to the foregoing, we are subject to numerous federal, state, local and foreign environmental and health and safety laws and regulations governing its operations, including the handling, transportation and disposal of our non-hazardous and hazardous substances and wastes, as well as emissions and discharges from its operations into the environment, including discharges to air, surface water and groundwater. Failure to comply with such laws and regulations could result in costs for remedial actions, penalties or the imposition of other liabilities. New laws, changes in existing laws or the interpretation thereof, or the development of new facts or changes in their processes could also cause us to incur additional capital and operating expenditures to maintain compliance with environmental laws and regulations and environmental permits. We are also subject to laws and regulations that impose liability and

cleanup responsibility for releases of hazardous substances into the environment without regard to fault or knowledge about the condition or action causing the liability. Under certain of these laws and regulations, such liabilities can be imposed for cleanup of previously owned or operated properties, or for properties to which substances or wastes that were sent in connection with current or former operations at its facilities. The presence of contamination from such substances or wastes

could also adversely affect our ability to sell or lease our properties, or to use them as collateral for financing. From time to time, we have incurred costs and obligations for correcting environmental and health and safety noncompliance matters and for remediation at or relating to certain of our properties or properties at which our waste has been disposed. However, compliance with the provisions of national, state and local environmental laws and regulations has not had a material effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings, financial position, liquidity or competitive position. We believe we have complied with, and are currently complying with, our environmental obligations pursuant to environmental and health and safety laws and regulations and that any liabilities for noncompliance will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial performance or cash flows. However, it is difficult to predict future liabilities and obligations, which could be material.

PART IV

Item 15: Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) Exhibits:

1 Financial Statements

Not applicable

2 Financial Statement Schedules

Not applicable

3 Exhibits

EXHIBIT INDEX

31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.



**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GNC HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ TRICIA K. TOLIVAR

Tricia K. Tolivar

Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer and principal accounting officer)

Dated: February 16, 2017

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\* Filed herewith

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