

SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 040-2011 Cal Fresco, LLC Recalls Jalapeño and Serrano Chili Peppers Due to Possible Health Risk

Date Issued: December 22, 2011

1. REFERENCES:

- 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:

Cal Fresco, LLC (“Cal Fresco”) is voluntarily working with the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) and California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) to coordinate a recall of fresh Jalapeño and Serrano chili peppers for potential contamination with Salmonella. The FDA has advised that a random sample of Cal Fresco Jalapeño and Serrano peppers has tested positive for Salmonella.

The Jalapeño Peppers

The Jalapeño recall is limited to one (1) lot (Lot #205610) containing approximately 18,500 pounds of peppers. The source of the contamination is unknown. The lot was distributed to retail stores within California, Oregon, Washington, Texas and Canada between December 3 and December 5, 2011. The product was shipped in cases under both the Cal Fresco (10 and 25 pound cases) and Grower Alliance (40 pound case) labels. The product is typically sold at the retail level in bulk by weight and has no retail packaging associated with it. All retail suppliers that received this affected lot have been notified and were directed to immediately remove and destroy any remaining product in their inventories.

This recall was the result of a random sampling event on December 12, 2011 by the USDA which revealed the presence of Salmonella on some of the product. Cal Fresco’s recall and traceability program enabled the company to quickly identify the supplier of the affected product, which originated in Mexico. Cal Fresco has ceased the distribution of all produce from this supplier while the FDA, the California Department of Public Health, and the company continue their investigation into the source of the contamination.

The Serrano Peppers

Based upon information provided to Cal Fresco by the FDA and CDPH, the Serrano peppers were delivered to a retail distribution center Spokane, Washington on December 8, 2011. The source of the contamination is unknown. This recall was the result of a random USDA sampling of bulk Serrano peppers on December 12 at a Spokane, WA distribution center which revealed the presence of Salmonella in some, but not all, of the sampling. Cal Fresco has a sampling, traceability and recall program in place to detect and prevent the distribution of contaminated product. However, because the USDA Sample and Isolated Pathogen Information Report failed to disclose individual lot numbers, and because the results of that report were not provided to Cal Fresco until December 19, 2011, (five days after the sampling occurred), Cal Fresco must rely on information provided by the FDA and CDPH to trace the contaminated peppers to their source. Based upon that information, Cal Fresco has identified the affected peppers as being

part of Lot #205467, originating in Mexico. Cal Fresco has ceased the distribution of all produce from this supplier while the FDA, the California Department of Public Health, and the company continue their investigation into the source of the contamination.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

No illnesses have been reported to date. Other than the Jalapeño and Serrano peppers described above, no other Cal Fresco product has been affected by this recall.

3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:

The Jalapeño Peppers

Between the dates of December 3 and December 21, 2011

The Jalapeño recall is limited to one (1) lot (Lot #205610) containing approximately 18,500 pounds of peppers.

The product was shipped in cases under both the Cal Fresco (10 and 25 pound cases) and Grower Alliance (40 pound case) labels. The product is typically sold at the retail level in bulk by weight and has no retail packaging associated with it.

The Serrano Peppers

Between the dates of December 3 and December 21, 2011

Cal Fresco has identified the affected peppers as being part of Lot #205467, originating in Mexico

This product is typically sold at the retail level in bulk by weight and has no retail packaging associated with it.

Product Container Photo: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm284539.htm>

4. MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR:

Cal Fresco, LLC ("Cal Fresco")

714-690-7700

5. DISTRIBUTION: (Multiple States) The lot was distributed to retail stores within California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Alaska, and Canada between December 3 and December 5, 2011.

6. REASON FOR ACTION: Due to potentially being contaminated with Salmonella

7. INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:

a. Immediately inventory stocks to identify the above items and secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use. POSITIVE FINDINGS should be reported to Accountable Officers/Vendor Representatives of that facility. Accountable Officer/Agency representatives/Buyers/Contracting Officers should seek/refund/credit/replacement through

the normal distribution channel with which the product was received (i.e. Distribution Centers, Prime Vendors, or Manufacturers).

b. 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. In order to get credit please use a SF 364 and forward to your supporting NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center (NAVSUP FLC) and copy furnished to NAVSUP 51. Your supporting NAVSUP FLC should forward to the account manager at DLA Troop Support. The form should include the number of the recall authorizing the survey action. Homeported ships/galleys will utilize DD form 1149 to transfer w/ reimbursement to the PV. The PV will submit credit invoice to the account manager at DLA Troop Support.

c. DLA Troop Support Subsistence Prime Vendors must report POSITIVE and NEGATIVE RESPONSES directly to the their DLA Troop Support Contracting Officer with a courtesy copy to the Consumer Safety Officer (dscpconssafofc@dla.mil).

d. DeCA, AAFES, MWR, VA, MCCS, or other non-DLA Troop Support agencies SHOULD NOT respond to the DLA Troop Support Consumer Safety Officer. These agencies should report POSITIVE and NEGATIVE responses in accordance with their agency recall policies.

e. When corresponding with DLA Troop Support concerning this message please include this message's subject in your subject line.

8. The Point of Contact for this ALFOODACT message is CW3 Tony Hemphill, Consumer Safety Officer at DLA-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-2922, Commercial (215) 737-2922, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526, email dscpconssafofc@dla.mil.

9. Individuals or groups that would like to receive recall messages electronically can forward their email address to dscpconssafofc@dla.mil, with "add to list" in the subject line. To be removed from the list place "remove from list" in the subject line.

10. Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site: <http://www.troopsupport.dla.mil/subs/fso/alfood/alfood.asp> . The navigation tool to the left allows you to also view DLA Troop Support Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls.

CW3(P) Tony D. Hemphill
Consumer Safety Officer
DLA Troop Support
700 Robinson Ave.
Philadelphia, PA. 19111
Ph. (215) 737-2922
DSN 444-2922
Cell (215) 298-2808
Fax 215-737-7526
Tony.Hemphill@dla.mil
Tony.Hemphill@us.army.mil
TonyHemphill@ln.amedd.army.mil