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## News & Events

### News Releases

#### FSIS Issues Public Health Alert for Various Ready-To-Eat Deli Meat Products

Congressional and Public Affairs  
(202) 720-9113  
Peggy Riek

**WASHINGTON, May 10, 2010** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert for various ready-to-eat deli meat products because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

FSIS was notified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that various ready-to-eat deli meat products subject to recall in Canada may have been exported to the United States. Recently, a problem was discovered through FSIS microbiological testing of imported product from Canadian Establishment 665, which resulted in a positive sample for *Listeria monocytogenes* and two FSIS recalls dated [May 4](#) and [5](#), 2010. FSIS and Canada have received no reports of illnesses as result of consumption of products subject to this alert. Anyone with signs or symptoms of foodborne illness should contact a physician. FSIS will continue to provide information as it becomes available, including information about any related recall activity.

Products exported to the United States include, but are not limited to, the following:

- "Casa Italia Gastronomia Prosciutto"
- "Casa Italia Gastronomia Prosciutto Boneless"
- "Casa Italia Gastronomia Prosciutto Mattonella"
- "Casa Italia Prosciutto Boneless"
- "Casa Italia Prosciutto Boneless Sliced"
- "Casa Italia Prosciutto Ham Sliced"
- "Emma Dry Prosciutto"

Implicated products were produced by Zadi Foods Ltd., CFIA Establishment 665, located in Brampton, Ontario, and may have been distributed to retail locations nationwide. The products would have been sold to consumers at deli counters, and the original brand may not have been transferred at the deli counters to consumer packages. All lots and production dates for the above-listed products are subject to this public health alert.

Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.

#### Recommendations For People At Risk For Listeriosis

Wash hands with warm, soapy water before and after handling raw meat and poultry for at least 20 seconds. Wash cutting boards, dishes and utensils with hot, soapy water. Immediately clean spills.

Keep raw meat, fish and poultry away from other food that will not be cooked. Use separate cutting boards for raw meat, poultry and egg products and cooked foods.

Do not eat hot dogs,

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USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline  
1-888-MPHotline

Healthy people rarely contract listeriosis. However, listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weakened immune systems, such as infants, the elderly and persons with HIV infection or undergoing chemotherapy.

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact the CFIA at (800) 442-2342 / TTY (800) 465-7735. Media with questions about recall should contact Zadi Foods Ltd.'s President, Vincenzo DiBattisia, at 1-905-799-6666, ext. 5234.

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at [AskKaren.gov](http://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.

luncheon meats, bologna or other deli meats unless reheated until steaming hot.

Do not eat refrigerated pâté, meat spreads from a meat counter or smoked seafood found in the refrigerated section of the store. Foods that don't need refrigeration, like canned tuna and canned salmon, are safe to eat. Refrigerate after opening.

Do not drink raw (unpasteurized) milk and do not eat foods that have unpasteurized milk in them.

Do not eat salads made in the store such as ham salad, chicken salad, egg salad, tuna salad or seafood salad.

Do not eat soft cheeses such as Feta, queso blanco, queso fresco, Brie, Camembert cheeses, blue-veined cheeses and Panela unless it is labeled as made with pasteurized milk.

Use precooked or ready-to-eat food as soon as you can. Listeria can grow in the refrigerator. The refrigerator should be 40 °F or lower and the freezer 0 °F or lower. Use an appliance thermometer to check the temperature of your refrigerator.

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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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FSIS' automated response system can provide food safety information 24/7

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USDA Recall Classifications	
<b>Class I</b>	This is a health hazard situation where there is a reasonable probability that the use of the product will cause serious, adverse health consequences or death.
<b>Class II</b>	This is a health hazard situation where there is a remote probability of adverse health consequences from the use of the product.
<b>Class III</b>	This is a situation where the use of the product will not cause adverse health consequences.

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