

ALFOODACT 004-2011 Suspension of Food Procurement from Specified Regions and Prefectures of Japan

Date Issued: April 1, 2011

Deliver immediately to the following Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or other Activities as appropriate:

Regional Veterinary Commanders;

Public Health Officer/Medical Food Inspection Personnel;

Regional Veterinary Laboratory Consultant;

Medical/Veterinary Authority;

Preventive Medicine Officer;

TISA Officer;

Food Service Officer/Troop Support Warehouse Manager;

Club Managers;

Defense Commissary Agency Staff Veterinarian;

Defense Commissary Agency Regional Director;

Defense Commissary Agency Central Distribution Centers;

Commissary Officer;

COCOM Staff Veterinarian;

HQ, AAFES, Staff Veterinarian;

HQ, AAFES-Europe, Staff Veterinarian;

Exchange System Manager;

Restaurant Officer;

Nutritional Medicine Services;

NAVSUP/Staff Veterinarian;

RESALEACT/RESALEACT DET;

Public Information Officer/Public Affairs Officer;

Chief, MWR;

DSSC/Issue Commissary Officer;

Supply Office;

DLA Troop Support -Europe & Africa;

DLA Troop Support- Pacific;

DLA Depots and Supply Points/Defense Subsistence Officers;

Defense Subsistence Storage Facilities;

US Army Europe & Europe Regional Veterinary Command;

Assistant Administrator (AA) and Deputy AA, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS;

AA and Deputy AA, Office of Field Operations, FSIS;

1. REFERENCES:

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).

c. ASD (HA) Memorandum "Recommendation for Defense Logistics Agency -Troop Support to Release a Department of Defense Hazardous Food and Non-Prescription Drug Recall System to Suspend Food Procurement from Specified Regions and Prefectures of Japan", 1 April 2011 (NOTAL)

2. BACKGROUND:

The earthquake and tsunami damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan has led to the identification of radioisotopes in multiple water systems from the Fukushima site southward to Tokyo and beyond. Earthquake and tsunami damage to food production facilities, farms, and infrastructure are of concern related to the possibility for microbial contamination of products. The Government of Japan identified contamination of milk, milk products, and fresh fruits and vegetables in and around the area. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration issued Import Alert 99-33 on March 22, 2011, authorizing the detainment of certain products from specified prefectures in Japan. In light of radiation issues associated with the Fukushima nuclear plant, the identification of radiation in water and other products, and the desire to protect Service members and their families from harmful radiation in food sources, we recommend pro-active actions to suspend the procurement of subsistence items grown or produced from food sources located in selected prefectures. No contaminated food or water products that would create a health concern have reached US Forces Japan.

3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:

Effective 1 April 2011, IAW reference c, suspend procurement of bottled water (except as noted below for bottled water) and all subsistence items grown in or produced from food sources located in the following prefectures in the Tohoku, Kanto, and Chubu Regions. Specifically, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, and Fukushima prefectures in the Tohoku Region; Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa prefectures in the Kanto Region; and Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, and Toyama prefectures in the Chubu Region, are included in this suspension of food and bottled water (except as noted below for bottled water).

The U.S. Army Veterinary Command has evaluated bottled water plants in the identified prefectures and validated that all plants, with the exception of Daioh's Services Water Plant (previously suspended due to earthquake damage), have sufficient safety measures and testing capabilities to ensure radiation contaminated water does not reach U.S. Forces Japan. Procurement from bottled water plants may continue with the exception of Daioh's, which is suspended.

As enhanced testing, verification, and validation of food production facilities are completed, additional facilities are to be returned to an approved source status. DLA -Troop Support will establish a web page to provide updates on facilities that have been returned to approved source status; update ALFOODACT messages will be issued, as required, until the web site is established. The web site URL will be published in an update ALFOODACT.

4. MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR:

This suspension applies to products required to be listed in the Worldwide Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement (hereafter, referred to as the Directory) as well as for products exempt from listing in the Directory.

5. DISTRIBUTION:

This ALFOODACT applies specifically to the procurement of all subsistence items grown in or produced (and bottled water as noted) in the designated regions and prefectures in Japan. Products produced in the suspended areas prior to April 1, 2011, are considered exempt. The only directory listed bottled water plant currently suspended is Daioh's Services. Products imported into the U.S. or the European Union have been cleared by the appropriate regulatory agency and are exempt.

6. REASON FOR ACTION: This action (Class I, no recall) is taken as a proactive measure to ensure radiation contaminated food and bottled water do not reach U.S. Service members and their family members. No contaminated food or water products that would create a health concern have reached US Forces Japan. There are no recalls involved in this action.

7. INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:

a. There are no recalls involved in this ALFOODACT. This action (Class I, no recall) is taken as a proactive measure to ensure radiation contaminated food and bottled water do not reach U.S. Service members and their family members. No contaminated food or water products that would create a health concern have reached US Forces Japan.

b. This ALFOODACT applies to all procurement activities which procure food.

c. US Forces Japan subsistence vendor warehousing facilities within the suspension zone are not production facilities, are monitored for radiation levels, and are not included in this suspension action.

d. U.S. Army Veterinary Command has evaluated the AAFES Bakery, Yokota AB, Japan and validated that the facility has sufficient safety measures and testing capabilities to ensure product safety. AAFES Bakery, Yokota AB, Japan is not included in this suspension action.

8. The Point of Contact for the ASD (HA) directive is COL Bob Walters, Director, DoD Veterinary Service Activity; Office: 703-681-3056; email bob.walters@us.army.mil.

9. The Point of Contact for the Department of Defense Hazardous Food and Non-Prescription Drug Recall (ALFOODACT) messaging system is COL John C. Smith, Veterinary Advisor, DLA Troop Support. VOICE, DSN: 444-8461, Commercial (215) 737-8461, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7361, or Commercial, (215) 737-7361, email dscpconssafofc@dla.mil.

10. Individuals or groups that would like to receive recall messages electronically can forward their email address to dscpconssafofc@dla.mil, with "add to list" in the subject line. To be removed from the list place "remove from list" in the subject line.

11. Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site: <https://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/fso/alfood/alfood.asp>. The navigation tool to the left allows you to also view DLA Troop Support Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls.