



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE

Southwest Region

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Food and Drug Administration
Denver District Office
Bldg. 20-Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25087
6th Avenue & Kipling Street
Denver, Colorado 80225-0087
Telephone: 303-236-3000
FAX: 303-236-3100

August 14, 2000

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Seam Ung
Owner
Chinese Bean Sprout Company
1130 South Lipan
Denver, Colorado 80223

Ref. #: DEN-00-34

Dear Mr. Ung:

We inspected your bean sprout production facility at the above address on July 18, 2000. We found that you have failed to adopt effective preventative controls to reduce the risk of raw sprouts serving as a vehicle for foodborne illness and to assure that sprouts are not adulterated under the food safety provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act).

Specifically, your sprouts are adulterated within the meaning of section 402(a)(4) of the Act because they are being produced under insanitary conditions that may render the sprouts injurious to health. The conditions under which the sprouts are being produced are considered insanitary since effective preventive controls, particularly microbial testing of spent irrigation water, have not been adopted and implemented by your sprouting facility, and an effective alternative is not in place.

We may take further action if you do not promptly correct this violation. For example, we may take further action to seize your products and/or enjoin your firm from operating.

It is necessary for you to take action on this matter now. Please let this office know in writing within fifteen (15) working days from the date you receive this letter as to the steps you are taking to correct the problem. We also ask that you explain how you plan to prevent this violation from happening again. If you need more time, please explain the reason for your delay, and when you expect the corrections to be completed.

The letter may not list all the violations at your facility. It is your responsibility to make sure you follow all the requirements of the Act and associated regulations. For your information, I have included with this letter copies of the following industry guidance documents: "Reducing Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Sprouted Seeds," and "Sampling and Microbial Testing of

PURGED

Chinese Bean Sprout Co. – Page 2
August 14, 2000

Spent Irrigation Water During Sprout Production.” These documents are intended to assist the sprout industry in producing safe products.

Your reply should be sent to the Shelly L. Maifarth, Compliance Officer, at the above address. You may contact Ms. Maifarth at (303) 236-3046 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas A. Allison
District Director

Enclosures:
As stated

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