



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

FD 22-08

MEMORANDUM

TO: Food Distribution Program Participants
FROM: Tina Herzog, Food Distribution Program Director
Arizona Department of Education, Food Distribution Program
DATE: February 20, 2008
SUBJECT: **UPDATE Beef Hold – Changed to Recall on 2/17/08**

Original Signed

The “HOLD” placed January 30, 2008 on Hallmark/Westland beef has now gone to “RECALL.”

A Class II recall has been announced by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on all Hallmark/Westland Meat Company products dating back to February 1, 2006. A Class II recall is a health hazard situation where there is a remote probability of adverse health consequences from the use of the product.

This recall will be in two stages: Stage I is for product currently on hold; Stage II will be for product received between February 1, 2006 and October 1, 2006.

- This announcement is for Stage I product.
- All Destruction Verification Forms are due to ADE no later than **February 28, 2008**. If we do not receive your information by this date, you may not be eligible for reimbursement from USDA.
- A separate announcement will be issued for Stage II product.

What products are affected? (Commodity Codes A594 and A608)

- Fine grind ground beef purchased by USDA from Hallmark/Westland.
- Further processed products produced from Hallmark/Westland meat provided by USDA.
- Fine grind product may be identified by the Establishment Number (Est. 336).
- Further processed products will **not** contain either the Hallmark/Westland name or its establishment number. You will need to contact your processor for this information.

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- Verify with the processors BEFORE destroying the processed cases to make sure those cases are included in the recall; otherwise you will not be reimbursed for the disposal of the items. These beef processors include Advance, Don Lee, Integrated, JTM, King's Command, MCI/Los Cabos, & Pierre. We will be posting updates for each processor on the website shortly.

All Hallmark/Westland products, including further processed products containing any amount of Hallmark/Westland meat must be destroyed and cannot be used or reconditioned for human or animal consumption.

How to dispose of 50 cases or less of recalled products:

You are authorized immediately to destroy on-site 50 or fewer cases of USDA-purchased Hallmark/Westland fine grind ground beef. These products must be rendered unfit for human consumption according to destruction guidance from your local health authority.

- Destruction must be witnessed by a person of authority, (such as a food service director) and one other person.
- Each witness must sign the destruction verification forms (attached). There are separate forms for A594 and A608 products. Please put these products on their respective forms.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the forms.
- **The Destruction Verification Form is attached.**

How to dispose of more than 50 cases:

More than 50 cases (but less than a truckload) of product must be taken to a landfill, incinerated, or sent for inedible rendering.

- Destruction of these larger quantities must be witnessed by a representative of the local health department and an official from the landfill, incineration plant, or rendering plant.
- The destruction verification forms (attached) must be signed by these two witnesses. Again, there are separate forms for A594 and A608 products. Please put these products on their respective forms.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the forms.
- **The Destruction Verification Form is attached.**

How to dispose of truckload quantities:

Very large quantities (truckload) held at cold storage facilities, warehouses, or further processors will require special arrangements with landfills or other disposal sites, incinerators, or rendering facilities. In the case of these very large quantities, State Distributing Agencies (SDA's) will need to coordinate with State or Federal officials (FSIS or AMS) to receive certification that the product was destroyed and cannot be consumed.

What if I cannot fit all of the further processed products into the Destruction Verification Form?

You may submit spread sheets, tables, charts, or equivalent information on further processed product along with your signed Destruction Verification Form.

Replacement Questions:

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USDA will pursue every avenue available to provide replacement raw commodity. You will receive further information on this question from your SDA.

Reimbursement Issues:

Payment to processors (more information will be coming regarding processors payment):

Schools should pay processors for:

- Any processed product that has been delivered into the State

Schools should not pay processors for the following at this time but should include copies of invoices for:

- Any processed product that is waiting to be delivered to the State
- Any storage costs (for up to one month) of raw product that has been at the processor awaiting processing.

Reimbursable Expenses

The following are reimbursable expenses:

- Transportation to destruction site
- Storage (for up to 1 month)
- Destruction
- Processing / Fee For Service cost

All reimbursable expensed MUST have accompanying receipts and must be documented on the Destruction Verification Form.

Non-reimbursable Expenses

The following are examples of, but not limited to, non-reimbursable expenses

- Storage at school level
- Overtime compensation for employees
- Long-distance phone calls and other associated administrative expenses
- Reimbursement for commercially-purchased food used in place of the recalled product

Please **mail** all completed Destruction Verification Forms and supporting documentation (including receipts) to the following address:

Arizona Department of Education
Food Distribution Program
1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin # 7
Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR

Fax / e-mail copies to

Fax # (602) 542-6978 E-mail FDP@azed.gov

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With all the recent media attention regarding this issue, USDA has given contact information for people calling with further questions about the recall or food safety concerns. Please see the contact information below to direct phone calls regarding these issues:

Media and consumers with questions about the recall should contact company Plant Manager Stan Mendell or Food Safety Consultant Steve Sayer at (909) 590-3340.

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

Remember: All Destruction Verification Forms are due to ADE no later than **February 28, 2008**. If we do not receive your information by this date, you may not be eligible for reimbursement from USDA.

NOTE: All ADE Beef Recall information is posted on our website at <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/BeefRecall.asp>. You can access USDA news releases and other information at the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Food Distribution Program at FDP@azed.gov or call a member of the Food Distribution team at one of the numbers listed below:

Name	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Tina Herzog	Program Director	(602) 542-8781	Tina.Herzog@azed.gov
Leona Benally	Processing Specialist	(602) 364-1965	Leona.Benally@azed.gov
Dawn Irvine	Processing Specialist	(602) 364-0714	Dawn.Irvine@azed.gov
Barbara Lado	Program/Project Specialist	(602) 542-8721	Barbara.Lado@azed.gov

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