



Food & Drug Administration  
158-15 Liberty Avenue  
Jamaica, New York 11433

**WARNING LETTER**

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

March 6, 2000

Mr. Robert L. Eacho  
President  
Gourm-E-Co Imports  
405 Glenn Drive  
Sterling, VA 20164

Ref: NYK-2000-41

Dear Mr. Eacho:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has information which shows that your firm violated the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

On November 1, 1999, we sampled a shipment of cheese, which your firm imported into the United States from Italy on October 21, 1999, under entry number 084-1005854-2. Two cheeses from this entry were sampled by the FDA at Larkin Cold Storage, Long Island City, NY. Our examination of these cheeses found them to contain *Listeria monocytogenes*, a poisonous and deleterious substance. Notices of Detention and Hearing were issued to you as importer, on November 30 for the Talaggio cheese representing line 001/001 of the entry, and subsequently, on December 16 for the Gorgonzola cheese representing line 003/001.

Our contacts with your consultant, C & S Laboratory Consultants, and our follow-up visit to Larkin Cold Storage on January 19, 2000, indicated that most of this detained cheese had already been distributed to the respective consignees. This is a violation of 21 CFR 1.90, which requires the importer to hold an entry intact pending receipt of a May Proceed or Release Notice from FDA.

Failure to promptly correct this violation and prevent future violations may result in regulatory action without further notice, such as seizure, injunction, or automatic detention of future shipments. It is your responsibility, as the importer, to ensure that imported product meets all requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Within 15 working days of receipt of this letter, notify this office in writing of the specific steps you have taken to correct the violation, including an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of the violation.

**Mr. Robert L. Eacho**  
**Gourm-E-Co Imports**

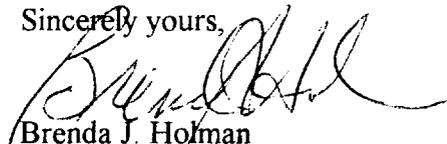
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A copy of this letter, except for any confidential, personal, or commercial information will be placed on public display no earlier than fifteen (15) days after the date of this letter. Your response will be on public display with any confidential, personal or commercial information purged.

Your written reply should be addressed to the attention of Kenneth M. Klein, Compliance Officer at:

Food and Drug Administration  
158-15 Liberty Avenue  
Jamaica, NY 11433-1034  
(718) 340-7000 ext. 5478

Sincerely yours,



Brenda J. Holman  
District Director  
New York District