

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

FOOD PROTECTION AND POLICY PROGRAM



PRODUCT
RECALL

2017

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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County



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

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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.

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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

Announcement

Oriental Packing Co., Inc., Miami, Florida is recalling approximately 377,000 lbs. of the following blended seasoning curry products because it is contaminated with lead. Lead can accumulate in the body over time and can cause serious and sometimes permanent adverse health consequences.

Blue Mountain Brand

Blue Mountain Country Jamaican Curry Powder,
Blue Mountain Country Hot Jamaican Curry Powder,
Blue Mountain Country Hot Jamaican Jerk Curry Seasoning,

Jamaican Choice Brand

Jamaican Choice Jamaican Curry Powder
Jamaican Choice Jamaican Hot Curry Powder,

Ocho Rios Brand

Ocho Rios Jamaica Nice Curry Powder Seasoning
Ocho Rios Jamaica Nice Spicy Hot Curry Powder Seasoning
Ocho Rios Spicy Jerk Curry Seasoning
Ocho Rios Mild Jerk Curry Seasoning
Ocho Rios Jamaican Style Curry Powder
Ocho Rios Hot 'N Spicy Jamaican Style Curry Powder

Oriental Brand

Oriental Brand Grade A Jamaican Curry Powder,
Oriental Brand Grade A Jamaican Curry Powder Hot & Spicy

Grace Brand

Grace Jamaican Style Mild Curry Powder

Product was distributed in New York and Florida and was sold through internet sales and retail stores nationwide.

The products can be identified by the label bearing the above names in glass and plastic bottles. The sizes including 2oz, 4oz, 6oz, 8oz, 22oz and 5 lb. Product can be identified by the lot numbers and best before date listed below. This information can be found on the top of the cap.

HOT/SPICY LOT NUMBERS BEST BEFORE DATE: 11/1/18 through 6/29/19

12516	21616	31616	40216	42116	51816	60316	62416	111915
12616	21716	31916	40816	42216	51916	61316	62716	
12716	22216	32319	41216	42716	52316	61416	62916	
12916	30116	32416	41316	42816	53116	61516	120115	
20316	30516	32516	41416	42916	60116	61616	120215	
20916	30716	32616	42016	51716	60216	62316	120315	

MILD LOT NUMBERS BEST BEFORE DATE: 11/1/18 through 6/29/19

12516	20316	21716	31516	40216	41916	51516	60716	62716
12616	20416	22216	31816	40316	41416	51616	61316	62816
12716	20516	22616	31916	40416	42016	52716	61416	120316
12816	20816	30216	32216	40516	42116	53116	61516	120315
13016	20916	30516	32416	40716	42216	60216	61616	112015
20116	21216	30716	32516	41216	42516	60316	62216	112315
20216	21316	31416	32916	41316	50316	60616	62316	



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.**



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGEINE

AUTHORITY: Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General §§ 21-211, 21-313 and 21-314

Priority: Moderate

Primary Purpose: Food Complaint

2nd Purpose: Other

FOOD SERVICE FACILITY MONITORING AND OBSERVATION REPORT

Establishment Name: SILVER SPRING MARKET

Date: 8/26/2016

TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS

Item/Location	CCP	Temp °F	V	Item/Location	CCP	Temp °F	V
			<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>

Critical Control Point(CCP) 1-Cooking 2-Cooling 3-Cold Holding 4-Hot Holding 5-Reheating

OBSERVATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Item Number	Corrected	
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	This 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
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.



- **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.**





G26 : [X] [check] [fx]

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Store	Address	Inspector	City	Date notified		Brands	Recalled lots on shelf?
3	Afrik International Food Market	6690 Old Landover Rd	Rudy	Landover	9/1/2016	Yes	BMC	No
4	After 12 African Carryout	7523 Landover Rd	Rudy	Landover	8/31/2016	Yes	BMC	No
5	Atlantic Supermarket	7901 New Hampshire Ave	Sabrina	Takoma Park	8/31/2016	Yes	Grace	No
6	Americana Grocery of Maryland	4900 Annapolis Rd	Robin	Bladensburg	8/29/2016	Yes	BMC, JC	unknown
7	Baden Grocery	16709 Brandywine Rd	Teddy	Brandywine	8/31/2016	No		
8	BB Latino	Kenilworth Ave	Robin	Bladensburg	8/31/2016	No		
9	Bestway Supermarket	Riggs Rd	Robin	Hyattsville	8/26/2016	Yes	Grace, BMC, JC	Yes
10	Bestway Supermarket	3511 Hamilton Street	Robin	Hyattsville	8/29/2016	Yes	Grace, BMC, JC	yes
11	Big Market International	5459 Annapolis Rd	Robin	Bladensburg	8/31/2019	No		No
12	Covenant Food Store	14633 Baltimore Ave	Sabrina	Laurel	8/31/2019	Yes		No
13	Diana Grocery & Party	15101 Baltimore Ave	Sabrina	Laurel	8/31/2019	No		No
14	Envios Express	5400 Annapolis Rd	Robin	Bladensburg	8/31/2019	No		No
15	EKO Food Store	7449 Annapolis Rd	Jen	Hyattsville	8/31/2019	No		
16	El Superstore	Annapolis Rd	Robin		9/1/2016	No		
17	Foodway	Annapolis Rd	Robin	New Carrollton	8/30/2019	Yes		yes
18	Grand Mart	4600 Cooper Lane	Robin		8/31/2016	Yes	Grace, BMC, JC	Yes
19	Grimes Market	22501 Aquasco	Teddy	Brandywine	8/31/2019	No		No
20	Indus Food of Laurel	900 4th Street	Sabrina	Laurel	8/31/2019	No		No
21	International Food Market of Beltsville	11118 Baltimore Ave	Brittany	Beltsville	8/31/2019	Yes	Grace	No
22	Iroko International Foods	11000 Baltimore Ave #110	Brittany	Beltsville	8/31/2019	Yes	Grace, BMC, JC	No
23	J & J International Food Store	9456 Lanham Severn Rd	Chris	Lanham-	8/31/2019	Yes	BMC	No
24	Jumbo Food International	3201 Brinkley Rd	Bishaw	Temple Hills	8/31/2016	Yes	Grace, BMC, JC	Yes
25	K O 's Mini Market	7717 Barlowe Rd	Rudy	Landover	9/1/2016	No		No
26	Kashmir Bazaar Halal	10400 Rhode Island Ave	Brittany	Beltsville	8/31/2016	No		No

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.



OBSERVATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Item Number	Corrected	
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	This inspection was conducted in response to a recall of Blue Mountain Country, Jamaican Choice and Grace curry products. The facility manager was unaware of the recall prior to the inspection. This store normally stocks Grace and Jamaican Choice curry and jerk products.
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	The following recalled products were observed on the shelves and removed from sale: Jamaican Choice Jamaican curry powder HOT 20 oz lot #110915 exp 11/13/19 quantity=6; Jamaican Choice Curry 20 oz lot #040216 exp 4/8/19 quantity =3; Jamaican Choice Jamaican Curry 6.25 oz lot #022216 exp 3/4/19 quantity=5.
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	The following products were observed for sale and are not currently part of the recall: Grace Jamaican Curry mild 6 oz lot #060415 exp 6/5/19 quantity = 19; Grace Jamaican curry milkd 6 oz lot #052015 exp 5/29/19 quantity=2; Grace Jamaican curry HOT 6 oz lot #060415 exp 6/5/19 quantity=15; Jamaican Choice Jamaican Jerk Seasoning 6 oz lot #092415 exp 10/2/19 quantity=11; Jamaican Choice Jamaican curry HOT 6.25 oz lot #092415 exp 10/2/19 quantity=3 also lot #111015 exp 11/20/19 quantity=6; Jamaican Choice Jamaican curry 6.25 oz lot #042716 exp 4/30/16. These items remained on sale since they were not included in the current recall.



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

