



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

### EHS Circular Letter # 2008 - 06

Date: January 22, 2008

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

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

Subject: Recall of Canned Bean Products

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning Consumers about a nationwide recall of canned bean products manufactured by New Era Canning Company, New Era, Michigan, because of potential *Clostridium botulinum* contamination. The recall affects large institutional-sized cans averaging 6 pounds in weight.

Approximately 26 brands and 63 products were distributed to retailers, restaurants, schools, food service institutions and other facilities nationwide under various labeled brands and include cans of cut green beans, Mexican-style chili beans, dark red kidney beans, and garbanzo beans.

Please refer to the following FDA link, <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/newera.html>, for specific recalled product information including brand names and UPC codes and advice on how to properly segregate and dispose of the recalled product. FDA also warns that particular care should be used when handling and disposing of cans that show signs of swelling or leakage to prevent any human exposure to the contents of the cans. To date no cases of illness related to the subject products have been reported to FDA but consumers should not consume any of the recalled products even if they appear normal because of the potentially serious and sometimes fatal health effects associated with botulism poisoning.

The Department of Consumer Protection, (DCP) Food & Standard Division is aware of the recall and should be contacted at 860-713-6160 for additional information and follow-up.

Local health departments should focus on contacting food service establishments, including institutions, 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, and schools.

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, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH  
Pamela Kilbey-Fox, Branch Chief, Local Health Administration Branch, DPH  
William Gerrish, Office of Planning and Communications, DPH



410 CAPITOL AVENUE, MS#11FDP  
PO BOX 340308, HARTFORD, CT 06134  
Bus: 860.509.7297 Fax: 860.509.8071

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