

Subject: FDA Food Recall Alert – Audio News Release

Contact: Tesia Williams, Director of Media Communications
Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
media@oig.hhs.gov
202-708-9855

Intro 0:25

The Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that the Food and Drug Administration does not have an effective food recall initiation process that helps ensure the safety of the Nation's food supply. The Inspector General gave examples where FDA became aware that potentially dangerous food items may have been in the food supply chain, but it took months to get the firm to initiate a recall.

Actuality (George Nedder) 0:35

Our review found that FDA does not have adequate policies and procedures to ensure that firms take prompt and effective action in initiating voluntary food recalls. This means that dangerous food products may have remained in our nation's food supply for weeks after FDA was aware of the contamination. In one case, a baby died, and 9 others became ill, all from consuming cheese that contained listeria. 81 days passed from when FDA learned of the adulterated product, to when the firm initiated the recall.

VO2 (Talent) 0:19

The Food and Drug Administration must improve its policies and procedures, to ensure that firms quickly initiate voluntary food recalls. Without more effective recall procedures, consumers may be at greater risk of illness and death if unsafe foods are not removed from the nation's food supply chain.