



Customer Information
CH-Riehen, 10.12.2014

Product withdrawal from the trade: Holle Organic millet porridge

A German state laboratory detected traces of natural tropane alkaloids in samples of Holle Organic Millet Porridge and Holle Organic Millet Porridge Apple-Pear.

We want to be on the safe side, we want to avoid any risk for very small children and we also want to avoid any damage to our own good reputation over different laboratories' disputes about their results and evaluations. This is why we are voluntarily withdrawing two batches of Holle Organic Millet Porridge products from the trade.

This voluntary withdrawal affects the following lots of Organic Millet Porridge:

Holle Organic Millet Porridge, lot number L13219 with best-before date 30.04.2015
Holle Organic Millet Porridge, lot number L14103 with best-before date 30.11.2015

The goods we have on stock are blocked and will not be delivered. Our retail partners are instructed to take the products from the shelves immediately.

Background information:

Currently, there are no officially verified standard measuring methods to detect tropane alkaloids.

Based on its own new in-house measuring method, a German state laboratory detected traces of tropane alkaloids in Holle millet porridges.

Tropane alkaloids are natural substances of weed seeds in millet crops. Careful cultivation helps eliminating them. One year ago, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and its German equivalent, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), raised the issue of traces of such seeds, such as the seeds of henbanes, that have always been present in food. They categorized them as undesirable and evaluated their risks. As a consequence, official laboratories targeted these alkaloids to develop their own in-house reference methods. The traces they are reporting with these methods are now the subject of warnings and withdrawals. A valid standard method does not yet exist.





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In a statement from November 2013, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) noted that they were not aware of any cases of health impairments in babies, toddlers, or consumers of other age groups, caused by the consumption of food containing traces of tropane alkaloids.

We regret the current situation very much and would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

