

**SUBJECT- ALFOODACT 018-2006: Resume Purchase of Fresh Spinach (to Include Mixed Salads) Except From Specific Producers/Brand Names**

**Date Issued: October 2, 2006**

**1. REFERENCE:**

- a. DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8c/AFI 48-116/MCO 10110.38c, DOD Hazardous Food & Nonprescription Drug Recall System.
- b. Allied Communications Publication 121, US SUPP-1 (f).
- c. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01474.html>
- d. ALFOODACT 017-2006: Fresh Spinach (to Include Mixed Salads) Contaminated with *E. coli O157:H7* Causes Outbreak (CLARIFICATION TO ALFOODACT 016-2006: Bagged Fresh Spinach Contaminated with *E. coli O157:H7* Causes Outbreak)

**2. BACKGROUND:**

FDA Announces Findings From Investigation of Foodborne *E. coli* O157:H7 Outbreak in Spinach Update: Friday, September 29, 2006

FDA is announcing today that all spinach implicated in the current outbreak has traced back to Natural Selection Foods LLC of San Juan Bautista, California. Natural Selection Foods issued a recall of all implicated products on September 15, 2006. Four other companies have issued secondary recalls because they received the recalled product from Natural Selections. See below for a complete list of brand names that are subject of the recalls. Spinach processed by other manufacturers has not been implicated in the outbreak.

FDA is reminding the public that Natural Selection Foods has recalled all spinach products under multiple brand names with a date code of October 1 or earlier. There have been four other recalls from different companies because they received Natural Selection Foods spinach. See below for a complete list of brand names that are subject of the recalls.

In order to protect consumers, **retailers and restaurateurs** should not sell raw spinach or blends that may contain spinach that was processed by Natural Selection Foods and all other brands subject to the recalls.

Processed spinach (e.g., frozen and canned spinach) is not implicated in this outbreak.

**3. Product/Plant Recalls (5)**

To date, 5 firms have initiated recalls:

1) On September 22, 2006, **Pacific Coast Fruit Company of Portland, Oregon** initiated a voluntary recall of products that may include spinach supplied by Natural Selections Foods. Pacific Coast Fruit Company stopped making all products with spinach supplied from California on September 14, 2006. The recalled products are:

Baby Spring Mix Salad Kit (4.6 lbs), Chef on the Run- Bacon Spinach Salad (9 oz. plus 2 fl. oz. dressing), Chef on the Run - Spring Greens Salad (5 oz. plus 2 fl. oz. dressing), Chef on the Run - Willamette Valley Salad (10 oz. plus 2 fl. oz. dressing), Trader Joe's - Baby Spinach and Greens with Bleu Cheese, Candied Pecans and Cranberries with Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing (10 oz.), Trader Joe's - Baby Greens and Spinach Salad with Wild Maine Blueberry Dressing (10 oz.), Mediterranean Veggie Blend Kit - 15 lbs, and My Brothers Pizza Spinach and Garlic - 15 oz. and 36 oz.

Most of the salad products can be identified by the labels Trader Joe's, My Brothers Pizza or Chef on the Run and are in clam shell containers. Pizza products are in round cardboard bottoms with a plastic over wrap. All salad products will have a "USE BY DATE" on or before Sept 20, 2006. Pizza products will have a "USE BY DATE" on or before September 23, 2006. The products were distributed through various retail outlets in Alaska, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. There is no international distribution.

2) On September 22, 2006, **Triple B Corporation, doing business as S.T. Produce, of Seattle, Washington**, initiated a voluntary recall of its fresh spinach salad products with a "Use By" date of 8/22/2006 thru 9/20/2006. Spinach used in these products may have been supplied from Natural Selections Foods of California. The recalled products were distributed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana to retail stores and delis and sold in a hard plastic clamshell container.

The products recalled by S.T. Produce are: NWG Spinach Salad (5 oz.), Spinach Salad, QFC (5 oz.), Charlie's Spinach Salad (5 oz.), Charlie's Tabouli & Goat Cheese Salad (10 oz.), NWG Tabouli & Goat Cheese Salad (10 oz.), Tabouli & Goat Cheese Salad, QFC (10 oz.), T/H Spring Mix Salad (5.5 oz.), T/H Mozzarella Spring Mix Salad (5.5 oz.), T/H Baby Spinach Salad (5.5 oz.), Walnut and Blue Cheese Salad w/ Grilled Chicken Breast (6.5 oz.), Larry's Market Tabouli & Goat Cheese Salad (10 oz.), Charlie's Seasonal Greens Salad (2.5 oz.), Charlie's Seasonal Greens Salad (4 oz.), Charlie's Baby Spinach Salad (6 oz.), Charlie's Baby Spinach Salad (5 oz.) and Caesar Bowtie Noodle Salad Kit with Grilled Chicken Breast (6.9 lbs).

3) On September 19, 2006, **RLB Food Distributors, L.P., West Caldwell, NJ**, initiated a voluntary recall of certain salad products that may contain spinach with an 'Enjoy Thru' date of 9/20/06.

The products recalled by RLB are: Balducci's Mesclun Mix 5 oz., Balducci's Organic Baby Spinach 5 oz., Balducci's Mixed Greens 5 oz., FreshPro Mesclun Mix 5 oz., FreshPro Organic Baby Spinach 5 oz., FreshPro Mixed Greens 5 oz., FreshPro Salad Mix with Italian Dressing 4.75 oz., and FreshPro Salad Mix with Ranch Dressing 5.25 oz.

4) On September 17, 2006, **River Ranch, of Salinas, California**, announced a voluntary recall of packages of spring mix containing spinach. River Ranch obtained bulk spring mix containing spinach from Natural Selections. The following brands are involved: Fresh N' Easy Spring Mix and Hy-Vee Spring mix containing baby spinach, distributed to retailers in Texas, Iowa, New Mexico, Georgia and Ohio. Product was packed in 5 oz. bags and 5 oz. plastic trays. Products that do not contain spinach are not part of this recall.

5) On September 15, 2006, **Natural Selection Foods, LLC, of San Juan Bautista, California**, announced a voluntary recall of all products containing spinach in all brands they pack with "Best if Used by Dates" of August 17, 2006 through October 1, 2006. These products include spinach and any salad with spinach in a blend, both retail and food service products. Products that do not contain spinach are not part of this recall.

Natural Selection Foods, LLC brands include: Natural Selection Foods, Pride of San Juan, Earthbound Farm, Bellissima, Dole, Rave Spinach, Emeril, Sysco, O Organic, Fresh Point, River Ranch, Superior, Nature's Basket, Pro-Mark, Compliments, Trader Joe's, Ready Pac, Jansal Valley, Cheney Brothers, D'Arrigo Brothers Co. of New York, Green Harvest, Mann, Mills Family Farm, Premium Fresh, Snoboy, The Farmer's Market, Tanimura & Antle, President's Choice, Cross Valley, and Riverside Farms. The affected products were also distributed to Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Iceland. FDA continues to investigate whether other companies and brands are involved.

**4. DISTRIBUTION:** Unknown

**5. REASON FOR RECALL:** Positive for *E. coli* O157:H7.

**6. INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:**

(1) Immediately inventory stocks to identify the above items and secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item. All products other than specifically listed above are removed from "Medical Hold" for further issue/sale/use of the items as appropriate.

(2) Ships at sea are authorized to destroy or dispose of recalled products at their discretion. Documentation for the number of pounds and cases, and any additional pertinent information must be signed by the Accountable Officer and is required for the purpose of recouping to the government the cost of the product involved. Information shall be forwarded by priority message to this center.

(3) Accountable Activities should return recalled product to the manufacturer through the appropriate distribution channels.

**7. The Point of Contact** for this ALFOODACT message is [CW4 Ramona Martin](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-2905, Commercial (215) 737-2905, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526

Any individual or office that would like to receive recall messages electronically can forward their email address to [Ramona.Martin@dla.mil](mailto:Ramona.Martin@dla.mil).

Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site:

<http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/proserv/alfood/afamess.htm>

The navigation tool to the left allows you to view DSCP Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls also.

Very Respectfully,

*Ms. Ramona Martin*

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