

No: 1/2008/Import Safety/FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road,
New Delhi -110002

Date: 3rd June, 2011

Subject: Monitoring of fresh Fruit and Vegetable Import from Europe for E.Colli bacterial contamination- reg.

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to state that 17 people died in Germany over the past week due to consumption of fresh Fruit and Vegetable contaminated with E.Colli bacteria. In addition to Germany, many cases of E.Colli bacterial outbreak have also been reported in eight other European countries - Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. Russia has banned the import of all fresh vegetables from the European Union because of the E. coli outbreak centred on Germany. Keeping in view the chances of fresh Fruits and Vegetables contaminated with E.Colli bacteria enter into India, there is a need to increase the surveillance on fresh Fruit and Vegetable imports from Europe to ensure that they are safe for consumption. As a precautionary measure it has been decided to test samples of all fresh Fruits and Vegetables consignments imported from Europe for E.Colli bacterial contamination.

It is, therefore, requested to get above said food articles tested for E.Colli bacteria before issuing no objection certificates to customs. If any consignment of fresh Fruits and Vegetables imported from Europe found to be contaminated with E.Colli bacteria, this office may be informed immediately for taking further necessary action in this regard.


3/6/11
(Adesh Mohan)

Senior Inspecting Officer

To:

The Authorised Officers, FSSAI
Chennai/Kolkata/Haldia/Mumbai/JNPT/Delhi

Copy to :-

- 1 Shri. Sandeep M. Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary (Customs), Room No. 156 B, North Block, Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi. Ph- 011-23092978, Fax- 011-23093475, Email – jscus@nic.in- It is requested to issue similar instructions/ advice to the customs offices at all food import points(Sea/Land/ Air ports).
- 2 Dr. A.K. Panda, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi. Fax: 011-23063156.
- 3 Food Safety Commissioners of all states for information and taking similar action wherever necessary.
- 4 All Laboratories authorised for testing of imported food articles.