



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter # 2007-61

Date: December 6, 2007

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors
Interested Parties

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS; Food Protection Program

Subject: Recall of Metromint Flavor Water Because of Possible *Bacillus cereus* Contamination

Soma Beverage of San Francisco, California is recalling bottled Metromint flavor water (Peppermint, Spearmint, Orangemint, and Lemonmint) produced at the California Soma facility. The recalled products are packaged in 16.9 ounce bottles and have a "Best Before" use-by date of 2008/12/21 printed on the shoulder of the bottle and the lettering "KSA" in a rectangle located on the lower right-hand corner of the back panel on the label. Please refer to the attached recall press release for additional information.

The manufacturer is recalling the above products because of possible contamination with *Bacillus cereus* pathogenic bacteria. Thus far there have been no reports of illness related to the product in California.

The Department of Consumer Protection, (DCP) Food & Standard Division is aware of the recall and will be performing effectiveness checks. Distribution is reportedly limited in Connecticut. The DCP should be contacted at 860-713-6160 for additional information and follow-up.

Local health departments should focus on contacting food service and independent retail establishments to inform them of the recall. The priority for notification should be establishments serving highly susceptible populations, such as long term care facilities, health care/hospitals, assisted living and day care centers.

Refer any cases of reported foodborne illness to their physicians for appropriate evaluation and testing, and forward a completed copy of the Foodborne Illness Complaint Form, as warranted.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, EHS
Pamela Kilbey-Fox, LHAB
William Gerrish, Office of Planning and Communications, DPH

410 CAPITOL AVENUE, MS#11FDP

PO BOX 340308, HARTFORD, CT 06134

Bus: 860.509.7297

Fax: 860.509.7295

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