



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



03 February 2015

FDA Advisory
No. **2015-004**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY ON US-FDA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECALLED APPLES LINKED WITH THE OUTBREAK OF LISTERIOSIS IN THE US**

The Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration hereby informs the public that the US Food and Drug Administration (US-FDA), along with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and US local authorities have issued a public alert investigating a Listeriosis outbreak in United States linked to commercially produced, prepackaged whole caramel apples.

According to the US-FDA Alert, Bidart Brothers, an apple supplier in Bakersfield, California, recalled the two apple brands namely, Gala Apple and Granny Smith Apple because analyses revealed that several of these samples are contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

For public information, Listeriosis is a rare but serious illness caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium called *Listeria monocytogenes*.¹ This bacterium can be found in soil, water, and some animals, with the highest incidences being found in meat, poultry, and seafood products. It can be present in raw milk and foods made from raw milk. It can also live in food processing plants and contaminate a variety of processed meats.² Listeriosis primarily affects the elderly, pregnant women, newborn children, and adults with weakened immune system. Symptoms of this disease include fever and muscle aches, sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms.

FDA Philippines has coordinated with the Bureau of Plant and Industry of the Department of Agriculture which has jurisdiction over fresh and raw apples; the latter confirmed that **no shipment of two brands of apple mentioned in the USFDA recall have entered the country**. FDA also checked its database for possible local companies that may have imported US recalled Gala apple and Granny Smith apple. Based on records, there are **no caramel apples being imported and distributed in the country**

¹US Food and Drug Administration. 10 January 2015.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm427573.htm>

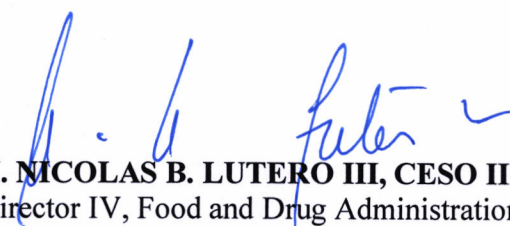
²U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/poisoning/causes/bacteriaviruses/listeria>



And Bidart Brothers is not in the list of source of any FDA licensed food importer/
distributor.

To report unscrupulous and unregistered processed food products, kindly email FDA
at report@fda.gov.ph or info@fda.gov.ph



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