

## LUCAS® VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sent the following information to the Washoe County District Health Department.

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LUCAS Voluntarily Withdraws Four Seasoning Products from U.S. Market

HACKETTSTOWN, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 7, 2004--While Asserting Confidence in Products' Safety and Quality, Company Temporarily Withdraws LUCAS(R) Limon, LUCAS(R) Limon con Chile, LUCAS(R) Acidito and Super LUCAS(R) Seasonings

In an effort to minimize the confusion that has recently been created due to discrepancies in testing for possible lead content, LUCAS(R) is taking the voluntary step of temporarily withdrawing LUCAS(R) Limon, LUCAS(R) Limon con Chile, LUCAS(R) Acidito and Super LUCAS(R) Seasoning in the United States.

This action, which is not a recall, does not affect other LUCAS(R) products or any other markets outside the U.S.

The temporary withdrawal provides an opportunity for the company to work with appropriate government entities to clarify the discrepancies in the testing methods for certain salt-based products and to ensure that accurate results are reported by all entities for the LUCAS(R) products. LUCAS(R) has repeatedly stated that it is confident -- and it remains so today -- regarding the safety and quality of its products, and continues to believe that the products surpass all government regulations and are safe for consumers to eat.

Over the past few months, there has been significant attention to possible lead content in Mexican hot-and-spicy candies and seasonings. Certain media outlets and government entities have raised concerns about LUCAS(R) Limon, LUCAS(R) Limon con Chile, LUCAS(R) Acidito and Super LUCAS(R) Seasoning products. Because there is considerable conflicting information in the marketplace regarding the lead levels in the products and the quantities that are consumed, the company decided to voluntarily withdraw the products while it works to obtain clarification.

The four LUCAS(R) seasoning products are powdered seasoning mixtures, predominantly made of salt, and also containing lemon flavoring, and chile powder. Testing for lead content in food products that contain significant amounts of salt is complex, and the results obtained through certain common testing methods are often inaccurate. It is well-documented within the scientific community that salt interferes with the measurement of lead when using certain test methods. Therefore, testing for lead in salt-based seasoning products should be done differently than testing for lead in sugar-based candy products. LUCAS(R) believes that this technical issue has resulted in inaccurate

testing results being reported for certain products, including LUCAS(R) Limon, LUCAS(R) Limon con Chile, LUCAS(R) Acidito and Super LUCAS(R) Seasoning.

The company decided to conduct the voluntary withdrawal because it takes its responsibility to consumers and retailers very seriously. This is, however, a voluntary withdrawal and not a recall, because the products surpass all state and federal laws and regulations. LUCAS(R) remains confident in the safety and quality of its products, and looks forward to making these seasoning products available to consumers again as soon as possible.

Contacts

For LUCAS

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These products have been found in Latino grocery stores, flea markets, and some of the larger grocery chains. Specialty retail stores such as video and music stores may also sell small amounts of these products. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Health Services Division of the Washoe County District Health Department.