



Ohio Department of Agriculture
and
Ohio Department of Health



Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher

ODA Director Robert J. Boggs
ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D.

To: Health Commissioners, Environmental Health Directors, Nursing Directors, ODA Food Safety Specialists, and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2009-02g

Date: January 19, 2009

Ralcorp Frozen Bakery Products Recalls Lofthouse Peanut Butter Cookies, Chuck's Chunky Peanut Butter Cookies And Pastries Plus Gourmet Cookies Nationwide Because Of Possible Health Risk

Downers Grove, IL, Ralcorp Frozen Bakery Products, Inc. announced that it has taken the precautionary measure of voluntarily recalling its *Lofthouse®* brand PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES, PEANUT BUTTER NO-BAKE COOKIES and PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE NO-BAKE COOKIES, Parco Foods' *Chuck's Chunky®* food service brand PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES and *Pastries Plus GOURMET COOKIES* because the cookies have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. The recalled cookies contain peanut butter supplied by Peanut Corporation of America which is the subject of an investigation concerning recent Salmonella outbreaks. No illnesses have been reported in connection with the recalled cookies. No other type of Lofthouse, Chuck's Chunky or Pastries Plus brand cookies are being recalled.

The *Lofthouse* peanut butter cookies are sold in 12 count clear plastic clamshell containers while the peanut butter fudge no-bake cookies and the peanut butter no-bake cookies are sold in 9 or 12 count clear plastic clamshell containers. The recalled *Lofthouse* cookies are sold nationally in the in-store bakery sections of grocery stores and other food retailers. The Parco Foods' *Chuck's Chunky* cookies are distributed nationally in 5lb boxes in the food service channels. The *Pastries Plus* gourmet cookies were sold in 21 count plastic containers in select club stores nationally. All products will have a lot code of 9200 or less.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis. For more information on Salmonella, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Website at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

The FDA and other regulatory agencies have indicated that Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) is the focus of their investigation concerning a recent Salmonella outbreak thought to be caused by tainted peanut butter. PCA supplied Ralcorp Frozen Bakery Products with the peanut butter it used in the recalled cookies, prompting the voluntary recall.

\ Consumers who have purchased any products covered by this recall are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions or concerns about the recall may call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-421-4699. Consumers with questions or concerns about their health should contact their doctor.