



13 January 2014

**FDA ADVISORY**  
**No. 2014-003**

**SUBJECT: Recalled Processed Food Products Manufactured in Japan are Not Registered with the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**



The notice of apology and recall is placed on the shelves of frozen food product at a supermarket in Fujisawa, near Tokyo. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Maruha Nichiro Holdings, a food manufacturer in Japan, began recalling 6.4 million packages of various frozen foods on December 29, 2013. The products were said to be contaminated with malathion pesticide. As per FDA record, neither an FDA-licensed distributor is importing the said products from Japan nor any products is registered with the Philippine FDA.

The Health Ministry in Japan had been quoted to have confirmed 556 people getting sick after eating Maruha products. Estimates of the number of people affected, however, vary. Public broadcaster NHK reported that its tally has reached around 1,700 people. Kyodo News agency put the number at 1,400. Earlier report of NHK, however, said that information from local governments showed 356 people were affected.

Only FDA-registered processed food products imported by FDA-licensed food distributors should be allowed entry in the country. The FDA requests the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to remain vigilant in guarding the Philippine borders against the illegal entry of unregistered products, including contaminated and substandard food products.

All field Food and Drug Regulation Officers are now conducting investigation if the said food products may have entered the country illegally and are now being sold or offered for sale in groceries and supermarket all over the country. They are hereby ordered to confiscate all unregistered processed food products from Japan in outlets or in possession by individuals.

All groceries and supermarkets are advised to sell or offer for sale only FDA-registered processed food products. Groceries and supermarket owners may ask from the distributors for the LTOs and CPRs issued by the FDA.

The FDA appeals to all the local government units (LGUs) to report to FDA all products that are subject of recall in Japan.







Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**



For more information and clarification regarding this matter, please email us via [info@fda.gov.ph](mailto:info@fda.gov.ph). To file complaints and reports, kindly email us via [report@fda.gov.ph](mailto:report@fda.gov.ph).

  
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