World Spice Congress 2012

Pune, India





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Topic

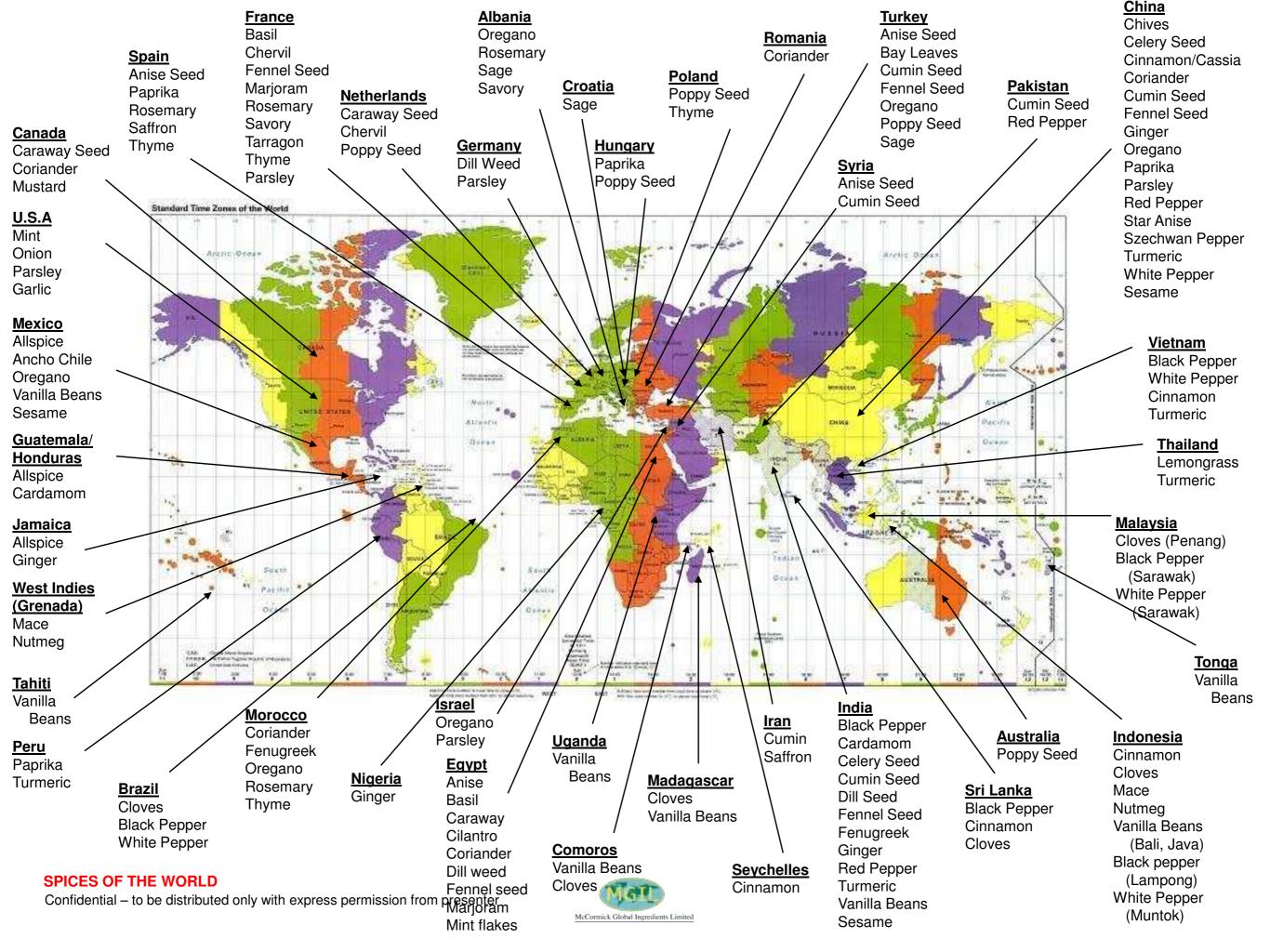
- Why food safety is critical to the US supply chain in spices
- Expectations of US consumer companies from suppliers and producing countries
 - Procurement
 - Processing
 - Quality
 - Supplier rating



Global Food Supply

- 13% of the average US family's food is now imported from over 180 countries around the globe.
- 60% of fruits and vegetables and 80% of seafood are now imported.
- More than 130,000 foreign facilities registered
- Food imports will continue to expand to meet consumer need for more variety, year around availability and lower cost.





Customer Safety

Critical to the success of any business



Major Food Safety and Regulatory Hazards Associated with Spices

- Micro
- Allergens
- Adulterations
- Foreign seeds
- Chemical contaminations



Micro Background

- 48 million Americans get sick each year from foodborne diseases
- 3,000 Americans die every year from a food-borne illness.
- Salmonella is the most common bacterial cause of food-borne disease in the United States
- It causes 1.4 million illnesses and 400 deaths annually
- A recent outbreak of a virulent strain of *E.coli* in Europe, which killed dozens of people and made thousands sick, has raised new concerns about food safety here.



Damage to Brand or Product

- 2011
 - Cantaloupes 29+ people dead of listeria, worst food outbreak since CDC started tracking
 - Cantaloupes salmonella panama
 - -Ground Beef e.coli O157:H7
 - -Spinach Dip listeria
 - -Strawberries e.coli
 - -Turkey salmonella, 1 dead, 76 sickened
 - Peanut butter



Salmonella in Spices

- 2011 Organic celery seed
- 2011 Organic Black pepper
- 2010 Black & Red pepper sickened more than 200+ people in 42 states
- 2009 White pepper



FDA Recall Classification

- •Recalls are actions taken by a firm to remove a product from the market. Recalls may be conducted on a firm's own initiative, by FDA request, or by FDA order under statutory authority.
- •Class I recall: a situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of or exposure to a violative product will cause serious adverse health consequences or death.
- •Class II recall: a situation in which use of or exposure to a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.
- •Class III recall: a situation in which use of or exposure to a violative product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences.
- •Market withdrawal: occurs when a product has a minor violation that would not be subject to FDA legal action. The firm removes the product from the market or corrects the violation. For example, a product removed from the market due to tampering, without evidence of manufacturing or distribution problems, would be a market withdrawal.
- •FSMA now has a clause where there can require a mandatory recall.



Information Available on the Web

Information on the Recalled

Whole Cantaloupes

Results

Updated October 21, 2011

- FDA Publishes Report on Factors Potentially Contributing to the Contamination of Fresh, Whole Cantaloupe Implicated in the Multi-State Visteria monocytogenes Foodborne Illness Outbreak
- FDA Sample Records and Results on Jensen Farms
- Jensen Farms' Recall
- Consumer Safety Information
- Additional Information and Relevant Links

FDA Publishes Report on Factors Potentially Contributing to the Contamination of Fresh, Whole Cantaloupe Implicated in the Multi-State *Listeria monocytogenes* Foodborne Illness Outbreak

On October 19, 2011, FDA released a document which provides an overview of factors that potentially contributed to the contamination of fresh, whole cantaloupe with the pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* which was implicated in a muti-state outbreak of listeriosis. In early September 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments, began to investigate a multi-state outbreak of listeriosis. Early in the investigation, cantaloupes from Jensen Farms in the southeast region of Colorado were implicated in the outbreak.

On September 10, 2011, FDA, along with Colorado state officials, conducted an inspection at Jensen Farms and collected multiple samples, including whole cantaloupes and environmental (non-product) samples from within the facility, for laboratory analysis to identify the presence of *Listeria* monocytogenes. Of the 39 environmental swabs collected from within the facility, 13 were confirmed positive for *Listeria monocytogenes* with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern combinations that were indistinguishable from three of the four outbreak strains collected from affected patients. Of the 13 positive environmental swabs, 12 were collected at the processing line and 1 was collected from the packing area. Cantaloupe collected from the firm's cold storage during the inspection was also confirmed positive for *Listeria monocytogenes* with PFGE pattern combinations that were indistinguishable from two of the four outbreak strains.

Name of company

Processing Line 9 positive samples from the grading belt Swabs 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30 & 33 2 positive samples from the conveyor Swabs 20 & 28 1 positive sample from the felt rollers Swab 13 Packing Area 1 positive sample from the conveyor belt Swab 34

FDA Product Sample Results

1 Cantaloupe Sample collected from cold storage
5 subs tested positive
(10 whole cantaloupes or "Subs")



More web info

- http://www.fda.gov/Safety /Recalls/default.htm
- Can search by company name, product or brand
- Maybe even shows a picture of the product



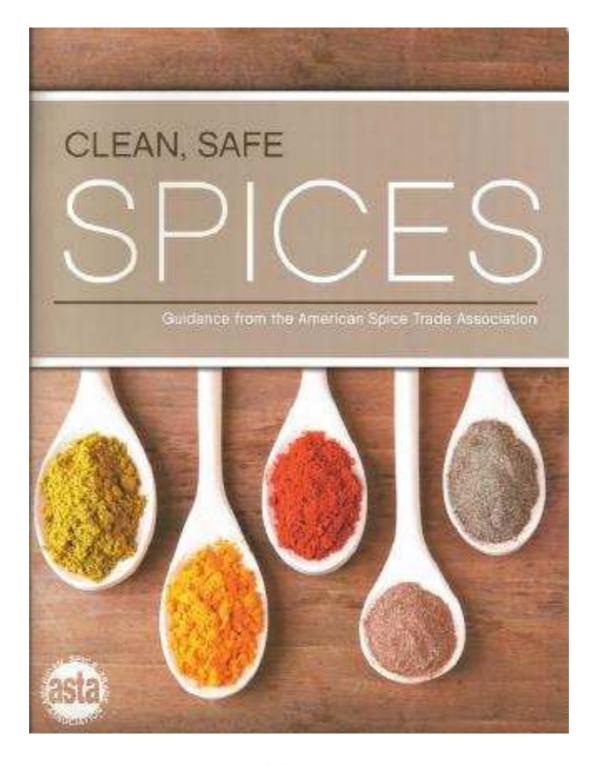


Critical to Supply Chain

- No responsible company or individual wants to hurt customers or damage their brand
- A recall:
 - can be far reaching and affect not only the product but an entire category
 - forces regulatory authorities to become more involved, auto detention, further sampling, more inspections
 - > raises public concern



ASTA Manual





ASTA Clean Safe Spice Guidance

- 1. Minimize risk for introduction of filth throughout the supply chain
- 2. Prevent environmental contamination, cross contamination and post-processing contamination during processing and storage
- 3. Use validated microbial reduction techniques
- 4. Perform post-treatment testing to verify a safe product
- 5. Test to verify a clean and wholesome manufacturing environment



Guidance Dissemination

 Available for download from ASTA Web site www.astaspice.org

- •Hard copies can be purchased (\$10)
- Workshop on guidance in April
- Recorded and available at no charge on ASTA Web site



Procurement

The most effective and efficient method to assure the absence of adulterants and contaminants is through control of the supply chain back to source.



Processing & Quality

- Quality Professionals
- HACCP plans
- Risk assessments
- Environmental testing
- Validated kill steps
- Post treatment handling
- Sampling



Probability of Missing Contamination % Contamination in Lot Number of 0.5% 10% 1% 2% Samples Tested 3 73% 94% 97% 99% 10 35% 82% 90% 95% 60 <0.5% 30% 55% 74% 120 8.5% 30% <0.5% 55% 180 2.6% 16% 41% <0.5% 240 <0.5% 0.8% 9% 30%



Food Safety Modernization Act

- FSMA
- http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm24754 6.htm
- Higher hurdle for documentation and sharing of documents. The legislation gives a specific goal that requires importers to perform verification of supplier's activities.



Reportable Food Registry

•Requires all operations that manufacture, process, pack or hold food to report to FDA within 24 hours of identifying an article of food when a reasonable probability it will cause serious adverse health consequences.

Public and available on the web.



Risk Management

 PREVENTION – Build quality and food safety in from the start

 INTERVENTION — Verify preventions with focused inspection and risk-based surveillance and testing

 RESPONSE – Immediate response if compromised product reaches the market



Conclusions

- Primary goal to protect the health of consumers. In the event of a conflict, precedence should be given to protecting the health of consumers
- Secondary goal to protect the brand
- "You" are all the stakeholders in food safety: consumers, industry, food safety professionals, local and state regulators, and international trading partners



The End

Thank You

