Food Recall Guidelines of Chinese Taipei

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Food Recall Guidelines Purpose

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- These Food Recall Guidelines are established to provide a guide for carrying out food recall in order to ensure the hygiene, safety and quality of food and to protect health of citizens.

Scope

- These Guidelines apply to the recall of food, which will or probably will cause hazard to the diet safety of the public or, whose quality does not conform to regulations.

Initiation of Food Recall

- The responsible entity shall proceed with recall where the food:
  (1) by law shall be recalled for violating hygiene or other applicable regulations; or
  (2) is of defect that it is deemed necessary for a recall.
Initiation of Food Recall

- Food recall is initiated under the following two circumstances:
  1. Where an entity launches the recall on its own initiative as required by law or where it deems recall necessary; and
  2. Where the competent health authority orders the entity by law to conduct the recall.

Classes and Levels of Recall

- Recall is divided into the following three classes subject to the degree of harm the food causes to public health:
  1. Class 1:
     The food is expected to have a probability to cause death or serious harm to public health.
  2. Class 2:
     The food is expected to have a low probability to cause harm to public health.

  - **Pb: 174 ppm**

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  Classes and Levels of Recall-II

- Recall is divided into the following three levels depending on the extent sales channels are involved in food recall:
  1. Consumers: to the extent of individual consumers
  2. Retailers: to the extent of sales premises
  3. Wholesalers: to the extent of importer and wholesaler premises etc. where the food is not directly sold to consumers.

  ※News release

  ※Usually relabel

  Do not meet the requirement of Health Food Claim (Catechins)
**Operation of Recall System**

- Class 1 recall, the recall plan of the responsible entity shall specify the recall being extended to the consumer level and such entity shall issue a press release.
- Class 2 or 3 recall, the responsible entity initiating the recall shall propose the level of recall taking into consideration the nature of the potential hazard caused by the food to public health, and report to the local competent health authority prior to finalizing the recall proposal according to the instructions of such authority.

**Responsibilities of entity – recall plan**

- An entity shall devise a recall plan at least covering, inter alia, the following information:
  1. Name, address and telephone number of the responsible entity of the food to be recalled;
  2. Reason of the recall and nature of the potential hazard;
  3. Product name, packaging, form, or special distinguishing features or signs of the food to be recalled;
  4. Date, lot number, code, or other identifying information and number specified on the food to be recalled;
  5. Total production volume of the food to be recalled;
  6. Total volume of the food to be recalled in the sales channel;
Responsibilities of entity – recall plan

(7) Distribution record of the food to be recalled;

(8) Recall measures to be adopted, including the level of recall, instruction on stopping the sale of the particular food, and other actions which shall be taken, prescribed time limit for the recall, etc.;

(9) Subsequent safety or destruction measures to be adopted, for instance, sterilization, recondition or correction etc.; and

(10) Warning which shall be issued to consumers, and the contents thereof.

Responsibilities of entity

- An entity shall present its recall plan to the local competent health authority for the file and, where necessary, issue a press release, prior to the recall of food.

Responsibilities of entity – periodic progress reports

- An entity shall submit periodic progress reports to the local competent health authority in the course of food recall, covering at least the following information:
  1. Number of downstream entities or individuals being notified, and date and manner of notification;
**Operation of Recall System**

(2) Number of entities responding to the notification and quantity of the particular food in their possession;

(3) Number of companies or individuals not responding to the notification;

(4) Number of companies or individuals not responding to the notification;

(5) Number of times and result of investigation;

(6) Anticipated time limit for completion.

**Responsibilities of entity**

- An entity shall, upon completion of food recall, report the process and result of the recall in writing to the local competent health authority and, where necessary, to the central competent health authority, for placing the matter on the file for future reference.

- An entity shall properly retain complete documentation on food recall for inspection and verification.

**Responsibilities of Government Authority**

- The local competent health authority shall supervise the recall by an entity and inspect the entity’s capability of recall. The work of such authority shall include the following:
  
  1. inspect the violating food, take action by law, and advise the entity to recall such food;

  (2) give instruction on the class and level of the recall proposed by the entity, and file the entity’s recall plan for future reference;

  (3) request the entity having submitted an incomplete recall proposal to make improvement;

  (4) give instruction on the frequency of reporting the condition of recall, subject to the urgency of the case, and monitor the entity’s recall progress;

  (5) supervise the entity in its completion of recall;

  (6) assess the entity’s recall report;

  (7) offer follow-up guidance to the entity;
Responsibilities of Government Authority

(8) conduct periodic inspections to ascertain the extent of recall accomplished; and
(9) file relevant recall information and issue the necessary press release.

Responsibilities of Government Authority

- The central competent health authority shall supervise the local competent health authority in the execution of the above work and, where necessary, may assess the relevant reports submitted by the entity and give instructions.

Challenges

- Responsibility of recall: ingredients already made in food?
- Class of recall: media pressure + public confidence vs. risk assessment + risk communication

Thank You For Your Attention !!!!