



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED: WALNUT RECALL UPDATE

Dear Valued Customer

As a major importer and supplier of nuts and dried fruits in the Canadian food market we are committed to making our products safe for our customers. We do this by applying rigorous food safety protocols in accordance with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). If at any time a food safety issue arises we take every precaution to address the potential risk because the safety of the public is our foremost concern.

Our commitment to food safety has guided our every step during the recent walnut recall. Upon being informed by the CFIA that raw, shelled walnuts were a probable source of *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination we acted quickly and in complete cooperation with government officials. The following is an update on the recall to ensure you have all the facts:

- On Friday, April 1, 2011 the CFIA advised us that raw shelled walnuts were involved in an *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak between January 31<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- The walnuts were identified as a possible source of the *E. coli* O157:H7 because the investigation indicated that several individuals reported consuming raw shelled walnuts.
- Throughout the weekend CFIA inspectors attended on site at our facility and we fully cooperated with their investigation and shared all of the information they requested.
- Our concern for the safety of consumers is always paramount and on Sunday, April 3, 2011 we agreed to voluntarily recall raw, shelled walnuts from the marketplace. We contacted all of our customers who immediately cooperated with the recall effort.
- To date, and based on information received from the CFIA all samples taken, retail and wholesale, have tested negative. Samples from homes of people affected have also tested negative.
- We have conducted our own testing and samples taken from our facility have also tested negative.
- Our testing protocols have met CFIA requirements for product and environmental testing.
- We continue to conduct daily testing on every production line and thorough sanitation procedures in keeping with our strict standard practices.

The source of the *E. coli* contamination has not yet been confirmed since the **walnuts have tested negative**. We continue to support and cooperate with the ongoing CFIA investigation in order to confirm the exact source of this outbreak. Until such time, as part of our voluntary recall, we are keeping all raw, shelled walnut product on hold.

Thank you for cooperation throughout this process. We value your support and confidence in our products. We have confidence in the food safety measures in our facilities and in the food we deliver to our customers.

We will continue to keep you informed of the status of the investigation and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached at: Amira Enterprises Inc. at 1-877-383-9823 or [info@amira.ca](mailto:info@amira.ca). You can also contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 / TTY 1-800-465-7735.