

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

SUBJECT: DSCP Alert 001-2008 FDA Warns Consumers Nationwide Not to Eat Certain Types of Raw Red Tomatoes

DSCP Issue Date: June 10, 2008

FDA has posted a Consumer Warning, not a recall, for certain types of raw tomatoes. For a complete and updated listing of suspected products see:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>. DSCP CSO will not provide further updates for this consumer warning, please refer to the FDA web link. Once the FDA's investigation is complete, if warranted, the CSO will initiate an ALFOODACT.

FDA Warns Consumers Nationwide Not to Eat Certain Types of Raw Red Tomatoes

The Food and Drug Administration is expanding its warning to consumers nationwide that a salmonellosis outbreak has been linked to consumption of certain raw red plum, red Roma, and red round tomatoes, and products containing these raw, red tomatoes.

FDA recommends that consumers not eat raw red Roma, raw red plum, raw red round tomatoes, or products that contain these types of raw red tomatoes unless the tomatoes are from the sources listed below. If unsure of where tomatoes are grown or harvested, consumers are encouraged to contact the store where the tomato purchase was made. Consumers should continue to eat cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, or tomatoes grown at home.

On June 5, using traceback and other distribution pattern information, FDA published a list of states, territories, and countries where tomatoes are grown and harvested which have not been associated with this outbreak. This updated list includes: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Netherlands, and Puerto Rico. The list is available at:

www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html#retailers

<<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>>. This list will be updated by FDA as more information becomes available.

FDA's recommendation does not apply to the following tomatoes from any source: cherry, grape, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached.

FDA recommends that retailers, restaurateurs, and food service operators not offer for sale and service raw red Roma, raw red plum, and raw red round tomatoes unless they are from the sources listed above. Cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, may continue to be offered from any source.

Since mid April, there have been 145 reported cases of salmonellosis caused by Salmonella Saintpaul nationwide, including at least 23 hospitalizations. States reporting illnesses linked to the outbreak include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Salmonella Saintpaul is an uncommon type of Salmonella.

FDA recognizes that the source of the contaminated tomatoes may be limited to a single grower or packer or tomatoes from a specific geographic area. FDA also recognizes that there are many tomato crops across the country and in foreign countries that will be ready for harvest or will become ready in the coming months. In order to ensure that consumers can continue to enjoy tomatoes that are safe to eat, FDA is working diligently with the states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, and various food industry trade associations to quickly determine the source of the tomatoes associated with the outbreak.

FDA is taking these actions while the agency continues to investigate this outbreak with state and federal partners. Such actions are a key component of FDA's Food Protection Plan

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/advance/food.html>, a scientific and risk-based approach to strengthen and protect the nation's food supply.

FDA will continue to issue updates as more specific information becomes available. Tomato consumer page can be found at www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html Updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can be found at www.cdc.gov/

DSCP INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) Secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item and return to vendor.

(2) This correspondence acts as a Consumer Warning not to eat certain types of raw red tomatoes. For a complete and updated listing of suspected products see: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>. DSCP CSO will not provide further updates for this consumer warning, please refer to the FDA web link. Once the FDA's investigation is complete, if warranted, the CSO will initiate an ALFOODACT.

(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@dla.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,

Mrs. Ramona Hemphill

CW4 Ramona Hemphill
Consumer Safety Officer, DSCP
Food Safety Office
DSN: 444-2922
Voice: (215) 737-2922
Fax: (215) 737-7526