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Scientific Test Results for Nanna's brand Mixed Berries 1kg packs

As last outlined to the market on 24 February 2015, following notification from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (**Department**) on 13 February 2015 of a potential Hepatitis A (**HAV**) contamination of Nanna's brand Mixed Berries 1kg packs, on 14 February 2015 Patties Foods Limited (**PFL**) moved swiftly to initiate the first of three voluntary recalls on PFL's frozen berry products.

PFL has completed its global testing of the recalled Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg product for the presence of HAV across 4 certified laboratories. Testing completed from all laboratories has not detected HAV in any batch of Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg product.

PFL has also adopted a 'positive release' protocol on all non-recalled batches of frozen berry stocks held in Australia, which have now resumed supply to customers. Accordingly, all batches of frozen berry products, not just those supplied from China, are being tested in Australia for HAV and E.coli. To date, no detection of either HAV or E.coli has been found in any batch.

The Department has also now informed PFL of the results of its food sampling and HAV analysis. This analysis was completed on the basis of 8 unopened packets of Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg packs randomly purchased from supermarkets, together with testing of two residual pack samples recovered from consumers who contracted HAV during the period. The Department has been unable to recover or test any residual samples from any other epidemiological cases to date.

The Department has undertaken this scientific testing to support its previous epidemiological conclusions linking the consumption of Nanna's Mixed Berries with cases of HAV.

The Department's test results show the following:

- **2 consumer recovered opened pack samples (BBD 15/10/16 and BBD 12/10/16)¹:**
 - For 1 of these samples, HAV was not detected.
 - 1 sample from the opened pack tested positive for HAV, however the Department noted that as this sample was from an opened packet it may have been open to contamination.

- **8 random supermarket purchased samples:**
 - For 7 of these samples, HAV was not detected
 - 1 sample detected a trace amount of HAV:
 - SARDI reported that a trace amount of HAV was detected in one of the duplicate neat sample RNA's. They added however that quantification at such low levels was not precise.

¹ Based on the two BBD dates supplied, PFL records show that a total of 44,010 packets of Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg were sold to supermarkets nationally.



- Microbiological testing of this sample returned negative results for Coliform and E.coli, which can also be indicators of the presence of poor hygiene practices.
- The Department noted the detection of HAV, under the testing protocol, only demonstrated the virus was or is present. It did not allow for a determination of whether the virus is viable (i.e. whether the virus is alive and will cause infection).

The Australian Government Department of Health stated on 25 March 2015, "The risk of contracting Hepatitis A from eating frozen berries is estimated to be very low, noting there have been 28 cases² to date despite berries being a commonly consumed food."

The Australian Government Department of Health has advised that as of 10 April 2015 there were in total 79 cases of Hepatitis A in Australia this year, 14 fewer than at the same time last year.

Based on the scientific test results to date there is no evidence to indicate the presence of a systematic quality assurance failure of PFL's supplier program, microbiological testing regime or compliance with its Australian Food Import Compliance Agreement (FICA).

Nanna's brand Mixed Berries 1kg packets remain out of the market until further notice whilst PFL evaluates alternate sources of supply.

Patties Foods MD & CEO, Steven Chaur said, "Patties Foods has always maintained a rigorous testing program throughout our supply chain, regardless of country of origin, with sample testing of 20% of all imported product, well above the existing 5% testing required by the FICA.

"Since the epidemiological link between our products and HAV was first notified, we promptly recalled all potential source products, ceased importing from possible sources of the potential contamination, reviewed all supplier HACCP programs and increased our testing regime to 100% of all containers of imported frozen berries from all countries, not just China. Consumers can be assured that Nanna's and Creative Gourmet brand berries are amongst the most rigorously microbiologically tested berries now sold in the market".

It is still too early to assess the significance of any financial implications for PFL of the product recalls and this latest development, although it is possible that ultimately the impact could prove to be material. This aspect of the recall is still being monitored and the market will be informed promptly and without delay if there are any material developments.

PFL continues to work closely with all relevant authorities in the interests of public safety.

Yours faithfully



PATTIES FOODS LTD
Mark G Smith
Chairman

² The Department of Health and Human Services has since advised that the number of cases was updated to 31.