

**SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 009-2006: Richwood Meat Company, Inc. Frozen Raw Beef Products, Escherichia coli O157:H7**

**Date Issued: May 1, 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).

**2. BACKGROUND:**

A six-year-old Japanese national male became ill after consuming a ground beef patty manufactured by Richwood Meat Company on 17 April 2006. The patient was hospitalized soon after and Enterohemorrhagic E. Coli (EHEC) infection was identified by the Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health and Environment.

The mother reportedly told Okinawa Prefectural Health Department officials the child's great grandmother is married to an American and does not reside locally on Okinawa. She visits this family every year in Okinawa, and she purchases base goods during her stay. The mother could not confirm if the beef patties were purchased by her grandmother on base or whether she bought it at the local store. However, a sale label attached to the product packaging suggests it was sold locally. The remaining patties were collected and were tested by the Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health and Environment.

The Okinawa Ministry of Health notified the Director of Navy Community Health, Camp Lester, Okinawa on 27 April 2006 who initiated an investigation. The Commander of Japan District Veterinary Command (JDVC) was notified on 28 April 2006 and all hamburger patties with the following information were immediately placed on Medical Hold. The original product and packaging was delivered to JDVC Okinawa Branch who will send the sample for laboratory confirmation.

**3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:**

The product is packaged in plastic bags with twelve individual ¼ pound patties and distributed in cardboard cases of 16 three-pound bags per case. Each product bears the establishment code "EST. 8264" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The bag contains the following identifying information: Red, White, and Black labeling on a clear bag. In addition, each product subject to this medical hold bears a date of pack code which can be found at the top end of the bag as follows: "PACKED ON MM-DD-YY"

\* "RM 100% BEEF PATTIES, PACKED BY RICHWOOD MEAT COMPANY INC, MERCED, CA 95340 bearing the UPC 0 4311541271 9"

The implicated product was labeled with "PACKED ON 12-08-05" or 08 December 2005.

**4. MANUFACTURER/FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT:  
FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT:**

08264 M  
RICHWOOD MEAT CO INC  
2751 N. Santa Fe Dr  
Merced, CA 95340

**5. DISTRIBUTION:** The product was distributed through the Defense Commissary Stores. For Far East:

**DOD Distributor:**

California Pacific Associates  
PO Box 999  
Burlingame, California 94010  
Telephone: 415-665-2650

**6. REASON FOR RECALL:** Products may be contaminated with Escherichia coli O157:H7.

**7. 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.

(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.

**8. The Point of Contact** for this ALFOODACT message is [CW4 Ramona Martin](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-8461, Commercial (215) 737-8461, 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 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,

*Ramona Martin*

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