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SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 2017-011: Deutsch Kase Haus, LLC recalls Longhorn Colby due to possible *Listeria monocytogenes* under Sargento and Amish Classics brands

Date Issued: February 12, 2017

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: Routine, random testing by Tennessee food inspectors found *Listeria monocytogenes* in colby cheese and has triggered recalls of a variety of Sargento, Meijer and Amish Classics cheese products.

No illnesses had been reported to Tennessee officials or Michigan-based grocery chain Meijer, according to a state alert and a recall notice posted Thursday and Friday, respectively. However, it can take up to 70 days for symptoms of *Listeria* infection to develop following exposure to the bacteria.

“*Listeria monocytogenes* is unlike many other germs because it can grow in a cold environment,” according to the Tennessee alert. “Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women and may be fatal for individuals with weakened immune systems.”

All of the recalled cheeses were produced by Deutsch Kase Haus LLC, a Middlebury, IN, company owned by Michigan Milk Producers association since fall 2016. It was not clear Friday evening whether the recalled cheese had been packaged under any brands other than Sargento, Meijer and Amish Classics.

Tennessee authorities and officials from all of the companies posting recall information indicated they are working with the Food and Drug Administration to determine the source of the contamination.

“On Jan. 30, TDA (Tennessee Department of Agriculture) took a sample of the Amish Classic Colby from a store in Trenton, TN,” according to the Thursday consumer alert from the agriculture department.

“Tests conducted in the state lab confirmed the food was contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The Food and Drug Administration is investigating the source and extent of the contamination and determining how many retailers received these batches of cheese.”

3. Product affected: Consumers across the country are urged to check their refrigerators for recalled **Sargento, and Amish Classics** brands sliced and shredded cheese, which can be identified by specific label codes listed below. No one should consume the recalled cheese.

Sargento, packaged in their facility in Plymouth, WI:

- Sargento Sliced Colby-Jack Cheese, 12 oz., UPC 4610000109 with “Sell By” date of “11JUN17B”
- Sargento Sliced Pepper Jack Cheese, 12 oz., UPC 4610000108 with “Sell By” dates of “12JUN17B”, “09JUL17B” and “10JUL17B”
- Sargento Chef Blends Shredded Taco Cheese 8 oz., UPC 4610040002 with “Sell By” dates of “H14JUN17”, “F28JUN17” and “D28JUN17”
- Sargento Off The Block Shredded Fine Cut Colby-Jack Cheese, 8 oz., UPC 4610040014 with “Sell By” date of “F05JUL17”
- Sargento Off The Block Shredded Fine Cut Cheddar Jack Cheese, 8 oz., UPC 4610040076 with “Sell By” date of “F05JUL17”
- Sargento Ultra Thin Sliced Longhorn Colby, 6.84 oz., UPC 4610000228, with ‘Sell By’ dates of ‘12APR17B’ and ‘10MAY17B’
- Sargento Chef Blends Shredded Nacho & Taco Cheese, 8 oz., UPC 4610040041, with ‘Sell By’ dates of ‘H14JUN17’ and ‘H12JUL17’

Product photos can be found here: <https://info.sargento.com/>

Sargento valued consumers have been contacting us with their questions and concerns. We will continue to respond to our consumers and activate reimbursements. Please call 1-800-CHEESES (1-800-243-3737) or email us via the “**Contact Us**” page on Sargento.com. Phone calls will be answered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Central Time); emails should get a response within 24 hours.

Amish Classics, packed by MDS Foods in Ohio:

The specific brand and flavor of cheese that tested positive for *Listeria monocytogenes* was distributed by MDS Foods, an Ohio-based company. MDS Foods cut and packaged cheese from Deutsch Kase Haus LLC in a manufacturing facility located in Tullahoma, TN, before distributing it under the Amish Classics brand.

“The manufacturer, Deutsch Kase Haus LLC, is instructing all wholesalers and retailers to discontinue selling their existing stock of Amish Classic Colby deli horns distributed by MDS Foods under the Amish Classic label with item number 55209 and sold as sliced deli cheese. They are also recalling lot numbers 110316V02, 110316V03 and 110316V04,” [according to the notice](#) on the Tennessee agriculture department website.

“The company is also removing packaged Amish Classic Colby Cheese with item numbers 55241 and 55245 which were cut from the suspect 55209 product and wrapped at the MDS Foods manufacturing facility located in Tullahoma, Tenn.

Product photos can be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/48528>

4. 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.dla.mil/LandandMaritime/Offers/Services/TechnicalSupport/Logistics/Packaging/PrepareSF364.aspx>]) 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 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.

5. The Point of Contact for this ALFOODACT message is CW3 Jemme Neal, Consumer Safety Officer at DLA-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-4670, Commercial (215) 737-4670 or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526, or email: dscpconssafofc@dla.mil.

6. 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.

7. Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site: <http://www.dla.mil/TroopSupport/Subsistence/FoodSafety/fso/ALFOODACT.aspx>

The navigation tool to the left allows you to also view DLA Troop Support Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls.

Regards,

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