

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 28, 2013 Kimberly Stryker, FSS Program Manager, (907) 269-7583

## Scenic Fruit Company Recalls Woodstock Frozen Organic Pomegranate Kernels for Possible Contamination with Hepatitis A

No. 13-38

(JUNEAU, AK) – Scenic Fruit Company has issued a recall for certain lots of its Woodstock Frozen Organic Pomegranate Kernels because they may be contaminated with Hepatitis A virus, based on an ongoing illness investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease that results from exposure to the Hepatitis A virus. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting several months. Illness generally occurs within 15 to 50 days of exposure and includes fatigue, abdominal pain, jaundice, abnormal liver tests, dark urine and pale stool. A Hepatitis A vaccination can prevent illness if given within two weeks of exposure to a contaminated food. In rare cases, particularly in consumers who have a pre-existing severe illness or are immune compromised, Hepatitis A infection can progress to liver failure.

The recalled product can be identified by the coding information found on the back of the pouches below the zip-lock seal:

Product	Size	UPC Code	Lot	Best by Date
Woodstock Organic Pomegranate	8 oz	0 42563 01628 9	C 0129 (A,B, or C) 035 C 0388 (A,B, or C) 087	2/04/15 3/28/15
			C 0490 (A,B, or C) 109	4/19/15

Alaska DEC has confirmed distribution of these products in Alaska. Consumers should check their freezers for affected product. Consumers with the product should not consume the product and should dispose of it immediately. Consumers may wish to keep proof of product purchase for future reference.

To date, there are no reported illnesses in Alaska or nationwide from consuming the Scenic Fruit Company product. However, there have been 122 cases of Hepatitis A in eight states associated with a frozen fruit blend containing pomegranate kernels.

Persons who may have consumed affected product within the last two weeks (and are not immunized against Hepatitis A) should consult with their health care provider to determine if a vaccination is appropriate, and consumers who consumed this product within the past two months and who are experiencing abdominal pain, nausea, yellow skin, fatigue, or other concerning symptoms, should contact their health care provider immediately and mention this product.

For questions or more information, contact the Scenic Fruit Company at 877-927-3434 or email <u>info@scenicfruit.com</u> Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PDT.

For more information on this recall, visit: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm358740.htm?source=govdelivery.

For more information on recalls affecting Alaskans, visit DEC's website: <u>http://www.dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/recallsalerts.html</u>.





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