#### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### ORIENTAL PACKING CO. CURRY RECALL: ONE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE



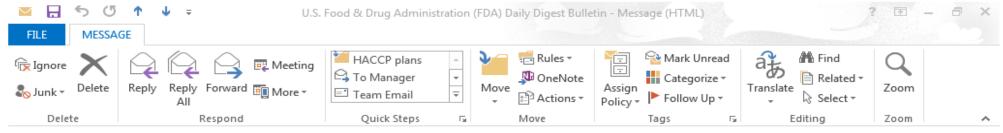
2017

ROBIN SLEEMAN, MSPH, RS
COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR











Sat 8/20/2016 6:12 AM

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) <fda@service.govdelivery.com>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Daily Digest Bulletin

- To Sleeman, Robin Z.
- 1 If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

  Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.



#### Oriental Packing Co. Inc. Issues Alert On Lead In Curry Powder

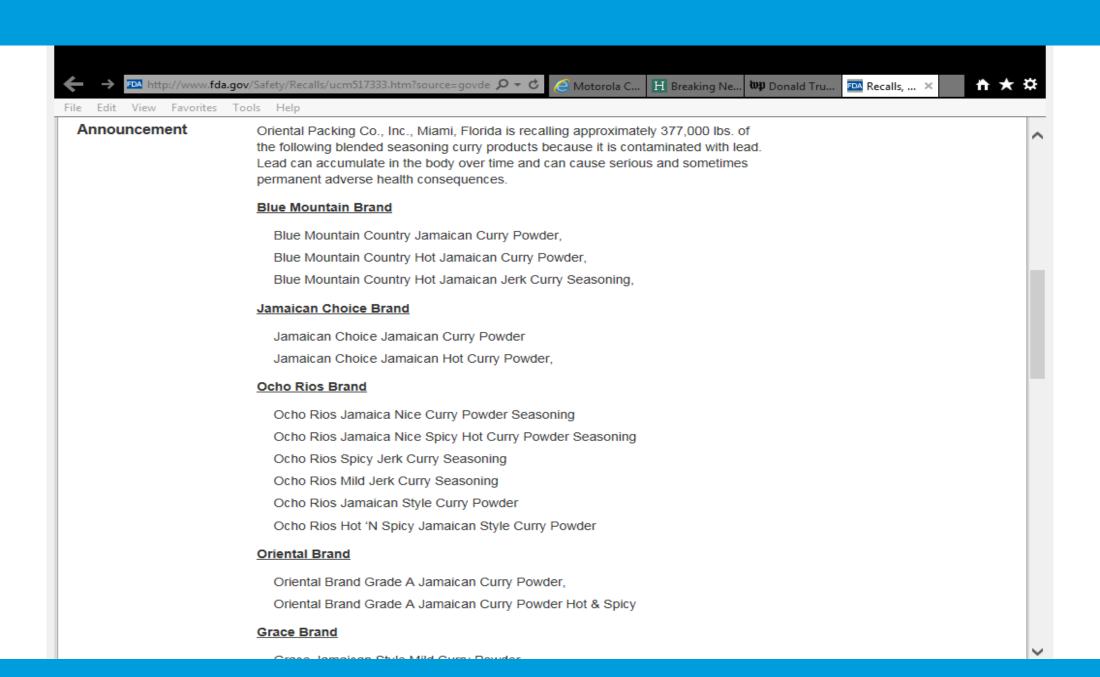
08/19/2016

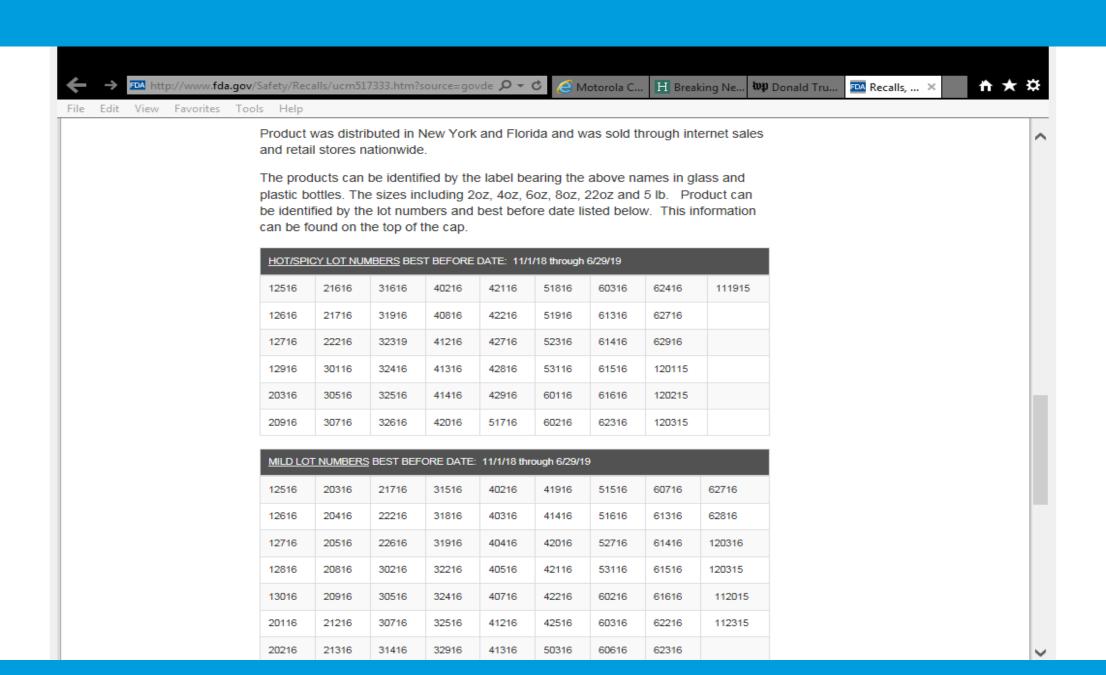
You are subscribed to Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts for U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

This information has recently been updated and is now available.

Oriental Packing Co. Inc. Issues Alert On Lead In Curry Powder

08/18/2016 08:12 PM EDT







# **Initial Complaint**

- The recall activity in Prince George's County began with a call from a concerned citizen.
- The complainant stated that they had seen the recalled curry for sale in three international grocery stores.

- The complaint was accurate.
- The first store checked did carry the recalled product lines.
- All Jamaican Choice and Blue Mountain brands on the shelf were included in the recall
- The Grace products available for sale were not recalled lots but the manager decided to return them anyway.



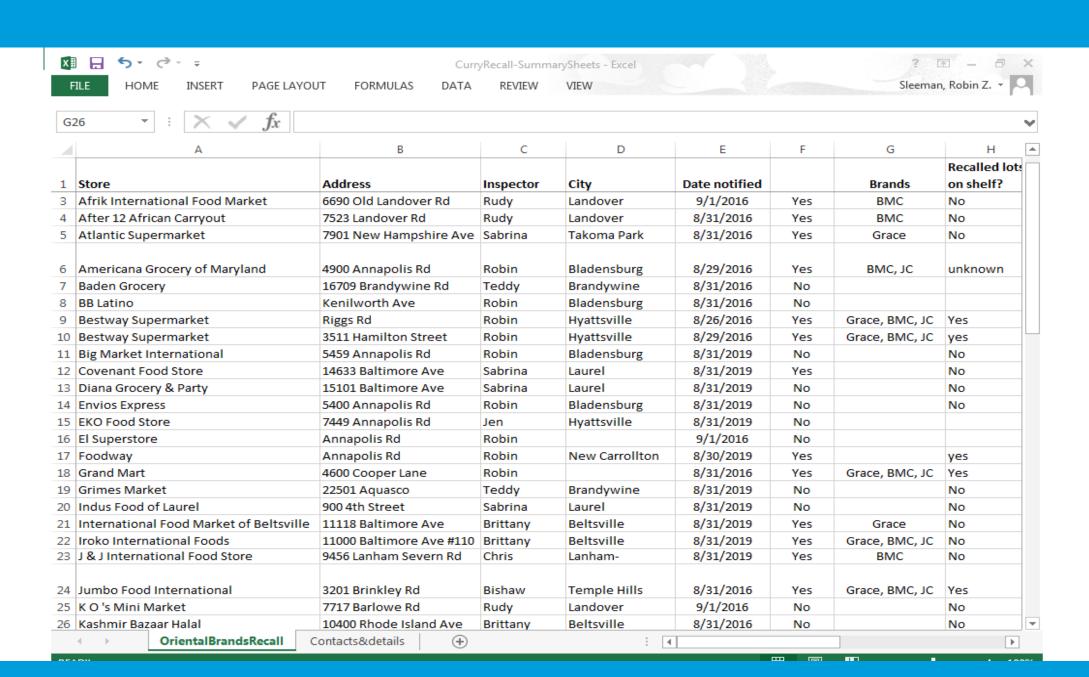
- The second store checked also had recalled curry powder on the shelves.
- The owner of the second grocery was aware of the recall of Grace products and the effected lot numbers had been returned to the distributor.



										III		di	1
File	Edit View Window He	elp											
Hon	ne Tools Silver	SpringMarket ×	LaGrandeSu	permar					(				
	→ □ □ Q	⊕ ⊕	2 / 2	•	→ 103%	<b>1</b> 4	+;+)	<b>₩</b>	9 1				
	MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGEINE AUTHORITY: Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General §§ 21-211, 21-313 and 21-314  FOOD SERVICE FACILITY MONITORING AND OBSERVATION REPORT  Priority: Moderate Primary Purpose: Food Complaint 2nd Purpose: Other												
	Establishment Name: SILVER SPRING MARKET  Date: 8/26/2016									TY SING			
	Item/Loca	tion	TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS  CCP Temp °F V Item/Location					ССР Т	emp°F V	11/2 00	ALITY SING	E 1925	19
	item/Loca	CCF Temp		Itell	// Location		CCF	emp i v				-	
			_							Grad	ce/		
	Critical Control Point(CCP) 1-Cooking 2-Cooling 3-Cold Holding 4-Hot Holding 5-Reheating												
	OBSERVATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS										T	oan	
	Item Number	Corrected									jamai	cur	
	<u>Note</u>	5	This is inspection is in response to a complaint that the store is selling a curry powder that contains lead which has been recalled. The recall was announced on 8/18/2016								Style UT Powde	ry ery	
	There was Blue Mountain Country and Grace Curry for sale on the shelves. The Blue Mountain Country was removed from sale. The Grace curry lot numbers were checked against the recall information and were not part of the recall. Several small containers of Grace curry that did not have lot numbers were also removed from sale as a precaution. The Blue Mountain Country curry powder was purchased from International Wholesale in Washington D.C.								NET WT. 2 0	NO MSG 2. (569)			

- The third store had recalled Jamaican Choice and Blue Mountain curry available for sale.
- A check of a fourth international grocery found these brands as well.





# Memo from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to all Health Officers:

"The Rapid Response Team (RRT) in the Office of Food Protection has been working with Prince George's County Health Department on a complaint associated with a recalled product still being found for retail

sale..."

#### **Timeline**

- August 20 –FDA email announcing curry recall
- August 24 –Received a complaint from a concerned consumer about curry for sale at three locations.
- August 26 –Recalled product identified at two international grocery stores
- August 29 –Recalled product found at two additional stores
- August 29 –Notified District of Columbia Department of Health and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding distributors

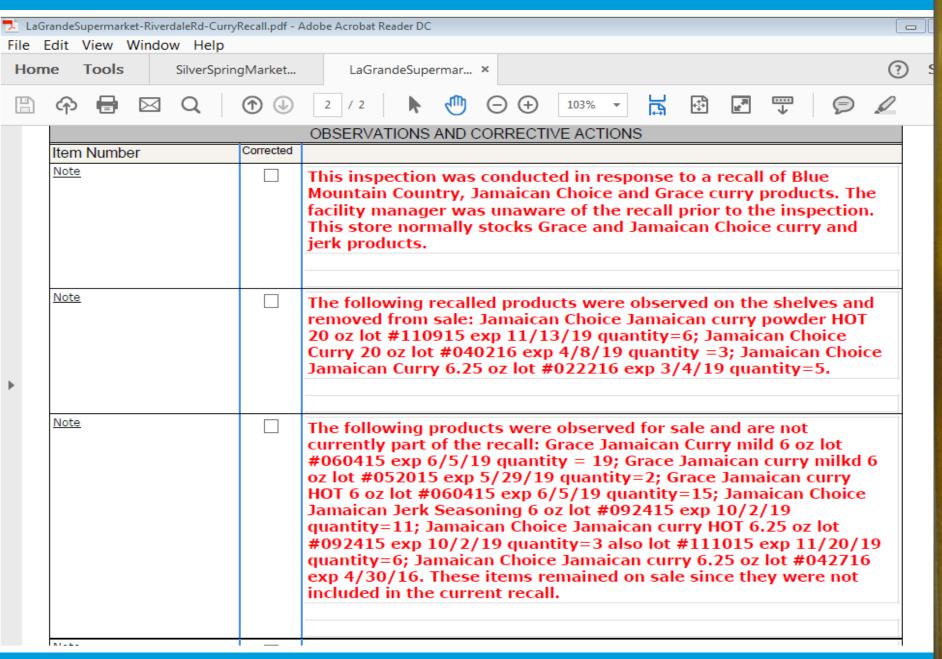
#### **Timeline**

- August 31 –Maryland DHMH memo to all Maryland Health Departments
- August 31- Prince George's County inspectors meet, identify international groceries and began checking each for curry powder
- August 31 –Complete inventory of curry for sale at one larger international market
- September 1 –Returned to two markets to document all recalled curry products awaiting return.

# **Inspections of Retail Facilities**

 Recalled products were primarily found in larger international groceries.







## **Inspection Results**

- 57 establishments were checked for curry powder
- 30 carried the listed product lines
- 9 retail outlets had the recalled product available to consumers
- The recalled curry powder was identified at an additional retail location on October 28, 2016.

## **Inspection Results**

- Most retail managers stated they were unaware of the recall.
- Managers indicated that this product was extremely popular with some of their shoppers.
- Managers had questions about the recall.
- In some cases the lot numbers matched a recalled lot but were identified as a different product. One product lacked lot numbers.

## **Inspection Results**

- Managers were cooperative but some were reluctant to share invoices.
- With one exception, the recalled products came either from a distributor in the District of Columbia or a distributor in Maryland.
- One distributor claimed to have notified the retail facilities. It seems as though some facilities ignored the faxed notice.

#### **Outcomes & Lessons Learned**

- Once aware of the extent of the recall our program acted quickly and removed a substantial amount of tainted product.
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and District of Columbia Department of Health acted quickly and inspected the implicated distributors.
- Future recalls that originate in New York should have our immediate attention.
- We now have a contact list of all of our international markets with e-mails.

## **Outcomes & Lessons Learned**

- No press release was issued by Maryland DHMH or the Prince George's County Health Officer.
- Many distributors and retail operators do not understand what the FDA means by a Voluntary Recall.

# Inspectors Participating in the Curry Recall

