

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) Consumer Safety Office (CSO) is releasing the following notice.

Subject: DSCP Alert 001-2009 FDA Alerts Consumers Not To Eat Pistachios

DSCP Issue Date: March 31, 2009

FDA has posted a Consumer Warning, not a recall, warning consumers not to eat pistachios until further information is available about the scope of affected products. As the FDA investigates and vendors identify/issue their affected product for recall, the CSO will initiate an ALFOODACT, if warranted. Often times, agencies procure on a "local purchase" and product is not always visible as being in the DOD inventory. All agencies and field personnel can assist by forwarding POSITIVE results for items being recalled that is known to be in their local area and/or DOD affiliated inventory. Please provide the root document (recall) with notification of POSITIVE results.

FDA Alerts Consumers Not To Eat Pistachios

FDA and California Inspectors Identify Salmonella

The FDA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are investigating Salmonella contamination in pistachio products sold by Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc, Calif. The company has stopped all distribution of processed pistachios and will issue a voluntary recall involving approximately 1 million pounds of its products. Because the pistachios were used as ingredients in a variety of foods, it is likely this recall will impact many products. In addition, the investigation at the company is ongoing and may lead to additional pistachio product recalls.

The contamination involves multiple strains of Salmonella. Salmonella can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Thus far, several illnesses have been reported by consumers that may be associated with the pistachios. It is not yet known whether any of the Salmonella strains found in the pistachio products are linked to an outbreak. The FDA is conducting genetic testing of the samples to pursue all links.

FDA is working closely with the pistachio industry and recommends that consumers avoid eating pistachio products until further information is available about the scope of affected products.

FDA will provide a searchable database of affected products at www.fda.gov and will continue to update the public.

FDA first learned of the problem on March 24, when it was informed by Kraft Foods that its Back To Nature Trail Mix was found to be contaminated with Salmonella. Kraft had identified the source of the contamination to be pistachios from Setton and conducted a recall.

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Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. Announces Nationwide Recall of Pistachios Because of Possible Health Risk: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/setton03_09.html

ALFOODACT 102-2009 Kraft's Back to Nature Recall initiated and distributed 25 March 2009 : <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/fso/alfood/2009/alf10209.pdf>

DSCP INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) As the FDA investigates and vendors identify/issue their affected product for recall, the CSO will initiate an ALFOODACT, if warranted. Often times, agencies procure on a "local purchase" and product is not always visible as being in the DOD inventory. All agencies and field personnel can assist by forwarding POSITIVE results for items being recalled that is known to be in their local area and/or DOD affiliated inventory. Please provide the root document (recall) with notification of POSITIVE results.

(2) This correspondence acts as a Consumer Warning not to eat pistachios. As the FDA investigates and vendors identify/issue their affected product for recall, the CSO will initiate an ALFOODACT, if warranted.

(3) The Point Of Contact for this alert notice is CW4 Ramona Hemphill, 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 alert and recall messages electronically can forward their email address to dscpconssafofc@dlamail.mil

Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site: <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/fso/alfood/alfood.asp>

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

Very Respectfully,
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