

Connecticut Department of Public Health

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Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: September 17, 2007

TIME:

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Lead Contacts

PHONE:
FAX:

FROM: Alan J. Buzzetti, RS
Supervising Environmental Analyst

PHONE: (860) 509-7299
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RE: De La Rosa Pulparindo Candy – Advisory and Information Sheet

cc: LPPCP Staff, Suzanne Blancaflor, Jeff Curran, Frank Greene, Tracey Weeks

Number of pages including cover sheet:

Message:

Please see the enclosed information regarding lead levels in De La Rosa Pulparindo candy that is imported from Mexico. Testing by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) identified levels of lead that could cause health problems. The levels of lead that were identified exceed the recommended maximum lead level of 0.1 ppm in candy products that are likely to be consumed by children that was established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November 2006 guidance. While the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Department of Consumer Protection have not found this product for sale in Connecticut, the public is encourage to report any sellers of the candy by calling the Department of Consumer Protection at (860) 713-6160.

De La Rosa Pulparindo is distributed by Dul-Mex Guadalajara Inc. of Hayward. De La Rosa Pulparindo is a tamarind pulp candy packaged in 10-ounce boxes that contain individually wrapped 0.49 ounce candies. The 10-ounce boxes are bright red in color with the word "Pulparindo" boldly printed in black letters. The individual candy packages are also bright red in color with the word "Pulparindo" boldly printed in black letters and "Extra Hot and Salted Tamarind Pulp Candy" boldly printed in yellow lettering with green trim located underneath the word "Pulparindo". The distributor has initiated a voluntary recall of the product and is working with the CDPH to ensure that all products still in commerce are removed immediately.

While there have been no lead poisoning cases in Connecticut associated with De La Rosa Pulparindo, the Connecticut Department of Public Health is issuing this product advisory. You may contact Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program staff at (860) 509-7299 should you have any additional lead-related health questions.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2007

California Department of Public Health Warns Consumers Not to Eat De La Rosa Pulparindo Candy

Contact:

Suanne Buggy or Lea Brooks
916-440-7259

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Sacramento, CA -- July 20, 2007 -- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director Dr. Mark Horton today warned consumers not to eat De La Rosa Pulparindo candy imported from Mexico after tests conducted by CDPH found high levels of lead that could cause health problems. Eating lead-contaminated candy is particularly harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women. Consumers in possession of this product should discard it.

"Lead is toxic to humans, especially infants, young children and developing fetuses, and can result in learning disabilities and behavioral disorders that could last a lifetime," Horton said. "Today's warning is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of foods sold in California."

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Dul-Mex Guadalajara Inc. of Hayward, the distributor where the De La Rosa Pulparindo was sampled, has initiated a voluntary recall of the product and is working with CDPH to ensure that all products still in commerce are promptly removed. CDPH is working to identify any other California distributors that might also sell De La Rosa Pulparindo in an effort to ensure that the product is removed from store shelves statewide.

According to a recent analysis by CDPH, the candy contained between 0.12 and 0.18 parts per million (ppm) of lead. California considers candies with lead levels in excess of 0.1 ppm adulterated. This level is consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November 2006 on the recommended maximum lead level of 0.1 ppm in candy products likely to be consumed by children.

Assembly Bill 121, signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006, provided additional resources to CDPH so more testing of candy can be conducted to ensure these products are not adulterated with lead and other contaminants.

Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed any of the above mentioned candy should consult with their physician or health care provider to determine if further medical testing is warranted. For more information about lead poisoning, parents and

caretakers should contact their local childhood lead poisoning prevention program or local public health department. Additional information and a list of local childhood lead prevention programs are available at CDPH's Web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead>. The public is encouraged to report any sellers of the candy by calling CDPH's complaint hotline at 1-800-495-3232.

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