

TIMELINE

(Note: timeline provides chronology of key events or department action)

HEP A OUTBREAK LINK TO IMPORTS OF BERRIES FROM CHINA

Date	Summary of Key Events	Department of Agriculture Summary of Actions Undertaken	Number of Hep A Cases linked to berries	Products Recalled
13/02/15 (FRIDAY) 4:44pm 6:39pm	<p>Department of Agriculture provided with advice by OzFoodNet that there were several Hepatitis A cases linked to consumption of imported Nannas mixed berries. No further details provided.</p> <p>FSANZ advises National Food Safety Network (NFSN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 cases of hep A linked to the consumption of Nanna's frozen mixed berries. - risk to public health unclear 	<p>Closely monitor situation</p> <p>Continue to monitor situation as Victorian Department of Health was the lead agency, with OzFoodNet investigating /evaluating the emerging incident</p>	4 - 3 in VIC - 1 in NSW	None
14/02/15 (SATURDAY) 3:42pm	<p>FSANZ advises NFSN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consumer level recall undertaken for Nanna's Mixed Berries and Nanna's Raspberries (all best before dates up to and including 22/11/16) 	<p>Monitor situation – no further action for following reasons.</p> <p>Advice that the Hepatitis A cases were only linked to consumption of Nannas brand mixed berries which were ALL</p>	4 - 3 in VIC - 1 in NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack

		<p>being voluntarily recalled.</p> <p>Victorian Department of Health working with importer who was the sole importer of this berry product.</p> <p>Raspberry product recall purely precautionary.</p>		
<p>15/02/15 (SUNDAY)</p> <p>1:33pm</p>	<p>FSANZ advises NFSN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recall of a second product (Creative Gourmet mixed berries). - These were packed at the same warehouse as Nanna's products (i.e. precautionary recall) 	<p>Monitor situation – no further action for above reasons.</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 in VIC - 2 in NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack
<p>16/02/15 (MONDAY)</p> <p>2:46pm</p> <p>3:00pm</p> <p>4:00pm</p>	<p>Department contacted Customs and Border Protection Services for all data relating to imports of berries from all countries.</p> <p>Received preliminary information on laboratory capability for Hepatitis A analysis and limitations associated with end product testing.</p> <p>Communicable Disease Network Australia (CNDA) held teleconference</p>	<p>Data received at 12:48pm on 17 February.</p> <p>Researching Hepatitis A analysis of food, limitations and relevance of such testing – investigation versus regulatory</p> <p>Monitor developments.</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 in VIC - 2 on NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack

	to discuss multijurisdictional outbreak of Hep A. Reconfirmed unfolding outbreak linked to berries.			
17/02/15 (TUESDAY) 10:30am 12:48pm 1:00pm 2:00 pm	Contact with Patties Foods, the importer of Nannas mixed berries. Requested data from Customs received. Discussion with Food and Beverage Importers' Association. Engaged with industry association to seek industry assistance in reviewing their supply chains to ensure the berries imported are safe and not implicated in the current food recalls. NFSN Teleconference	Requested details of the Chinese exporter and manufacturer for the products being recalled. Also requested details of their supplier assurance requirements for these entities and assurance that all implicated product (new or not in retail) is being held. Commenced reviewing the data to evaluate trade in berries for 1 January 2014 to 16 February 2015 Department contacted the Food and Beverage Importers' Association to alert and seek industry assistance. Department participated in the National Food Safety Network convened a regulators teleconference (FSANZ, Agriculture and state depts. Of health) – the key outcome of the teleconference was agreement that the various jurisdictions would continue to	11 3 NSW 3 Vic 5 Qld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack

2:35pm	Food and Beverage Importers' Association contacted their members known to import berry products.	work together to understand the linkages between the imported frozen berries and reported cases of hepatitis A. Monitor.		
8:45pm	Agricultural Counsellor confirms teleconference with Chinese government officials	Department sent Cable seeking Agriculture Counsellor assistance in engaging with the Chinese government. Department commences drafting formal letter to China (AQSIQ) outlining concerns about hep A contamination in their supply chains and seeks an urgent investigation from Chinese authorities.		
18/02/15 (WEDNESDAY) 10:00am	Department of Agriculture met with FSANZ to discuss incident	The incident was discussed and agreement on actions to be taken reached.	11 3 NSW 3 Vic 5 Qld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack
3pm	FSANZ convened the Retailers and Manufacturers Liaison committee by teleconference. Committee is for industry with attendees from	The Department of Agriculture participated, providing an update on actions being taken by the department and initial feedback from Chinese		

5:18pm	<p>manufacturers, importers and retailers. Patties Foods attended providing an update on their actions.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture formally requests advice from FSANZ as to the risk posed to human health from imported berries for the hazard Hepatitis A.</p>	<p>authorities.</p> <p>Letter emailed to CEO of FSANZ. Await response.</p>		
6pm	<p>Media release issued by Department of Agriculture focusing on actions taken to date, and a further explanation of the imported food inspection system.</p>	<p>Media team continue to manage media enquiries</p> <p>Department writes to China (AQSIQ) again outlining concerns about hep A contamination in their supply chains and seeks further information about possible berry packers.</p>		
7pm	<p>Signed formal letter emailed to Agriculture Counsellor, Beijing.</p>			
19/02/15 (THURSDAY) 11:42 am	<p>Department received Cable from Post advising the authorities in China have commenced an investigation. This may be delayed due to Chinese new year.</p>	<p>Briefing prepared to inform stakeholders – internal department and FSANZ, state and territory governments.</p>	13 - 5 in QLD - 4 in NSW - 3 in Vic - 1 in WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack • Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack
12:47pm	<p>FICA notification received from Patties Foods confirming details of the foods being recalled and suspected to be the source of the Hepatitis A infections.</p>	<p>Notification details assessed.</p>		

1:30pm	Department spoke with Patties Foods concerning notification and products being recalled.	Department spoke to Fred Griffiths (Technical Manager) from Pattie's Foods to seek update on their actions. This again confirmed that all Patties product is currently on hold.		
2pm	NFSN Teleconference: Discussion focussed on Hep A testing, updates from states and territories, progress of investigation and update from Department of Agriculture and FSANZ.	Department provided information received from China and a summary of actions taken to date. Agreed to share further information as it becomes available.		
2:30pm	Engaged industry requesting provision of information from known importers of berries from China.	Department commenced phone contact with all recent berry importers (30) to receive information on their imported products and what supply chain controls are in place.		
7pm	Formal letter around FICA breach issued to Patties (in response to Patties FICA notification of this morning).	Monitor for response.		
20/02/15 (FRIDAY) 1pm	ICS data examined by compliance division. Evidence suggests Raspberries		14 - 5 in QLD - 5 in NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg pack Nanna's Raspberries 1kg pack

2:30pm	<p>have been imported from implicated Chinese Raspberry packer.</p> <p>Phone call</p>	<p>Department contact with identified importer to determine if they have risk product.</p>	<p>- 3 in Vic - 1 in WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 300g pack • Creative Gourmet's Mixed Berries 500g pack
3:15pm	<p>Email follow up to confirm in writing discussion.</p>	<p>Email and response from importer. Confirmed all berry product imported on voluntary hold at warehouse in Sydney.</p>		
3pm	<p>Contact with Patties Foods supply chain and quality assurance staff</p>	<p>Department officers contacted Patties Foods to seek detailed description of the berry supply chain from farm until final product is exported from China.</p>		
4pm	<p>Department changes profiling within Customs ICS system for berries from China.</p>	<p>Declaration of producer now mandatory for imports of berry products from China. Takes effect at midnight within ICS.</p>		
4:30pm	<p>Industry notice published advising producer declaration now mandatory for berry imports from China.</p>			

6pm	Telephone contact with known importers of berry products from China.	Department two thirds of way through phone contact with recent berry importers and emailing a follow up questionnaire to assist with dept's enquiries. Requested response within 48 working hours.		
21/02/2015 (Saturday) 10am 10:30am	Food and beverage Importers' Association advised of mandatory producer declaration. Industry notified of mandatory declaration of producer through email subscription service	Briefed on changes implemented. All registered parties receive notice.	18 3 – Victoria 7 – NSW 7 – Qld 1 - WA	