



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

701 Ocean St., Room 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128 TDD: (831) 454-4123

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Advisory Recall of Bibi Rainbow Chewing Gum Confection, Tamanzela Candies and Tarritos Candies

Principal Investigator: Jerry LeMoine

Date: February 7, 2008

Release #: 2008-imported mexican candy

INCIDENT

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today warned consumers not to eat Bibi Rainbow Chewing Gum Confection, Tamanzela candies and Tarritos candies, which are imported from Mexico, after tests by CDPH found levels of lead that could cause health problems. Eating lead-contaminated candy is particularly harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Primary distribution of these products appears to be located in Southern California and no information on distribution to Santa Cruz County has been identified. Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Staff will be monitoring retail stores for these products during routine inspections to ensure these recalled products are not being sold in Santa Cruz County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division is warning consumers not to eat the recalled brands of Mexican candy they may still have in their homes. Consumers who have Bibi Rainbow, Tamanzela or Tarritos candies should discard them. Pregnant women and parents of children who may have eaten these candies should consult their physician or health care provider to determine if medical testing is needed. Consumers who find Bibi Rainbow, Tamanzela or Tarritos candies for sale are encouraged to call the CDPH Complaint Hotline at 1-800-495-3232 or Environmental Health at (831) 454-2022.

INFORMATION

- Bibi Rainbow is distributed by T. J. Candy Corporation of Montebello and Dulceria Guadalajara, Inc. of Industry. These companies have initiated voluntary recalls of the product and are working with CDPH to ensure that all product is removed from store shelves.
- Bibi Rainbow is packaged in 0.77 ounce plastic bottles, shaped like baby bottles, with brightly colored caps. Each bottle contains pieces of chewing gum of various colors and assorted flavors. The individual bottles are not labeled. The bottles are packaged in a plastic bag with 12 bottles in each bag. The net weight of the bag is 9.3 oz. (264 grams). The front of the plastic bag is yellow and contains the words "Bibi Rainbow" in red.



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.

- Tamanzela candy is packaged in a plastic jar containing 40 pieces of candy. The net weight of the container is 1.65 pounds, and each candy weighs approximately 0.5 ounces. There is a yellow label on the front of the jar. The label contains the word “Tamanzela.” The individual candies are red in color, are approximately 6 inches long, and are wrapped around a yellow plastic straw.
- Tarritos candy is packaged in a 3.3 ounce glass jar with a white plastic cover. The jars contain a green label with the word “Tarritos” in yellow. The jelly-like candy is packaged in quantities of six jars per box.
- Recent analyses of these candies by CDPH found that that the maximum lead levels found were 0.90 ppm for Bibi Rainbow, 0.71 ppm for Tamanzela, and 0.17 ppm for Tarritos. California considers candies with lead levels in excess of 0.10 ppm to be adulterated. This level is consistent with the guidance issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November 2006 on the recommended maximum lead level of 0.10 ppm in candy products likely to be consumed by children.
- For more information about lead poisoning, consumers are advised to contact their local childhood lead poisoning prevention program at (831) 763-8206 or public health department at (831) 454-4000.
- www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts for informational updates and other alerts