



*Representing
the Seasoning
and Spice Industry*

Seasoning and Spice Association Position Statement on the recalls of undeclared peanut/almond contamination in products containing cumin and paprika

The Seasoning and Spice Association (SSA) supports the production of safe and wholesome foods and takes all matters relating to food safety very seriously. Following a number of product recalls in the USA and Canada and, more recently, in the UK and other European countries, due to the presence of undeclared peanut or almond proteins in ground cumin and paprika, SSA members have conducted in-depth investigations of their supply chains and increased testing, in order to prevent affected products from reaching consumers.

To ensure the quality and integrity of their products, SSA members have in place a series of fully implemented process controls. These controls are based on well-established good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and sound food safety management systems (FSMS). Furthermore SSA members are committed to purchase all their products from approved suppliers in order to ensure full traceability of their products at all stages of production, processing and distribution.

The SSA is in regular contact with the European Spice Association (ESA) and the American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) to ensure that relevant information on undeclared peanut/almond proteins in cumin/paprika products, including any developments on methods of detection is promptly shared to establish the causes of the contamination.

In addition, the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) has been working directly with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and through the FSA with the European Commission (EC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to gather and share relevant information. FDF have also been in dialogue with the British Retail Consortium (BRC), British Hospitality Association (BHA), FoodDrinkEurope (FDE) and the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) on this matter.

The FSA, in collaboration with the port health authorities, conducted the sampling and surveillance testing on ground cumin and paprika imported from all origins, The sampling and surveillance testing at port health authorities has now been ceased however SSA will continue to share its knowledge of the

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spice global supply chain and its experience of managing known risks with the FSA.

Following the additional testing by the Laboratory of the Government Chemist (LGC), the FSA said it will now work with public analysts, analytical scientists, the industry and local authorities to review the currently available testing methodologies.

The SSA welcomes FSA's commitment to review the analytical methodologies and continues advising its members to assure their own supply.

The SSA Secretariat is in regular contact with its members and customers to ensure that they are updated as and when new information/intelligence is received.

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