



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter #2009-19

To: Local Directors of Health
Certified Food Inspectors
Chief Sanitarians

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS; Coordinator, Food Protection Program

Date: March 31, 2009

Subject: **Recall of bulk roasted shelled pistachios from Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc.**

Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. has voluntarily recalled specific lots of bulk roasted shelled pistachios due to potential contamination with *Salmonella*. Several illnesses have been reported that appear to be associated with pistachios, and an investigation is ongoing. One million pounds of recalled product was distributed nationwide to wholesale customers who have further processed, repackaged, or distributed the product and it is anticipated that many packaged products containing pistachios will be affected. To assist in the identification of associated recalled products, FDA has set up a website with a searchable database for consumers and industry. <http://www.fda.gov/pistachios/>

Due to the wide distribution of the bulk product, it is likely that Connecticut has received some of the affected product. To date, we are aware that Shaw's Supermarkets has notified some of their stores to remove identified affected product from store shelves. Kraft Foods and Frito-Lay have issued press releases (posted on the above FDA website) identifying some of their products that are affected by the recall.

Please note that this recall is not related in any way to the ongoing peanut and peanut butter recall associated with Peanut Corporation of America.

Local Health officials are encouraged to check the FDA website daily for recalled product updates. The Food Protection Program advises local health departments to share this information with food service establishments, food and beverage vending machine operations, institutions (schools, long-term care facilities, hospitals, etc.), and retail food establishments that are likely to have received these products.

At this time FDA is recommending that consumers avoid eating pistachio products until more information is available about affected products.

The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) is aware of the recall and may be contacted at (860) 713-6160 for distribution information and assistance.

cc Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
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