



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DATE: February 21, 2008  
TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, and Nonpublic School Administrators  
FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *CW*  
SUBJECT: **Urgent – Short Time Line - Disposal Instructions for Commodity Fine Raw Ground Beef - A608 with Establishment Number 336**

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide instructions to schools for the disposal of the Commodity Fine Ground Beef A608, a raw product which was delivered to schools by Gordon Food Service (GFS) and SYSCO during school year 2007-2008. The recall has also been expanded to include the delivery of the commodity by Northern Food Service (NFS) during the previous school year.

Overview

The USDA commodity A608 fine ground beef from Westland would have been delivered by GFS and SYSCO during school year 2007-2008 and by NFS during school year 2006-2007. The raw ground beef from Westland is identified by the Establishment Number (EST 336) which is located inside the USDA mark of inspection on the case of raw ground beef. DO NOT DESTROY PRODUCTS THAT HAVE A DIFFERENT EST NUMBER.

Action needed

Schools that have 50 cases or less of the commodity A608 with the EST 336 code inside the USDA mark of inspection are authorized immediately to destroy onsite USDA purchases of Hallmark/Westland fine ground beef. These products must be rendered unfit for human consumption. A sample of the EST 336 code to be found on each case is shown below.



STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT  
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER  
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER  
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

For 50 cases or less, your school must use the following method of product destruction described below:

- Soak the product in bleach, bag it, and place it in an onsite waste receptacle immediately prior to trash pick up. It has been recommended that green food coloring could also be added to the bleach to change the appearance of the beef.
- Destruction must be witnessed by a person of authority such as a food service director, and one other person.
- Each witness must sign the destruction verification form.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.

For more than 50 cases (but less than a full truckload), contact your local health department and waste management company to determine the acceptable method of disposal in your county. The following guidelines have been provided by USDA for disposal of more than 50 cases.

- Destruction of these larger quantities must be witnessed by a representative of the local health department and an official from the landfill, incineration plant, or inedible rendering plant.
- The destruction verification form must be signed by these two witnesses.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.

All school programs disposing of the Westland A608 ground beef need to complete the attached form: "Hallmark/Westland A608 Destruction Verification and Reimbursement Form." **It is essential that the completed form is faxed to the Michigan Department of Education by February 27, 2008.** The information provided by the school program on the form can include any of the following reimbursable expenses related to the destruction of the A608 ground beef. On the form, it is essential that the name of the distributor (GFS, SYSCO, or NFS) be identified with the corresponding lot numbers from the cases of Westland A608 ground beef.

#### Reimbursable Expenses

- Transportation
- Storage
- Destruction

Schools are instructed to retain all original invoices for the reimbursable expenses that are identified on the enclosed form.

#### Separate instructions for the processed beef products

The processed beef products, using USDA commodity A594 coarse ground beef from Westland, would have been delivered by Gordon Food Service (GFS) and SYSCO Food

Service to schools in Michigan during the school year 2007-2008. The processed beef product recall has been expanded to include the delivery of the Pierre beef patties by the state warehouses during the school year 2006-2007.

GFS and SYSCO were notified of the hold by MDE on January 31, 2008. GFS and SYSCO then notified those schools that received processed products made from this commodity product via e-mail. Schools were told to hold these products until further direction was provided by them from the USDA.

**The commodity ground beef products using USDA Coarse Ground Beef from Westland Meat Company were produced by the following manufacturers that were involved in the hold: Advance Food Company, JTM Food Group, Kings Command, and Pierre Foods.**

Schools are to segregate and continue holding cases of processed beef products made from coarse ground beef (A594) until further instruction is received from MDE to allow for the disposal and replacement and/or credit for raw commodity product. Specific lot numbers will be provided from each of the manufacturers identifying the products involved in the recall.

Any questions related to this memorandum should be directed to Jayme Priest, Consultant at 517-335-3792 or e-mail at [priestj@michigan.gov](mailto:priestj@michigan.gov) and Lucia Campbell, Analyst at 517-373-1073 or e-mail at [campbell4@michigan.gov](mailto:campbell4@michigan.gov).

**Hallmark/Westland A608 Establishment Number 336  
Destruction Verification and Reimbursement Form**

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Agreement Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Commodity	# of Cases Destroyed	Company Name/Lot#	Distributed by: GFS NFS SYSCO	Destruction Method
A608	20	123361107	SYSCO	Soaked in bleach with green food coloring, bagged, and placed in onsite waste receptacle on February 22, 2008.

Witnesses	Print Name	Signature	Date Destruction Observed:
Witness 1	Sam Sample	<i>Sam Sample</i>	2/22/2008
Witness 2	Jane Doe	<i>Jane Doe</i>	2/22/2008

Brief Description of Costs to be Reimbursed:	Total Cost

Payee Information:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE FORM AND FAX TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 AT (517) 373-4022  
 ATTENTION RENEE CRATTY  
 BY FEBRUARY 27, 2008  
 Michigan Department of Education**

Retain all original invoices and other documentation associated with this recall for the expenses identified on this form.

**Hallmark/Westland A608 Establishment Number 336  
Destruction Verification and Reimbursement Form**

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Agreement Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Commodity	# of Cases Destroyed	Company Name/Lot#	Distributed by:	Destruction Method
			GFS NFS SYSCO	

Witnesses	Print Name	Signature	Date Destruction Observed:
Witness 1			
Witness 2			

Brief Description of Costs to be Reimbursed:	Total Cost

Payee Information:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Duplicate form as needed.)

**COMPLETE FORM AND FAX TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 AT (517) 373-4022  
 ATTENTION RENEE CRATTY  
 BY FEBRUARY 27, 2008  
 Michigan Department of Education**

Retain all original invoices and other documentation associated with this recall for the expenses identified on this form.