



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Advisory Recall of "MARANATHA SESAME TAHINI" AND "365 ORGANIC EVERYDAY VALUE SESAME TAHINI"

Principal Investigator: Jerry LeMoine

Date: May 26, 2007

Release #: 2007-Sesame Tahini-1

INCIDENT

- STATE HEALTH OFFICER ADVISES CONSUMERS NOT TO EAT MARANATHA SESAME TAHINI AND 365 ORGANIC EVERYDAY VALUE SESAME TAHINI DUE TO POSSIBLE SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Environmental Health Services has contacted local Santa Cruz County retail health food stores to advise them of the recall and be certain that any recalled product is removed from sales shelves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Santa Cruz County Health Department is advising consumers not to eat two brands of tahini, a paste made from sesame seeds, because the products could be contaminated with salmonella. No illnesses associated with these items have been confirmed to date. Consumers should check their shelves or refrigerators for this product and destroy it or take it back to the place of purchase to ensure they do not become ill.

INFORMATION

- According to a news release from nSpire Natural Foods, MaraNatha of San Leandro, California, is voluntarily recalling all Maranatha brand Sesame Tahini. Products affected are Organic Raw Sesame Tahini, Organic Roasted Sesame Tahini, Natural Raw Sesame Tahini and Natural Roasted Sesame Tahini. The recalled products are packaged in a 16-ounce glass jar, and 15-lb and 32-lb sizes and were distributed in California and nationwide through distributors, retail stores and mail order. Salmonella contamination was discovered during routine, random sample testing by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Consumers may contact the company at 1-800-883-8312.
- According to a company news release, Whole Foods Market is voluntarily recalling 365 Organic Everyday Value brand Sesame Tahini that was distributed by Whole Foods Market retail stores throughout California. The recalled products are packaged in 16-ounce glass jars and labeled 365 Organic Everyday Value Sesame Tahini with Best By Date of 10/02/07 or earlier located on the top of the jar, and UPC number 0009948240599.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

- **Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

- Consumers may contact the company at 1-512-477-5566, ext. 20656.
- Tahini is commonly used in hummus. Salmonellosis is an acute bacterial infection commonly characterized by diarrhea and fever. Symptoms usually develop within one to four days after eating contaminated food. Most ill individuals recover without the need for medical attention. However, in some persons the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. Salmonella can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

If you have consumed this product within the last four days and develop any of the above symptoms, please seek medical attention. If you believe that you are ill as a result of consuming this product, please save any remaining portion, seal it carefully, refrigerate it and notify Environmental Health Services at 831-454- 2022 so that we may further investigate.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Consumers may contact the company at 1-512-477-5566, ext. 20656.