

Texas Firm Recalls Chili for Possible Botulinum Toxin Contamination

A Fort Worth, Texas firm, Classic Foods, LP, is voluntarily recalling approximately 15,000 pounds of frozen chili that may be contaminated with botulinum toxins, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced September 3, 2001 in Washington, DC.

The recalled product is 5 POUND TUBS OF "SHERIFF BAYLOCK'S BEST CHILI" and the inside of the USDA seal of inspection on each tub lid is marked "EST13516." In addition, each tub carries the label "PRODUCT CODE 500" above the brand name and a package code of either "10861" or "20861" on the side of each tub. The product, produced on March 27, 2001, was distributed to retail and wholesale operations in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Texas, and the state of Washington.

FSIS administrator Thomas Billy stated, "because of the potential hazard of foodborne illness, consumers should not eat this chili. They are requested to keep the product frozen, return it to the store where it was purchased, and call the tollfree USA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555 with the name of that store." The hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday and recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

The contamination was discovered after several incidences of illness were reported in Texas.

This is a Class I recall, as Botulism is a rare, but serious, paralytic illness caused by the nerve toxin. Symptoms of botulism include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness. The illness can cause paralysis, respiratory failure, and death. Symptoms usually occur from 18 to 36 hours after eating contaminated food. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a physician.

N.G.A. urges members who sell these products to post a consumer safety warning in their stores advising consumers of the safety recall and urging them to return the product to them. N.G.A. also encourages retailers and consumers to contact N.G.A. with further questions on this and other food safety issues.

If you or your consumers have questions about the recall you may contact Jeff Osborne, vice president of operations, Classic Foods, at 1-800-422-4454.

Would you prefer to receive Action and Recall Alerts via e-mail? E-mail us at
publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org.

1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 250, Virginia 22201-5758
Phone: 703-516-0700 Fax: 703-516-0115
Email: info@nationalgrocers.org
Website: www.nationalgrocers.org
