



DATE: September 27, 2012

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

FROM: 
A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS
Director, Food Protection Program

SUBJECT: Forever Cheese Inc. Expanded Recall

SUGGESTED

ACTION: Unclassified Recall; All Marte brand Ricotta Salata Frescolina cheese, originally announced on September 14, 2012 due to possible *Listeria Monocytogenes* contamination; Recommend notification of affected stores via phone, fax or e-mail.

From the information provided by FDA, the recalled products were distributed in the State of Indiana. The cheese was sold to distributors for retailers and restaurants in AL, CA, CO, CT, D.C., FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MN, MT, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, UT, VA, WA between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012. Products were sold to supermarkets, restaurants and wholesale distributors. Detail store information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled products are found, please notify this office at 317-351-7190.

Recall -- Firm Press Release

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.

Forever Cheese Announces an Expanded Recall of Marte brand Ricotta Salata Frescolina for Possible Health Risk

Contact
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 26, 2012 - Forever Cheese Inc. is notifying consumers of their expanded recall of all Marte brand Ricotta Salata Frescolina cheese, originally announced on September 14, 2012 due to possible *Listeria Monocytogenes* contamination. *Listeria Monocytogenes* is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, Listeria infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

The cheese was sold to distributors for retailers and restaurants in AL, CA, CO, CT, D.C., FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MN, MT, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, UT, VA, WA between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012. Products were sold to supermarkets, restaurants and wholesale distributors.

The cheese in question is Marte brand Frescolina Ricotta Salata, which is a product of Italy. The expanded recall, announced on September 14, 2012, includes ALL lots and ALL production codes. The following lots/production codes may be found on the original wheel. T5086/440220, T5520/440315, T6048/440417, T6528/440519, T7012/440703, T7452/440601, T7939/440822, T8419/441003, T8899/441020, T9425/441202, T9962/441227, U1392/450126

Consumers may wish to follow up at the place they purchased the ricotta salata to ensure when it was cut or repacked that it was not relabeled. If the product was relabeled, consumers may not be able to determine if the cheese is Marte brand Ricotta Salata Frescolina.

There is an outbreak of 15 reported illnesses in 12 states which has been linked to this particular cheese.

Each and every distributor and retailer are being contacted in an effort to recall any and all remaining product in the marketplace.

If you believe that you have purchased any of this cheese please contact your distributor or retailer for a full refund. If you have any questions please call Forever Cheese contact Jeff DiMeo at (888)930-8693 between 9 am – 5pm (Monday-Friday) EST and mention “Recall”.

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