

Hallmark/Westland Meat Company Recall/Destruction/Reimbursement Information

The “HOLD” placed January 30, 2008 on Hallmark/Westland beef has now gone to “RECALL.”

A Class II recall has been announced by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on all Hallmark/Westland Meat Company products dating back to February 1, 2006. A Class II recall is a health hazard situation where there is a remote probability of adverse health consequences from the use of the product.

This recall will be in two stages: Stage I is for product currently on hold; Stage II will be for product received between February 1, 2006 and October 1, 2006.

- This announcement is for Stage I product.
- A separate announcement will be issued on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 for Stage II product.

What products are affected?

- Fine grind ground beef purchased by USDA from Hallmark/Westland.
- Further processed products produced from Hallmark/Westland meat provided by USDA.
- Fine grind product may be identified by the Establishment Number (Est. 336)
- Further processed products will **not** contain either the Hallmark/Westland name or its establishment number. You will need to contact your further processor for this information.

All Hallmark/Westland product, including further processed products containing any amount of Hallmark/Westland meat must be destroyed and cannot be used or reconditioned for human consumption.

Further processed product disposal should be arranged between the SDAs and the further processor.

How to dispose of 50 cases or less of recalled products:

You are authorized immediately to destroy on-site 50 or fewer cases of USDA-purchased Hallmark/Westland fine grind ground beef. These products must be rendered unfit for human consumption according to destruction guidance from your State or local health authority.

- Destruction must be witnessed by a person of authority, (such as a food service director) and one other person.
- Each witness must sign the destruction verification form.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.
- **Forms are found on the ECOS “recall/hold instructions page.”**

How to dispose of more than 50 cases:

More than 50 cases (but less than a truckload) of product must be taken to a landfill, incinerated, or sent for inedible rendering.

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- Destruction of these larger quantities must be witnessed by a representative of the local health department and an official from the landfill, incineration plant, or rendering plant.
- The destruction verification form must be signed by these two witnesses.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.
- **Forms are found on the ECOS “recall/hold instructions page.”**

How to dispose of truckload quantities:

Very large quantities (truckload) held at cold storage facilities, warehouses, or further processors will require special arrangements with landfills or other disposal sites, incinerators, or rendering facilities. In the case of these very large quantities, SDAs will need to coordinate with State or Federal officials (FSIS or AMS) to receive certification that the product was destroyed and cannot be consumed. **Forms are found on the ECOS “recall/hold instructions page.”**

What if I cannot easily submit further processed product into the ECOS system?

You may submit spread sheets, tables, charts, or equivalent information on further processed product to your respective FNS Regional Office. Your data will be accounted for through a separate system.

What other information should I submit?

Please submit to your respective Regional Office any spread sheets, tables, charts, or equivalent information on the exact location of recalled product in schools: school name, street address, and type and quantity of product on hand. This information will assist the FSIS with its recall effectiveness checks.

Replacement Questions:

USDA will pursue every avenue available to provide replacement raw commodity. You will receive further information on this question from your FNS Regional Office.

Reimbursement Issues:

Payment to further processors:

SDAs should pay further processors for:

- Any further processed product that has been delivered into the State
- Any further processed product that is waiting to be delivered to the State
- Any storage costs (for up to one month) of raw product that has been at the further processor awaiting processing.

Reimbursable Expenses

The following are reimbursable expenses:

- Transportation
- Storage
- Destruction
- Processing

All reimbursable expensed MUST have accompanying receipts.

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Non-reimbursable Expenses

The following are examples of, but not limited to, non-reimbursable expenses

- Storage at school level
- Overtime compensation for employees
- Long-distance phone calls and other associated administrative expenses
- Reimbursement for commercially-purchased food used in place of the recalled product