**Conference for Food Protection**

**2012 Issue Form**

**Internal Number: 092**

**Issue: 2012 I-019**

**Title:**

Uniform Food Recall System

**Recommended Solution: The Conference recommends...:**

that a letter be sent to the FDA and the USDA requesting that they work together in collaboration with industry stakeholders on developing a uniform food recall system. Examples of what should be considered in this initiative are:

* A mechanism for working with industry and other stakeholders to further identify the specific changes needed to enhance the current recall system
* A uniform recall process be used by all federal food regulatory agencies
* A revised classification system that is prompt, transparent and meaningful to industry, regulatory, and the general public using consistent definitions for recall classifications
* Consistent information provided with every recall, especially a decision on the classification
* Clarifying instructions and procedures for industry and the public
* A mechanism for engaging relevant private-sector expertise in recall investigations and recall decisions
* Reasonable "best practice" time frames for execution of recall communications and actions including verification of notification
* Clear and consistent information in recall notifications to each segment of the supply chain including information that clearly identifies the product being recalled in sufficient detail
* Consistent protocol for audits and/or effectiveness checks
* Consistent and more specific consumer messages (for example, explaining the difference between recalls for pathogens that present a risk to the general public versus a recall for an allergen that impacts a select portion of the population)
* A single website and database for all food recalls with a consumer- friendly format

It is the policy of the Conference for Food Protection to not accept Issues that would endorse a brand name or a commercial proprietary process.