CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. An adapter assembly comprising:

an adapter comprising an outlet, wherein the adapter is so constructed and arranged to provide a functional feature and comprises a body portion that is so constructed and arranged to accept at least a portion of a fitment on a package; and

a cap that is so constructed and arranged to attach to the adapter to close the outlet;

wherein the adapter comprises a valve component comprising a body defining an interior and having an outlet, a connector and a rotatable flow-control device.

2. The adapter assembly of Claim 1, wherein the adapter comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of a diaphragm; a rotatable flow-control device; a valve component, a reduced size of the outlet; a contact-to-open valve; an elongated, cylindrical extension; an extension having a substantially duck-bill shape; and combinations thereof.

3. The adapter assembly of Claims 1 or 2, wherein the functional feature is selected from the group consisting of spill-resistance, flow-control, ease of insertion into a consumer's mouth, comfortable insertion into a consumer's mouth, and combinations thereof.

4. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-3, wherein the package is a consumable product package comprising a consumable product.

5. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1 -4, wherein the adapter comprises at least one diaphragm having a slit, wherein the slit comprises a shape selected from the group consisting of a line, an "x," a crescent, and combinations thereof.

6. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-5, wherein the package is a fill-through-fitment package.

7. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-6, wherein the adapter comprises a connector to connect the adapter to the fitment.

8. The adapter assembly of Claim 7, wherein the connector comprises threading on an internal surface of the adapter that is configured to cooperate with threading on an external surface of the fitment to attach the adapter to the fitment.

9. The adapter assembly of Claim 7, wherein the connector comprises at least two, opposing, substantially "L"-shaped projections that are so constructed and arranged to snap-fit the adapter on the fitment.

10. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-9, wherein the cap comprises threading on an internal surface thereof that is configured to cooperate with threading on an external surface of the adapter to attach the cap to the adapter.

11. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-10, wherein the flow-control device extends substantially through a width of the body of the valve component.

12. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-11, wherein the flow-control device comprises a handle for rotating the device.

13. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-12, wherein the flow-control device comprises a cylinder having an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the valve component.

14. The adapter assembly of Claim 13, wherein the cylinder comprises a hole extending through the cylinder in a direction that is parallel to a diameter of the cylinder.

15. The adapter assembly of Claim 14, wherein the hole is so constructed and arranged to align with the interior of the body of the valve component.

16. The adapter assembly of Claim 14 or 15, wherein the hole may wholly or partially align with the interior of the body of the valve component depending on the rotation of the flow-control device.

17. The adapter assembly of any one of Claims 1-6, wherein the flow rate of the product is reduced when compared to a product flow rate exiting the valve component from an outlet that is the size of a diameter of the body of the valve component.

18. The adapter assembly of Claim 17, wherein the outlet comprises a geometric shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, star, rectangle, square, triangle, semi-circle, oval, trapezoid, crescent, pentagon, letter, number, and combinations thereof.

19. The adapter assembly of Claim 17 or 18, wherein the valve component is so constructed and arranged to prevent a product from exiting the outlet absent application of a pressure to the valve component.

20. A package comprising:

a flexible pouch;

a fitment on the pouch;

an adapter assembly, wherein the adapter assembly is selected from those claimed in Claim 1 – 19,

a cap that is so constructed and arranged to attach to the adapter to close the outlet

wherein the flexible pouch is so constructed and arranged to house a product.

21. The package of Claim 20, wherein the package is a consumable product package comprising a consumable product.

22. A method for providing a nutritional composition to an individual, the method comprising:

providing a package comprising a flexible pouch;

a fitment on the pouch;

an adapter assembly, wherein the adapter assembly is selected from those claimed in Claim 1 – 19,

a cap that is so constructed and arranged to attach to the adapter to close the outlet

wherein the flexible pouch is so constructed and arranged to house a consumable product package and contains a consumable product; and

instructing the individual to consume the nutritional composition themselves or have another consume the consumable product.