SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 2015-009 FDA Investigates Listeria monocytogenes in Ice Cream Products from Blue Bell Creameries

Date Issued: March 18, 2015

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/UPDATE**:
According to the CDC and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, five patients who were treated in a single hospital in Kansas were infected with one of four rare strains of Listeria monocytogenes. Three of these strains, which are highly similar, have also been found in products manufactured at the Blue Bell Creameries production facility in Brenham, Texas. Illness onset dates range from January 2014 to January 2015.

FDA was notified that these three strains and four other rare strains of Listeria monocytogenes were found in samples of Blue Bell Creameries single serving Chocolate Chip Country Cookie Sandwich and the Great Divide Bar ice cream products collected by the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control during routine product sampling at a South Carolina distribution center, on February 12, 2015. These products are manufactured at Blue Bell Creameries' Brenham facility.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, subsequently, collected product samples from the Blue Bell Creameries Brenham facility. These samples yielded Listeria monocytogenes from the same products tested by South Carolina and a third single-serving ice cream product, Scoops, which is also made on the same production line.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, hospital records available for four patients show that all were served ice cream from Blue Bell Creameries' prepackaged, single-serving products and milkshakes made from these products. The hospital receives ice cream manufactured by Blue Bell Creameries, although it is not confirmed that the hospital receives ice cream only from the Brenham facility.

All five case patients are adults. Three deaths have been reported.

Blue Bell Creameries reports that it has removed the affected ice cream products from the market (see section below "What Products are Involved?") by picking it up directly from the retailers and hospital settings it serves. The company has also shut down the production line where the products were made.

The FDA has moved quickly to investigate this issue and learn as much as possible to prevent additional people from becoming ill. We recognize that people will be concerned about these illnesses, and we will continue to provide updates and advice.

3. **PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES**:
The following products are subject to recall:

Blue Bell Creameries reports that the following products were removed from the market. This action includes only the products listed below and does not include Blue Bell cups, pints or half gallons.

Product Name Product Code:

Chocolate Chip Country Cookie SKU # 196 Great Divide Bar SKU #108 Sour Pop Green Apple Bar SKU #221 Cotton Candy Bar SKU #216 Scoops SKU #117 Vanilla Stick Slices SKU #964 Almond Bars SKU #156
6 pack Cotton Candy Bars SKU #245
6 pack Sour Pop Green Apple Bars SKU #249
12 pack No Sugar Added Mooo Bars* SKU #343

*The regular Mooo Bars, available at grocery stores, are not subject to recall.

All above products produced since November 2014 are included in this query. Specific code dates are listed below.

Code Date Shipments:
November 2014 and forward

6pk Sour Apple Bar - #249
Product was not shipped from November 2014.

6pk Cotton Candy Bar - #245
073116A
082316A
082516A
082616A
092616A

12pk NSA Moo Bars - #343
092216A
092316A
092416A
092516A
101416A
101516A
101616A
101716A
111016A
111116A
123016A
122916A

4. **MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR**:

Blue Bell Creameries
Consumer Relations
P.O. Box 1807
Brenham, TX 77834

979-836-7977

5. **DISTRIBUTION**: All

6. **REASON FOR ACTION**: Due to Listeria contamination

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 (For instructions on how to “Properly Prepare a Standard Form” (SF) 364 please use this link [http://www.landandmaritime.dla.mil/Offices/Packaging/PrepSF364.asp]) 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. Home-ported 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 MAJ Joseph Eggers, Veterinary Liaison Officer at DLA-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-2934, Commercial (215) 737-2934, 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.

Regards,

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