

Serving up a better process for food recalls



When a product recall is issued, every part of the supply chain becomes focused on identifying the location of the product and removing it from circulation. The ability to respond quickly and accurately to a product recall is critical.

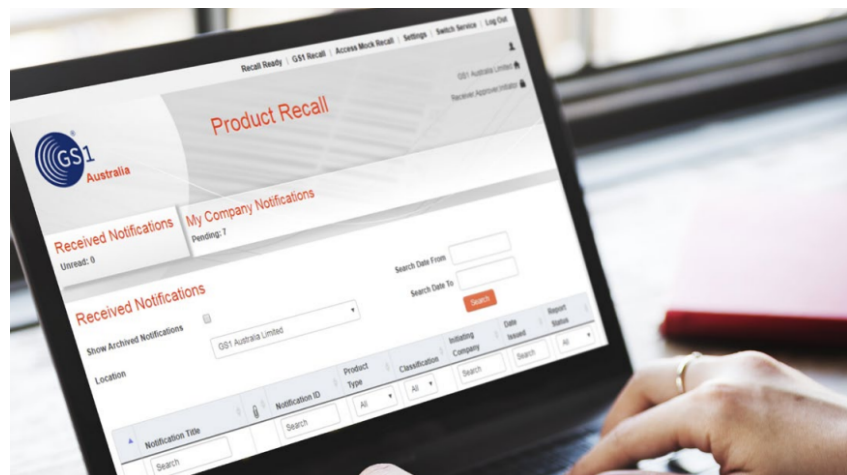
For the food service industry, if the recall is food allergen-related, it can be the difference between life and death for some customers.

Across the past decade, undeclared allergens have been the single biggest cause of Australia's total food recalls. During the month of October 2021 alone, 55% of reported recalls were due to undeclared allergens, including the presence of soy, tree nuts and wheat (gluten) in food products and sulphates in liquor.¹

Those living with allergies rely on manufacturers to deliver safe food products with accurate food labelling so as to be able to make informed decisions about what to eat, and what to avoid.

Despite excellent controls and global best practices in the food supply chain, things can still go wrong. Packaging errors, incorrect ingredient lists, unverified raw ingredients and accidental cross-contaminations can occur during the manufacturing process. These can result in potentially unsafe products ending up at a food service outlet or restaurant.

Protecting customers with a fast, efficient way for food wholesalers, manufacturers and operators to



GSI Australia Recall online platform protects customers with the fast, effective communication of recall notifications.

remove unsafe products from the supply chain, is the driving force behind the GSI Australia Recall online platform.

Andrew Brown, Business Development Manager at GSI Australia says, "We developed the Recall platform with input from our industry partners and regulatory bodies, including FSANZ, to ensure food manufacturers and distributors can communicate product recalls more effectively, using a consistent format."

GSI Recall is supported by bodies such as HACCP and the Australian Institute of Food Science Technology (AIFST) to enable the automatic sharing of recall notifications with regulators and state-based food safety authorities in accordance with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Food Industry Recall

Protocol.

Brown continued, "A major benefit for using a digital communication tool such as the Recall platform, is that everyone is notified in real-time at the click of a button. Evidence of communications is captured, and an audit trail is produced, of when actions and communications took place, with updates instantly delivered to mobile devices."

At the completion of the recall, full reporting is instantly available to satisfy business and regulatory requirements. *Find out about the GSI Australia Recall platform at: <https://www.gs1au.org/recall>*

Reference

- <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls/Pages/default.aspx>