**Conference for Food Protection**

**2012 Issue Form**

**Internal Number: 018**

**Issue: 2012 I-020**

**Title:**

Recall Definitions and Decision Tree

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

that a letter be sent to the FDA and USDA recommending the following:

a. Change in definitions:

* Replace Class I Recall with "Food Recall" defined as a ***health* risk to the general public**, and should coincide with what the FDA generally defines as a "reportable food" or the USDA equivalent thereof
* Replace Class II Recall with "Allergen Alert" or "Food Alert" defined as a ***health risk to* allergic/selected/sensitive populations**.
* Replace Class III Recall with "Food Notification" defined as ***little or no health risk***.

b. Creation of a decision tree for classification of recalls, with the following stipulations:

* Decision tree should be transparent and readily available as a tool to industry and regulators.
* Decision tree should be developed jointly with industry, regulators, and consumer representatives.
* Decision tree is a guideline, not an absolute rule - regulators maintain final classification decision.
* The same/ similar decision tree/ system should be followed by both FDA and USDA.

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.