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15TH November 2018

Dear Valued Customer

SUSPECTED SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION OF SHELL EGGS

Further to the media reports late last week and during the course of this week reporting suspected cases of *Salmonella* food poisoning resulting from the consumption of shell eggs in Durban, KwaZulu Natal, Bidfood would hereby like to confirm the following supplier control protocol with regards the supply and distribution of fresh shell eggs. Initial media reports have linked the suspected contamination to imported shell eggs from Brazil. This has however not been confirmed and Bidfood would like to confirm that we do not supply imported, shell eggs.

Salmonella is widely dispersed in nature, and is spread through food and contact with contaminated water, as well as soil, insects, factory equipment, hands and kitchen surfaces and utensils. *Salmonella* can also be spread via cross contamination from contaminated food to other foods or objects in the food handling environment.

Suppliers of shell eggs and raw egg product to Bidfood are required to have Salmonella Control Plans in place. Screening protocols are implemented to enable early detection and to minimise the spread of the pathogen should it be detected. All shell egg suppliers have strict biosecurity measures, hygiene, sampling and vaccine schedules in place that are monitored daily and verified on a weekly basis. The Salmonella control plans extend to the feed and water supply to the farms and full traceability and record is kept of all incoming supply. None of the approved suppliers to Bidfood have been implicated in the recent cases of Salmonella contamination.

All batches of eggs have full product traceability which is clearly indicated by means of batch numbers and best before date details on outer carton packaging and are accompanied on delivery by Certificates of Compliance on delivery to Bidfood branches nationally.

Bidfood supplies an extensive range and large quantity of shell eggs packed under our Private Label - **Cooking with...** brand, and careful attention has been given to the selection of the egg suppliers as well as the quality of packaging material and information pertaining to safe handling of shell eggs on the outer and inner cartons of the **Cooking with...** packaging.

SAPA (South African Poultry Association – Egg Board) and the Department of Health are currently involved in investigations into the suspected contamination and information updates are expected later this week when laboratory test results have been finalised.

Should you have any specific queries or information requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on jane.russill@bidfood.co.za.

Thank you for your on-going support and assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Russill', is written over a horizontal line.

Jane Russill
National Quality Risk Executive



Bidfood South Africa is a Level Four B-BBEE contributor. Customers can claim credit for 100% of spend with us under their preferential procurement score.

Bidfood (Pty) Ltd.
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