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Dyes hazardous for health detected in spices

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1. How was the indicated incident discovered in your country/how did stakeholders learn about the incident in your country?

In performing control of chilli and chilli products following 2004/92/EC: Commission Decision of 21 January 2004 on emergency measures regarding chilli and chilli products and Order No. V-343 of 7 May 2004 by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania „On the approval of import procedure for chilli and chilli products“ (Official Gazette, 2004, No. 81-2915), the State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS) carried out an inspection at the production department of the wholesale company UAB „Valdorfo didmena“ and basing on the test findings of the National Veterinary Laboratory stated that ground chilli contained prohibited Sudan I and Sudan IV dye.

This information was published <http://www.vet.lt/lt/news/view/?id=421>



2. How this was communicated to the relevant institutions and which are these institutions?

The company UAB „Valdorfo didmena“ purchased the spices from the company UAB „Sauda“, based in Kaunas district. India was the country of origin of the spices.

The specialists of Kaunas SFVS have informed that all the spices have been withdrawn from trade outlets and dispatched for destruction.

The RASFF notification was send to EC.



3. What decisions and initiatives were taken?
4. Who took these initiatives?

Kaunas county SFVS carried out an inspection at the company UAB „Sauda“, during which 981.6 kg of chilli and mixtures containing chilli was found. 518.4 kg of such spices had already been placed on the Lithuanian market. Kaunas county SFVS ordered the company UAB „Sauda“ to withdraw from the market and upon an agreement with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, to dispose of the UAB „Sauda“ chilli and spices containing chilli stored in the warehouses and placed on the market.

5. How this problem was solved in the end?

The specialists of Kaunas SFVS have informed that all the spices have been withdrawn from trade outlets and dispatched for destruction.

In 2004, over 250 cases have been registered in the EU where as a result of inspections carried out on tomatoe sauce, dried soup, pasta, spice mixtures containing chilli and curry powder, Sudan I, Sudan II, Sudan III and Sudan IV dyes were detected, which are mostly used for dying chilli and curry. The foodstuffs containing prohibited dyes mostly originate from Pakistan, India, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Malaysia, Morocco and Lebanon

There was made a risk assesment for consumers of Sudan I, II, III and IV dye.



Valstybinė maisto ir veterinarijos tarnyba
State Food and Veterinary Service

Thank you for your attention