

SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 006-2004- Chicken of the Sea Tuna - High Histamine Level
DATE ISSUED: June 1, 2004

1. REFERENCE:

a. DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8c/AFI 48-116/MCO 10110.38c, DOD Hazardous Food & Nonprescription Drug Recall System.

b. Allied Communications Publication 121, US SUPP-1 (f).

2. BACKGROUND:

Laboratory results from the Department of Defense (DoD) Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, revealed that a sample of **Chicken of the Sea** tuna contained an extremely high level of histamine. The results exceeded the action level for histamine recommended by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Histamine levels greater than 20 parts per million (ppm) indicate decomposition and possible poor product quality.

3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:

Product Description: Solid White Albacore, Tuna in Water, 6-oz can

Product Can Code: FRTCL AZSWG

UPC: 480090

4. MANUFACTURER: Chicken of the Sea Samoa Packing Company
PO Box 957
Atu'u Village
Pago Pago, AS 96799-0957

Plant Code: United States Department of Commerce
(USDC)# 0986

5. DISTRIBUTION: Unknown

6. QUANTITY: Unknown

7. REASON FOR RECALL: Tuna may contain a high level of histamine.

Histamine, in small doses, is necessary for the proper functioning of the human immune system. However, histamine may trigger severe allergic reactions when consumed in high doses.

High levels of histamine can produce an allergic reaction called Scombroid Poisoning when the fish is consumed. The most commonly reported symptoms of Scombroid Poisoning include rash, flushed skin, facial swelling, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, dizziness, a peppery taste in the mouth, burning throat, stomach pain, itchy skin, tingling, and palpitations. Symptoms can occur immediately to several hours after consumption of food.

They typically last for a few hours, but in certain cases can last for several days, and may require administration of antihistamines.

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:

(1) Immediately inventory stocks to identify the above items.

(2) Secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item.

(3) This ALFOODACT applies only to product description and identifying codes outlined in Paragraph 3. of this message.

(4) Product is to remain on "Medical Hold" until a follow-on ALFOODACT is released with disposition instructions.

9. **The Point Of Contact** for this message is [CW3 Melinda Strother](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-HS. VOICE, DSN: 444-7746/8461, Commercial (215) 737-7746/8461, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526.

Very Respectfully,
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