



Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Health



Governor Bob Taft
Lieutenant Governor Maureen O'Connor

ODA Director Fred L. Dailey
ODH Director J. Nick Baird, M.D.

To: Health Commissioners, Environmental Health Directors, Nursing Directors,
ODA Food Safety Specialists, and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2002-40 (separate from 2002-36 & 2002-36a)

Date: October 11, 2002

Wisconsin Firm Recalls Ground Beef For Possible *E. coli* O157:H7

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10, 2002—EMMPAK Foods Inc., doing business as Peck Meats, a Milwaukee, Wis., establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 568,000 pounds of fresh and frozen ground beef products that may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today.

The company is taking this action based on the results of a third party microbiological laboratory sample.

FSIS suspended operations at this establishment on Oct. 2 and continues to investigate the company's production and shipment of adulterated product. The suspension will continue until the establishment can demonstrate an effective program for controlling pathogens, including *E. coli* O157:H7.

"Consumers need to be aware of this recall," said Dr. Garry L. McKee, FSIS administrator. "I strongly encourage purchasers of ground beef to check their refrigerators and freezers for the recalled product. If consumers are in possession of the recalled product they should return it to the point of purchase."

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness.

Media with questions about the recall may contact Mark Klein, director of communications for EMMPAK, at (414) 978-6666.

Consumers with questions about the recall may contact the EMMPAK Consumer Hotline at (877) 817-7622.

Consumers with other food safety questions can phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The hotline is available in English and Spanish and can be

**PREPARING GROUND
BEEF FOR SAFE
CONSUMPTION
USDA Meat and
Poultry Hotline
1-800-535-4555 or
visit
www.fsis.usda.gov**

Although the product being recalled should be returned to the place of purchase, consumers preparing other ground beef products should heed the following advice.

Consumers should only eat ground beef patties that have been cooked to a safe temperature of 160 °F. When a ground beef patty is cooked to 160 °F throughout, it can be safe and juicy, regardless of color. The only way to be sure a ground beef patty is cooked to a high enough temperature to kill harmful bacteria is to use an accurate digital instant-read thermometer. Color is not a reliable indicator that ground beef patties have been cooked to a temperature high enough to kill

reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

The products were produced on September 23 and distributed to retail stores and other institutions nationwide. All of the products subject to recall bear the establishment code "EST. 20654" inside the USDA seal of inspection. The products subject to recall are:

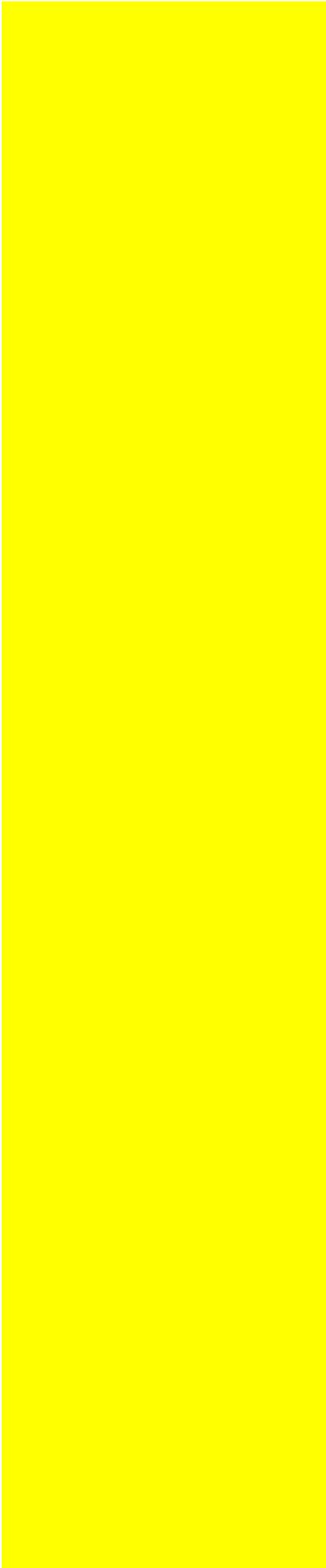
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF, CONTAINS 8% FAT." Each package also bears one of the following codes: "8659206," "8659204," or "8659200." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF CHUCK PATTIES, CONTAINS 20% FAT." Each package also bears one of the following codes, "8658106" or "8658100." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF ROUND PATTIES, 100% BEEF, CONTAINS 15% FAT." Each package also bears one of the following codes, "8685706," or "8685700." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "LEAN GROUND BEEF, CONTAINS 4% FAT." Each package also bears the code "8659606." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF CHUCK PATTIES, CONTAINS 20% FAT." Each package also bears the code "8658213." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF, CONTAINS 27% FAT." Each package bears one of the following codes: "8657306," "8657304," or "8657300." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF CHUCK, CONTAINS 20% FAT." Each package bears one of the following codes: "8658006," "8658004," "8658002." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "GROUND BEEF ROUND, CONTAINS 15% FAT." Each package bears one of the following codes: "8658506," "8658504," or "8658500." Each package also bears the sell-by date "10.2.02."
- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "Lean Ground Beef Patties, 100% BEEF." Each package also bears the code "8619306. "

harmful bacteria such as *E. coli* O157:H7.

Eating a pink or red ground beef patty without first verifying that the safe temperature of 160 °F has been reached is a significant risk factor for foodborne illness.

Thermometer use to ensure proper cooking temperature is especially important for those who cook or serve ground beef patties to people most at risk for foodborne illness because *E. coli* O157:H7 can lead to serious illness or even death. Those most at risk include young children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

- 1 to 5 lb. packages of "Ground Beef Patties, 100% BEEF." Each package also bears the code "8685106."
- 80-lb. boxes of "Wis-Pak Foods, FRESH BULK GROUND BEEF, 8/10 FINE, 950." Also on each box is the code "7700950."
- 40-lb. boxes "Wis-Pak Foods, FRESH BULK GROUND BEEF, 4/10 FINE, 992." Also on each box is the code "7700992."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 1191949, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7700393."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 7222201, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7701610."
- 20-lb boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 5829940, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7701751."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 1003516, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7701421."
- 80-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 2209393, 8/10." Also on each box is the code 7702680."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 2008217, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7702620."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 2513778, 4/5." Also on each box is the code "7702610."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, FRESH GROUND BEEF, 2008225, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7702720."
- 20-lb. boxes of "SYSCO, CLASSIC BEEF, GROUND BEEF BULK, 7223761, 2/10." Also on each box is the code "7701710."
- 40-lb. boxes of "PECK CERTIFIED GROUND BEEF CHUCK, ANGUS, 83/17." Also on each box is the code "8609900."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 93/07." Also on each box is the code "8616200."
- 60-lb. boxes of "SIRLOIN, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 91/09." Also on each box is the code "8615306."



- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF ROUND FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 85/15." Also on each box is the code "8600504."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF CHUCK, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 81/19." Also on each box is the code "8600605."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 81/19." Also on each box is the code "8616600."
- 60-lb. boxes of "PECK CERTIFIED, GROUND BEEF CHUCK, 10 LB. CHUBS, 86/14." Also on each box is the code "8608600."
- 40-lb. boxes of "BEEF SIRLOIN, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 90/10." Also on each box is the code "8600401."
- 40-lb. boxes of "BEEF SIRLOIN, FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 92/08." Also on each box is the code "8600406."
- 40-lb. boxes of "BEEF FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 93/07." Also on each box is the code "8635300."
- 40-lb. boxes of "BEEF ROUND FINE GRIND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 95/05." Also on each box is the code "8634500."
- 40-lb. boxes of "PECK CERTIFIED, GROUND BEEF ROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 95/05." Also on each box is the code "8616400."
- 40-lb. boxes of "PECK CERTIFIED, GROUND BEEF SIRLOIN, 10 LB. CHUBS, 95/05." Also on each box is the code "8615500."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 75/25." Also on each box is the code "8600103."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF FINE GROUND, 10 LB. CHUBS, 73/27." Also on each box is the code "8606400."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF FINE GROUND 5 LB. CHUBS, 73/27." Also on each box is the code "8600801." Each package bears the sell by date "10-09-02."
- 60-lb. boxes of "BEEF CHUCK, FINE GROUND, 5 LB. CHUBS, 80/20." Also on each box is the code "8658000." Each package bears the sell by date "10-09-02."

