

Food safety -
Peanut Butter
EW



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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MESSAGE: _____

Peanut Butter letters etc.
Went to school district yesterday.



FEB 09 1998

United States
Department of
AgricultureFood and
Consumer
Service3101 Park
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OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To: <i>ERIC</i>	From: <i>Andy</i>
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SUBJECT: Return of Peanut Butter in Lot #315 from Vendor #0288**TO:** Karen Howard, Director
Child Nutrition Programs
Western Regional Office

Today the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informed us that four lots of peanut butter we purchased for the National School Lunch Program, while posing no health risk, contain residue from the herbicide monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA). The Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that "residues in [the] peanut butter are substantially below those that could pose a health risk to children."

However, MSMA is not approved for use on peanuts, and its presence, even at these low levels, makes this peanut butter "adulterated and hence unlawful," according to FDA. Therefore, this peanut butter does not meet the quality standards of the National School Lunch Program.

Over 90 percent of this peanut butter is currently in warehouses (or at the manufacturer). The remaining product from these four lots is in schools in Cordelia, Los Angeles, Montebello, and Pomona, California. USDA will collect immediately peanut butter from these four lots and return it to the manufacturer, who is cooperating fully with USDA.

In the future, as a condition of purchase, USDA will require peanut butter manufacturers to test their product for evidence of MSMA.

The peanut butter to be returned was delivered in cases of six number-10 cans with the following codes on the outside of the case as well as on the cans. The codes may be printed on the label or embossed directly on the can. The codes must be checked very carefully. Only product that includes all the following codes is to be returned:

Vendor code: 0288

Lot code: 315

Pack date: 11/97