



A Division of



F ast acts on **Salmonella & Tomatoes**

June 13, 2008

UPDATE 7

At a Glance: FDA has updated the list of growing region/sources for tomatoes NOT associated with the Salmonella outbreak linked to eating raw red round, plum or Roma tomatoes. This Fast Facts update contains the latest list, and includes specific counties in Florida. **Newly added areas are listed in RED. Note also the revised number of illnesses and onset**

The Issue: Between **April 10 and June 1, 2008**, Epidemiological investigations linked illness with *Salmonella* Saintpaul to consumption of raw red round, plum and Roma tomatoes. To date, **228** illnesses have been confirmed in **23** states. FDA now recommends that retailers, restaurateurs, and food service operators *do not offer for sale tomatoes unless they are from sources already cleared from investigation*. The list of cleared sources is included below, and can also be found by following this link: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>.
Cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached may continue to be offered from any source.

Facts: Growing regions cleared from investigation as of June 12th now include the states of AL, **AK**, AR, CA, CO, DE, GA, HI, **IA**, **KS**, **KY**, LA, MA, ME, **MI**, MD, MN, **MO**, MS, **NH**, NJ, NY, NE, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, **VT**, WA, WV, & WI. These Counties in Florida are also cleared: Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, De Soto, Sarasota, Highlands, Pasco, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando, and Charlotte. Cleared Countries include Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Netherlands and Puerto Rico. For information on Salmonella and Tomatoes, visit the FDA at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/tomatqa.html#farm2table>. More information on Salmonella is available at the CDC website: http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/dfbmd/disease_listing/salmonellosis_gi.html.

US Foodservice Position for our Customers: US Foodservice recognizes and shares your concerns. Based on the FDA advisory, USF is doing the following:

Existing Inventory:

- All fresh and fresh cut red Roma, red plum and red round tomatoes in inventory from any growing/packing area not on the above list continues to remain on HOLD until further notice
- We are re-supplying with tomatoes grown and packed in approved areas
- We will work closely with our customers to meet their specific needs
- We will continue to monitor FDA updates to make sure other cleared areas are included

New Inventory

- Any new shipments of fresh and fresh cut red Roma, red plum, and round red tomatoes are being sourced only from areas cleared by the FDA.
- Growing and packing information is verified **IN WRITING** by our suppliers
- Tomatoes from Florida are also accompanied by a government certificate verifying source

Operators should:

- Continue to handle all food, including produce, as safely as possible
- Work with US Foodservice to re-supply inventory of tomatoes from approved sources

This “fast facts” will be updated as news becomes available. Please contact Greg Pallaske, Director of Regulatory Compliance (847.232.5884) for additional information.