

US FDA tests find salmonella in MDH sambar masala, three lots recalled

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

AT LEAST three lots of MDH's sambar masala were withdrawn from the United States earlier this week after tests conducted by the country's food and drug regulator revealed that the products contained salmonella, it said.

"This product was tested by FDA through a certified laboratory to be positive for salmonella," stated the US Food and Drug Authority (USFDA) in an official release on the move. "The recall was initiated after it was discovered by the FDA that the Salmonella contaminated products were distributed," it added.

Salmonella is a bacteria that causes salmonellosis, a common food borne illness with symptoms like diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever.

Most people recover from it without treatment, but some may have diarrhea so severe that they would require hospitalisation, according to the FDA. In more severe cases, patients may develop a high fever, aches, headaches, lethargy, rash, blood in the urine or stool and, in some cases, salmonellosis may become fatal, according to it.

"Older adults, infants, and persons with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop a severe illness," it said.

The recalled lots (codes: 47, 48 and 107) were manufactured by R-Pure Agro Specialities, sold by

20 ALERTS FROM 2016 TO 2018

■ Between 2016 and 2018, the US Food and Drug Authority published over 20 import alerts for MDH's spice products for salmonella contamination

■ The recalled lots (codes: 47, 48 and 107) were manufactured by R-Pure Agro Specialities, sold by US-based supplier 'House of Spices' and distributed in northern California retail stores

US-based supplier 'House of Spices' and distributed in northern California retail stores.

It is not clear whether the MDH products manufactured by R-Pure for the US market have also been distributed in India. Queries sent to the registered email address of MDH listed on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs website remained unanswered by press time Tuesday. Problems with salmonella contamination of MDH products have been flagged by the FDA before, with the regulator publishing over 20 import alerts for its spice products between 2016 and 2018, as per the FDA website.