

## **BOTULISM**

### **Public Health Advisory**

On January 22, 2008, the New Jersey Local Information Network Communication System (NJLINCS) sent out a warning regarding the recall of “New Era Canning Company’s Green Beans and Garbanzo Beans in #10 cans Due to Possible Clostridium botulinum Contamination”.

#### **What is Botulism?**

Botulism is a rare paralytic disease caused by a nerve toxin produced by a bacterium called Clostridium botulinum. There are 3 main forms of botulism and they are all medical emergencies. Botulinum toxins are the most poisonous substances known to humans.

1. Food-borne botulism: Clostridium botulinum thrives in environments with low oxygen such as canned foods: vegetables and meats.
2. Wound botulism: the bacteria get into a cut and start producing the toxin. It can happen also after injection of illegal drugs (heroin etc.).
3. Infant botulism: it is the most common form of the disease. It affects children between the ages of 6 weeks to 6 months. The infants systems are infected when they come in contact with contaminated foods (honey or corn syrup) or soil.

#### **Signs and Symptoms**

Difficulty swallowing or speaking, facial weakness, double vision, trouble breathing, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, paralysis. They begin 18 to 36 hours after the toxin gets into the body. However, they may also start one week after exposure. Infant botulism is characterized by constipation, floppy movements, weak cry, trouble controlling the head, difficulty sucking or feeding, drooping eyelids, paralysis.

#### **Treatment and Prevention**

Seek urgent medical care if you think you have botulism. It can result in death because the muscles that help you breath are paralyzed. Early treatment increases survival. If you have severe botulism, you may require a breathing machine as well as intensive medical and nursing care for several weeks or months.

Be sure to use proper technique when canning foods at home. Consider boiling these foods for 10 minutes before serving them. Avoid eating preserved foods if the container is bulging, or if the food smells spoiled. Avoid giving honey or corn syrup to babies under the age of one.

The codes on the affected product begin with the numbers "00249," or the letters "GREEN" or "GARB". This recall does not include Italian Green Beans because that is a different product.

Examples of how a code may appear on a can of green beans are: "00249 2BH7FL", "00249 1515 2BH7FL", "GREEN 2BH7FL" or "GREEN 1515 2BH7FL". (These are not necessarily actual can codes).

Examples of how a code may appear on a can of garbanzo beans are: "00249 34F7LG", "00249 1515 34F7LG", "GARB 34F7LG" or "GARB 1515 34F7LG". (These are not necessarily actual can codes).

The following product labels are affected:

Bunny brand, Distributed by Bunn Capitol Company, Springfield, IL  
Blue Lake mixed and shortcut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 6444500193).

Classic Sysco brand, Distributed by Sysco Corporation, Houston, TX.  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 7486510779).  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 7486510487).  
Garbanzo beans (garbanzo beans, water, salt, calcium chloride, EDTA) in 108.0 oz (6 lb. 12 oz.) cans (UPC 7486510484).

Code brand, Distributed by Code, Atlanta, GA.  
Mixed & short cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 1207310120).  
Fancy garbanzo beans without sulfites (garbanzo beans, water, salt, disodium EDTA) in 6 lb. 14 oz. cans (UPC 1207316120).

ComSource brand, Distributed by ComSource, Atlanta, GA.  
Blue Lake cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952333).  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952321).  
ComSource Medallion Premium Quality brand, distributed by ComSource, Atlanta, GA.  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952325).

ComSource Merit Excellence Food Service brand, Distributed by ComSource, Inc, Atlanta, GA.  
Cut Blue Lake green beans, 5 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952327).

Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952325).

ComSource Traditional brand, Distributed by ComSource, Atlanta, GA.

Blue Lake cut green beans, mixed and short cut, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 5254952359).

Cut Blue Lake green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952427).

Cut Blue Lake green beans, 5 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 5254952429).

Frosty Acres Restaurant's Pride Preferred brand, Packed for F.A.B., Inc., Alpharetta, GA.

Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve (green beans, water, salt), in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820067373).

Cut Blue Lake green beans, 4 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820067445).

Blue Lake cut green beans, 5 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820067451).

Fancy cut Blue Lake green beans (green beans, water, salt), in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820067339).

Fancy cut Blue Lake green beans, 4 sieve (green beans, water, salt), in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820067446).

Mixture of Blue Lake short cut, cut green beans (green beans, water, salt), in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4820068464).

Fancy garbanzos "chick pea" (garbanzo beans, water, salt, calcium chloride, disodium EDTA) in 111 oz. (6 lb. 15 oz.) cans (UPC 4820068264).

GFS brand, Distributed by Gordon Food Service, Grand Rapids, MI

Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans, reorder no. 118737 (UPC 9390111873).

Cut Blue Lake green beans, mixed sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans, reorder no. 273856 (UPC 9390127385).

goodtaste brand, Distributed by New Era Canning in New Era, MI.

Cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 3683512340).

Harvest Value brand, distributed by U.S. Food Service, Columbia, MD

Cut green beans, mixed and short cut, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 173619 (UPC 5810803534).

Cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 101 (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 170524 (UPC 5810801047).

Cut green beans, short cut (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 173349 (UPC 5810803538).

Kitchen brand, Distributed by Potato Products, Detroit, MI.  
5 sieve- EX.-STD. cut Blue Lake green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 6 oz. cans

Kitchen Essentials brand, Distributed by Gordon Food Service, Grand Rapids, MI.  
Cut green beans, mixed sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 6 oz. cans, reorder no. 156337 (UPC 9390115633).

Monarch brand, Distributed by Reid, Murdoch & Co., Columbia, MD  
Extra Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 177039 (UPC 5810811196).  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz (6 lb 5 oz) cans, 170672 (UPC 5810801040).

Monarch Premium brand, packed for PYA/Monarch, Inc, Greenville, SC.  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans, 173205 (No UPC code).

Mount Stirling brand, Distributed by Pocahontas Foods USA, Richmond, VA.  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 5 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4156033379).

Necco brand, Packed by New Era Canning Company, New Era, MI.  
Cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 6 oz. cans (UPC 3683513340).

New Era brand, Distributed by New Era Canning Co, New Era, MI.  
Veri-Green cut green beans (green beans, water, salt, zinc chloride) in 102 oz. (6 lb. 6 oz.) cans (No UPC code).  
Cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 108 oz. (6 lb. 12 oz.) cans (UPC 3683511340).  
Cut Blue Lake green beans, no salt added, (green beans, water) in 102 oz. (6 lb. 6 oz.) cans (No UPC code).  
Garbanzo beans (garbanzo beans, water, salt, calcium chloride, EDTA) in 108 oz. (6 lb. 12 oz.) cans (UPC 3683511684).

Nugget brand, Distributed by Nugget, Atlanta, GA.  
Green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6lb. 5oz.) (UPC 4410540023).  
Cut green beans, 5 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4410501930).  
Veri-green cut green beans (green beans, water, salt, zinc chloride) in 6 lb. 12 oz. cans (UPC 4410502101).  
Mixed short cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4410518838).

Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 4410501989).

Pocahontas brand, Distributed by Pocahontas Foods USA, Richmond, VA.  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (Blue Lake green beans, water, salt), 10282, in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4156010282).  
Fancy long cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4156010325).  
Fancy Blue Lake green beans, 3 sieve, (Blue Lake green beans, water, salt), 10280, in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 4156010280).

Reliance Sysco, Distributed by Sysco Corporation, Houston, TX.  
Mixed cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 7486512175).  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans. (UPC 7486512172).  
Blue Lake cut green beans, 5 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans (UPC 7486512174).

Sysco brand, Distributed by Sysco Corporation, Houston, TX.  
5096342 Imperial Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 7486512136).  
5096359 Imperial Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 5 oz. cans (UPC 7486512137).

US brand Distributed by U.S. FoodService, Columbia, MD.  
Cut green beans, mixed sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 171132 (UPC 5810801048).  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 173416 (UPC 5810811195).  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 3 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 170672 (UPC 5810801040).  
Fancy Blue Lake cut green beans, 4 sieve, (green beans, water, salt) 170232 in 101 oz. (6 lb. 5 oz.) cans, 170672 (UPC 5810801041).  
Cut green beans, 5 Sieve, (green beans, water, salt) in 101 oz (6 lb 5 oz) cans, 170675 (UPC 5810801042).

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Special Nutrition Programs, Alexandria, VA label.  
Cut green beans (green beans, water, salt) in 6 lb. 6 oz. cans (UPC 1500101061).  
Garbanzo beans (garbanzo beans, water, salt, calcium chloride, EDTA) in 6 lb. 12 oz. cans (UPC code 1500101089).

No action is required of local health departments at this time for this recall. If any requests for assistance are received from the FDA, the Food and Drug Safety

Program will contact you. For additional information regarding recalls, please click on the weblink below.

\*\*\*\*\*

For all FDA-issued food recalls - <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>