



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

4/18/01  
HFI-35

SDSO

Food and Drug Administration  
Florida District  
555 Winderley Place  
Suite 200  
Maitland, Florida 32751

Telephone: 407-475-4700  
FAX: 407-475-4769

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

**WARNING LETTER**

FLA-01-24

January 3, 2001

Tak Kim Cheung, President  
Shun Shing Bean Sprouts, Inc.  
13350 Cain Rd.  
Tampa, FL 33625

Dear Mr. Kim Cheung:

We inspected your sprout production facility at the above address on December 14 and 15, 2000. Our inspection found that you have failed to adopt effective preventive controls to reduce the risk of raw sprouts becoming a vehicle for foodborne illness and to ensure that your sprouts are not adulterated under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act).

Specifically, our inspection found that 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. For example, at the time of our inspection in December, your firm had not conducted any microbial testing of spent irrigation water and no sampling method or plan for testing of spent irrigation water had been established. The seeds used for sprout production were also not being effectively sterilized prior to use, growing sprouts were sprayed with a nutrient solution contrary to labeled instructions, bulk sprouts were stored at 43° F in a cooler, which was not equipped with a thermometer, and the finished product sprouts were shipped in an unrefrigerated truck. Our inspection also disclosed insanitary conditions around the dumpster adjacent to your plant with numerous flies noted on and around your dumpster and within 15 feet of open doors to the plant.

We may take further action if you do not promptly correct these violations. For instance, we may seize your product(s) and/or enjoin your firm from operating.

Please respond in writing within three (3) weeks from your receipt of this letter. Your response should outline the specific things you are doing to correct these deviations. You may wish to include in your response documentation, such as recent test results for spent irrigation water, a method/plan for testing spent irrigation water and any other documentation that you have corrected the deficiencies noted in this letter. If you cannot complete all corrections before you respond, we expect that you will explain the reason for the delay and state when you will correct any remaining deviations.

This letter may not list all the deviations at your facility. You are responsible for ensuring that your processing plant operates in compliance with the Act and the Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations (Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 110). You also have a responsibility to use procedures to prevent further violations of the Act and all applicable regulations. You can find this Act and guidelines for the production and testing of sprout products through links in FDA's home page at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

Please send your reply to the Food and Drug Administration, Attention: Kendall W. Hester, Compliance Officer, 555 Winderley Place, Suite 200, Maitland, Florida 32751. If you have questions regarding any issue in this letter, please contact Mr. Hester at (407) 475-4730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma R. Singleton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma R. Singleton  
Director, Florida District