



**DATE:** July 26, 2012

**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

**FROM:** <sup>ASG</sup> A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS  
Director, Food Protection Program

**SUBJECT:** Gills Onions, LLC Recall

**SUGGESTED**

**ACTION:** Unclassified Recall; Expanding its July 18 voluntary recall to include additional products because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*; Information is provided in case of consumer inquiry.

From the information provided by FDA, the recalled products were distributed in the neighboring State of Illinois. The recalled products were shipped directly from Gills Onions to retailers in Canada and the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Washington

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**Recall -- Firm Press Release**

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.

**Gills Onions Expands Voluntary Recall of Diced and Slivered Red and Yellow Onions, and Diced Onion and Celery Mix Because of Possible Health Risk**

**Contact**

Consumer:  
888-220-0436

Media:  
Amy Philpott,  
703-472-6615  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** -July 25, 2012 - Gills Onions, LLC of Oxnard, CA is expanding

its July 18 voluntary recall to include additional products because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*; a list is provided at the end of this release. The expanded product list includes diced, slivered and whole peeled onions and diced onion/celery mix with use-by-dates on or before August 3. No illnesses have been linked to this recall.

*Listeria monocytogenes* is an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea. *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.


The recalled products were shipped directly from Gills Onions to retailers in Canada and the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Gills Onions and FDA have been conducting concurrent investigations into the possible cause of contamination that led to the company's July 18 recall. In the course of these investigations, *Listeria* was found in the facility in which the July 18 recalled product was processed. As a precautionary measure, Gills Onions has expanded the recall to include all products processed in that facility and which may still be in the marketplace. This facility has been out of service since July 17, pending the outcome of the investigation and mitigation efforts.

Although none of the products included in this expanded recall has tested positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*, the company is issuing this voluntary recall in order to minimize risk to public health. The company has been working with state and federal health officials to thoroughly investigate the facility in question.

Gills Onions is notifying all customers who received the recalled product directly from the company and requesting that they remove it from commerce. We are also asking our direct customers to notify their customers of this recall. Gills Onions is issuing this press release and keeping the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and California Department of Public Health informed of its recall process to assure that consumers are properly alerted.

"Our priority right now is to carry out this recall effectively and efficiently in order to reduce the risk to public health," said Steve Gill, president of the company. "We've identified the problem, and we are taking aggressive actions to prevent this from happening again. These initial actions include the formulation of a panel of food safety experts and microbiologists with expertise in *Listeria* control, an expansion of the required microbial surveillance and sanitation programs, and continued testing."

No illnesses have been linked to this recall. Anyone who has the recalled product in their possession should not consume it and should destroy or discard it. Consumers with questions may contact Gills Onions at 1-888-220-0436 M-F 8am-5pm PDT. Please visit our website at [www.gillsonions.com](http://www.gillsonions.com)<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> for a copy of this release.

<b>Gills Onions' July 25, 2012 Expanded Recall</b>
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<b>Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Washington</b>
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<b>Recalled Lot Code</b>	<b>Product Description</b>	<b>Use-by-date</b>	<b>UPCode*</b>
All	Diced Yellow Onions, 7 oz, "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000405
All	Diced Red Onions, 7 oz "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000412
All	Slivered Yellow Sweet Onions, 5oz, "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000092
All	Slivered Red Onions, 5 oz, "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000009
All	Diced Celery and Onion, 7 oz, "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000429
All	Diced Celery and Onion, 19 oz, "Gills Onions" label	On or before August 3	643550000351
All	Diced yellow onions, 5 lb bag "True Leaf" label	On or before August 3	898634001018
All	Whole peeled yellow onions, "Western Onion" label	On or before August 3	02060042553
All	Diced yellow onions, 8 oz clear plastic containers sold in Wegmans stores in Syracuse, NY	On or before August 3	643550000498
All	Diced Celery & Onions, 8 oz clear plastic containers sold in Wegmans stores in Syracuse, NY	On or before August 3	643550000504

**CANADA: Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario**

<b>Recalled Lot Code</b>	<b>Product Description</b>	<b>Use-by-date</b>	<b>UPCode*</b>
All	Diced Yellow Onions, "Gills Onions" label Oignons jaunes frais, en dés, 198g	On or before August 3	643550000443
All	Diced Red Onions, "Gills Onions" label Oignons rouge frais, en dés, 198g	On or before August 3	643550000450
All	Diced Celery & Onions, "Gills Onions" label Céleri et oignons frais, en dés, 198g	On or before August 3	643550000467