



March 25, 2015

AFFI Frozen Spinach Fact Sheet

- Packaged frozen spinach is produced by: 1) sorting just-harvested spinach, with only the highest-quality spinach being retained; 2) spinach is then washed, blanched, frozen and packaged; and 3) stored in a temperature-controlled environment until being transported to grocery stores and foodservice providers.
- Food safety assurance measures in typical frozen spinach operations include: 1) an effective sanitation program; 2) adherence to good manufacturing practices; 3) use of quality water sources; and 4) adherence to rigorous health and hygiene programs for personnel.
- *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) is a pathogenic microorganism that is widely recognized as ubiquitous in the environment. Both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulate *Lm*. *Lm* is typically addressed through plant sanitation and environmental sampling programs.
- Some of the frozen spinach being voluntarily recalled is organically produced. More information on organic product standards is available at www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/nop.
- Detailed information regarding signs, symptoms and treatments for *Listeria monocytogenes* is available from FDA at: www.fda.gov/Food/FoodborneIllnessContaminants/CausesOfIllnessBadBugBook/default.htm.
- Further materials are available via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) and the FDA (www.fda.gov/Food/).

Please visit the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) at www.affi.org or contact AFFI Senior Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs Dr. Donna Garren at dgarren@affi.com or (703) 821-0770 for additional information.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food and beverage industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.org.