

Governor
John R. Kasich

 Lieutenant Governor
Mary Taylor

 ODA Director
David T. Daniels

 ODH Director
Richard Hodges

DATE: September 6, 2016

TO: Health Commissioners, Directors of Environment Health and Interested Parties

RE: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2016-111

Asher's Chocolates/Lewistown, Inc. Issues Voluntary Recall of Candy Products Because of Possible Health Risk

September 2, 2016 - Asher's Chocolates/Lewistown, Inc., an affiliated partner of Chester A. Asher Inc. ("Asher's") is initiating a voluntary recall of multiple chocolates, chocolate bars, cellophane wrapped chocolates, and individually wrapped chocolates, etc. under the Asher's brand due to possible *Salmonella* contamination of items produced in their Lewistown, PA facility distributed nationwide.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

Asher's Brand Products under this voluntary recall are :

Product UPC	Label Description	Lot#	Size
11516	Milk Chocolate Pretzel Pieces 8 oz.	000334469	8 oz.
11517	Dark Chocolate Pretzel Pieces 8 oz.	000334470	8 oz.
14765	Milk Chocolate Vanilla Caramel with Sea Salt 4 oz.	000337556	4 oz.

Product UPC	Label Description	Lot#	Size
47350	Dark Chocolate Hostess Mint 6 oz.	000335615	6oz.
55115	KEYSTONE CRUNCH 4 OZ BAG	000336374, 000337658	4 oz.
55165	KEYSTONE CRUNCH 6 oz.	000335591	6 oz.
55180	Milk Chocolate Coated Boardwalk Crunch 4 oz.	000335625	4 oz.
55185	KEYSTONE CRUNCH 1 LB	000336375	16 oz.
63385	Milk Chocolate with Fall String 4 oz.	000335852	4 oz.
63386	Dark Chocolate mini Pretzels Fall String 4 oz.	000335848	4 oz.
65902	Dark Chocolate Molasses Pop 4 oz.	000336201, 000335800	4 oz.
65902	Dark Chocolate Molasses Pop 2 oz.	000336376	2 oz.
67395	Milk Chocolate Peanut Butter Heaven 3 oz.	000337016, 000337663	3 oz.
75005	Milk Chocolate Nonpareil Pop 1.25 oz.	000335701, 000336520	1.25 oz.
75027	Milk Chocolate Crisped Rice Pop with Fall Leaves 3 oz.	000337574, 000337673	3 oz.

Product UPC	Label Description	Lot#	Size
75030	Milk Chocolate Crisped Rice Pop with Christmas Seeds 3 oz.	000336521	3 oz.
75037	Milk Chocolate Crisped Rice Pop Multi Seeds 2.25 oz.	000335803, 000337173	2.25 oz.
75085	Milk Chocolate Non Peril with Fall Seed 4 oz.	000335963	4 oz.
75086	Dark Chocolate Non Pareils with Fall Seed 4 oz.	000335858	4 oz.
75087	White Confectionery Coating Non pareils with orange and yellow seed 4 oz.	000337178	4 oz.
75107	White Confectionery Coating Peanut Butter Cup 2.35 oz.	000336377, 000337560, 000337665	2.35 oz.
75141	Milk Chocolate POTATO CHIP 4 oz.	000335918	4 oz.
75151	Milk Chocolate Coated Mini Pretzels 4 oz.	000335843, 000336481	4 oz.
75152	Dark Chocolate Coated Mini Pretzels 4 oz.	000335590, 000336482	4 oz.
75153	White Confectionery Coated Mini Pretzels 4 oz.	000335589	4 oz.
75245	Milk Chocolate Pretzel Rod 3pcs Asst. with Asher Bow 3.5 oz.	000335802, 000335910, 000336608, 000337177	3.5 oz.

Product UPC	Label Description	Lot#	Size
75260	Milk Pretzel Rod 3 piece assorted 3.5 oz.	000335699, 000337664	3.5 oz.
75261	Milk Chocolate Pretzel Cluster 4 oz.	000335930, 000336198, 000336378, 000336879, 000337013	4 oz.
75277	Milk Chocolate Coated Potato Chip Coffee Bag 8.5 oz.	000336044	8.5 oz,
75279	Milk Boardwalk Crunch Coffee Bag 6 oz.	000335043	6 oz.
75282	Dark Chocolate costed POTATO CHIP COFFEE BAG 8.5 oz.	000335851	8.5 oz.
76025	Milk Chocolate Crisped Rice Pop Multi Seeds 3 oz.	000335722, 000337573, 000335462	3 oz.
82379	Milk SF Almond Butter Toffee 3 oz.	000335955	3 oz.
82421	Milk Chocolate Fruit Center Bar 3.5 oz.	000335414	3.5 oz.
83851	Dark Chocolate Almond Bark (Scored) 4 oz.	000335647, 000335856	4 oz.
83855	Milk Chocolate Non Pareils with multi seed 4 oz.	000335854	4 oz.

Product UPC	Label Description	Lot#	Size
83856	Dark Chocolate Non Pareils with White Seed 4 oz.	000335855	4 oz.
83858	Milk Chocolate Mini Pretzels 4 oz.	000335588	4 oz.
83859	Dark Chocolate Mini Pretzel Ash Label 4 oz.	000335862	4 oz.
83860	White Confectionery Coated Mini Pretzels 4 oz.	000335969, 000337245	4 oz.
87145	Milk and Dark Chocolate Fall Pretzel Pre Pack 3 per case	000336450	4 oz.

The recalled items can be identified by the production code printed on the side of the label. No other production codes are affected by this recall.

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. **No products manufactured by C.A. Asher Inc./Asher's Chocolate Co. of Souderton PA are involved in this recall.**

The recalled candy products were distributed nationwide in retail stores.

The potential for contamination was noted after a single sample from routine testing by the company revealed the presence of *Salmonella* in a group of products. "The safety and wellbeing of our customers is our primary concern, and we are taking this incident very seriously. In our 124 years of business, we have never previously detected Salmonella in our testing. We are working and cooperating fully with the U. S. Food & Drug Administration on this voluntary recall," said Jeff Asher, President and CEO. "We apologize to our retail customers and consumers and sincerely regret any inconvenience."

Consumers who may have purchased any product are urged not to consume it. Consumers should contact Customer Service to arrange for return of product and a refund. Customer Service can be contacted by email at customerservice@lewistownashers.com or by calling 888-288-3880 between 9AM and 5PM Eastern Time, Monday - Friday.