

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT** // NEWSLETTER //  
AUSTRALIA

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## Product Recall Monitor July to December 2020

February 2021

The Liberty Specialty Markets (Liberty) Product Recall Monitor summarises recent product recalls that have taken place across a variety of industries in Australia. We also share what's new at Liberty by introducing our SME Product Safety and Withdrawal insurance offering.

In this edition we share the latest recalls in:

- ▶ Food & beverage
- ▶ Allergens
- ▶ Microbiological
- ▶ Home & living
- ▶ Babies & kids

TRENDING  
TOPICS

AUSTRALIA

# What's new at Liberty?

## Product recall and withdrawal protection tailored for small to medium importers, manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers

Liberty understands the financial costs and stress associated with product recalls and withdrawals. With this in mind, we have tailored a product specifically for companies providing consumers goods to any of the major retailers in Australia.

We have introduced our packaged SME Product Safety and Withdrawal policy solution designed for a wide range of consumer goods including furniture, clothing, appliances and toys. Offering protection from both product recalls and product withdrawal, it is ideally suited for small to medium importers, manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers.

### Benefits of the cover

We've worked with the consumer goods industry for many years and have rolled the most commonly required covers into one convenient industry policy, including:

- ▶ Coverage for product recall
- ▶ Automatic inclusion for product withdrawal i.e. no threat of bodily injury
- ▶ Replacement cost and faulty stock sublimit provided
- ▶ A nil deductible
- ▶ Access to Liberty's specialist crisis management consultants who can assist in the event of an incident

### Comparing this SME package with our full Product Recall cover

	SME PACKAGE	FULL COVER
Recall Costs	✓	✓
Third Party Recall Costs	✓	✓
Replacement Costs	sublimited	✓
Faulty Stock	sublimited	✗
Business Interruption	✗	✓*
Rehabilitation Expense	✗	✓*
Consultants	✓	✓

✓ Coverage provided ✗ Coverage not provided

If you would like to know more about our SME cover please get in touch with a member of the [Liberty Crisis Management team](#).

\*Business Interruption and Rehabilitation Expenses can be purchased via endorsement.







# What's been recalled recently in Australia

## Food and beverage examples

### 4 August 2020 – Beef sausages

The recall is due to the presence of foreign matter (plastic). Food products containing plastic fragments may cause injury if consumed.

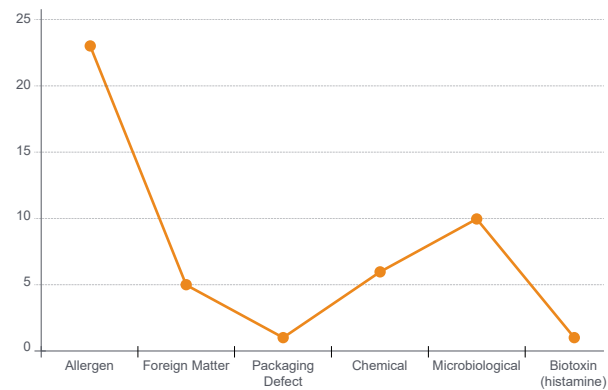
### 30 October 2020 – Protein energy balls

The recall is due to the presence of foreign matter (metal). Food products containing metal fragments may cause injury if consumed.

### 6 November 2020 – Bakery bread

The recall is due to the presence of foreign matter (glass). Food products containing glass fragments may cause injury if consumed.

**Food and Beverage – Reasons for recalls**  
July to December 2020





# Allergens

## Which allergens are causing recalls?

From 2010 to 2019 dairy was the most common cause, followed by peanuts, wheat/ gluten and finally tree nuts.\*

When someone has a food allergy, their immune system wrongly sees the food as hostile and the body's defence mechanism springs into action. This produces a range of symptoms which can vary from mild itching to severe breathing difficulties or even shock. These symptoms usually happen

immediately after eating the food. Read more about allergy intolerance at [www.safefood.eu](http://www.safefood.eu).

Allergen recalls are predominately coming from processed foods, confectionary and baked foods. This is no surprise considering the large number of ingredients in processed products. The more ingredients, the harder it is to ensure they are free from potential allergens.

Australian population-based research has shown that up to 10% of infants have confirmed food allergies. Around 85% of children with an early allergy to foods – including eggs, cow's milk, wheat and soy – will develop tolerance to these foods by five years of age. Allergies to peanuts and tree nuts, on the other hand, are typically lifelong.

## Allergen examples

### 1 September 2020 – Vegetarian dumplings

The presence of an undeclared allergen (shellfish). Any consumers who have a shellfish allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed.

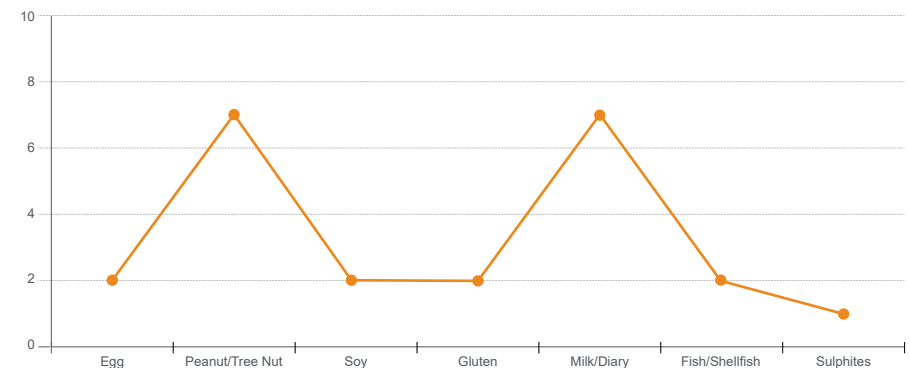
### 23 September 2020 – Sesame soft candy

The presence of an undeclared allergen (peanut). Any consumers who have a peanut allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed.

### 23 December 2020 – Chicken parmigiana with mashed potato

The presence of an undeclared allergen (milk). Any consumers who have a milk allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed.

Allergens – Categories for recalls  
July to December 2020



Read more about allergy intolerance in children at [data.growingupinaustralia.gov.au](http://data.growingupinaustralia.gov.au)

\* <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls/recallstats>

# Microbiological contamination

## Microbiological contamination is the next biggest threat

Microbiological contamination is the second largest cause of recalls.

The most common of these contaminations are *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) – combined these account for 81% of all microbiological recalls.\* Given the right conditions, millions of bacteria can grow on common, everyday foods.

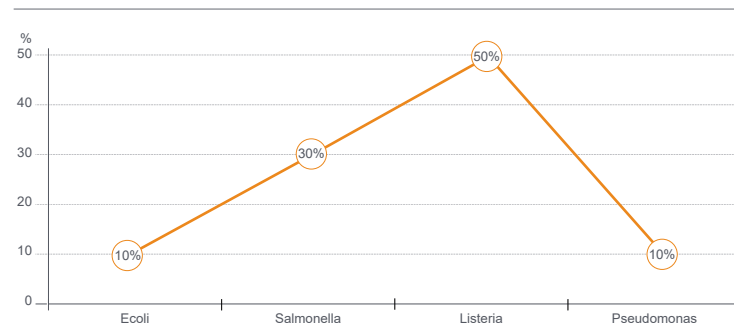
These conditions are:

- ▶ Time – a single bacterium can multiply to over two million in just seven hours.
- ▶ Warmth – the ‘danger zone’ temperatures at which bacteria grow best are between 5°C and 63°C.
- ▶ Food – like any other living things, germs need food to grow. High-risk foods that bacteria love best include dairy products, meat, poultry, fish and shellfish.
- ▶ Water – bacteria need moisture to grow. This includes moisture in ‘wet’ foods such as juicy meats, sandwich fillings, soups, sauces and dressings.

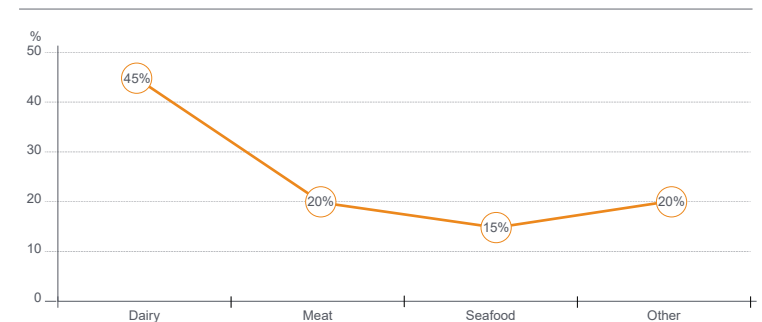
For a healthy adult the probability of getting sick from contaminated food is dependent on both the type and number of harmful microorganisms present in the food. For those who are susceptible, namely the very young, and those who are sick or pregnant, whose immune systems are less effective, lower numbers of microorganisms may cause illness.

Read more about microbiological food safety risks at [www.safefood.eu](http://www.safefood.eu).

Causes of microbiological contamination recalls July to December 2020



Listeria, salmonella & e. coli – Products recalled July to December 2020



\* <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls/recallstats>



## Microbiological examples

### 21 July 2020 – Halloumi cheese

The recall is due to a microbial (E.Coli) contamination. Food products contaminated with E.Coli may cause illness if consumed.

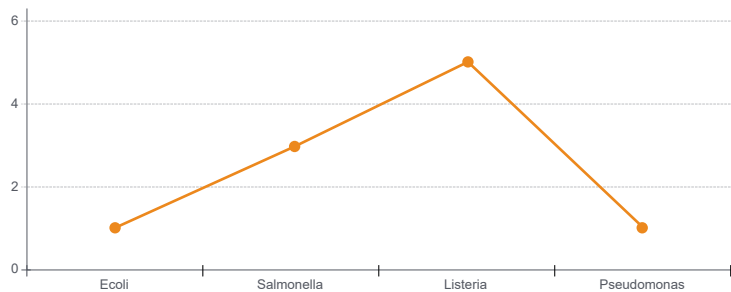
### 1 September 2020 – Chicken wurst

The recall is due to a microbial (Listeria Monocytogenes) contamination. Food products contaminated with Listeria Monocytogenes may cause illness if consumed.

### 23 December 2020 – Cooked & peeled cocktail prawns

The recall is due to potential microbial contamination. Food products with potential microbial contamination may cause illness if consumed.

Microbiological Contamination –  
Categories for recalls July to December 2020



## Home and living examples

### 17 August 2020 – Rubbish bin with lid

The knob style and screw may come loose and detach from the lid. If the knob or screw detach, they are a choking and suffocation hazard if ingested by young children.

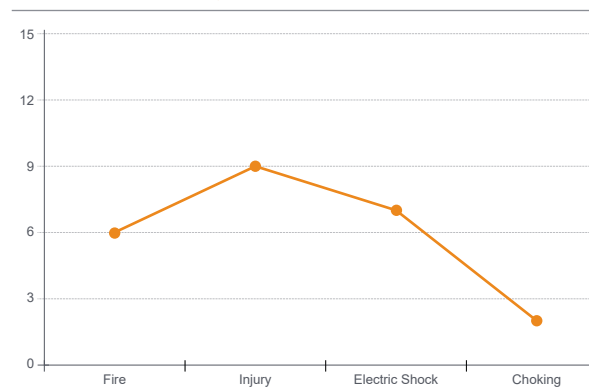
### 12 November 2020 – Power point panels

The socket outlet may trip at the correct current limit which can result in an electric shock. If an electric shock occurs there is a risk of serious injury or death.

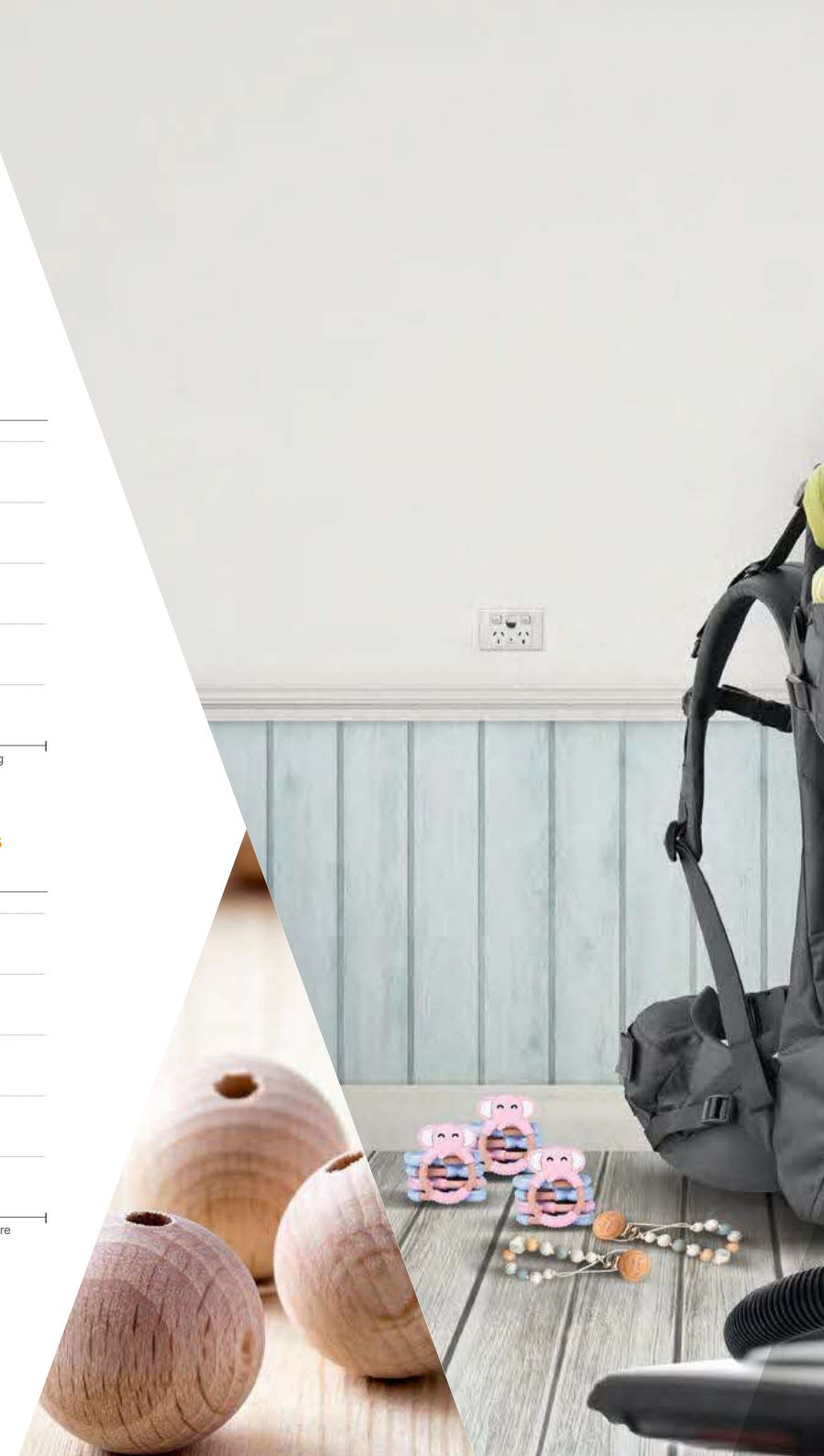
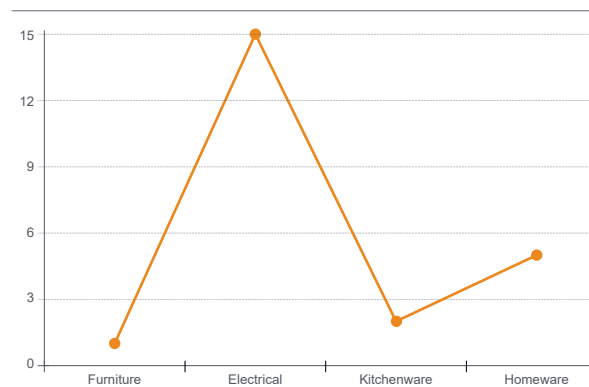
### 23 December 2020 – Vacuum cleaner

The dust filter in the vacuum cleaner may become blocked which can result in a fire. If a fire occurs, there is a risk of serious injury to the user and other household occupants and damage to property.

Health and Lifestyle – Reasons for recalls  
July to December 2020



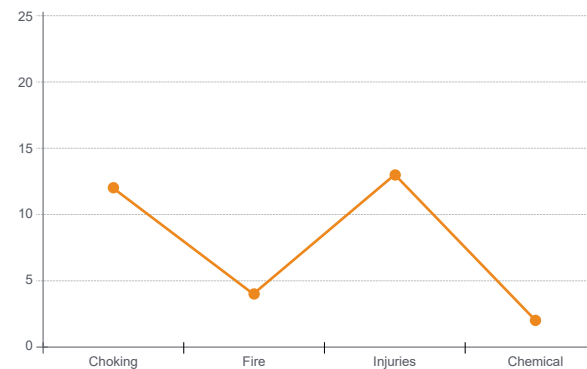
Health and Lifestyle – Categories for recalls  
July to December 2020



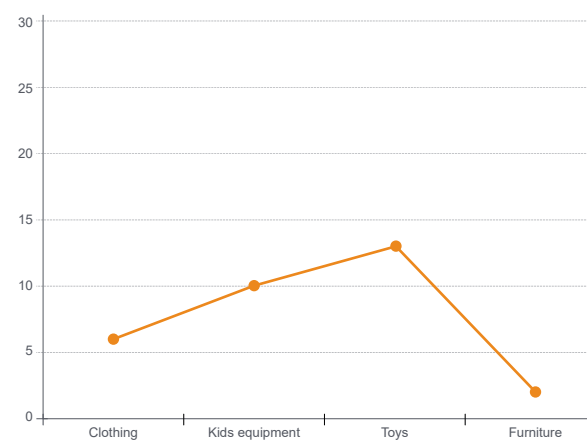




**Babies and Kids – Reasons for recalls  
July to December 2020**



**Babies and Kids – Categories for recalls  
July to December 2020**



## Babies and kids

### 6 July 2020 – Babycarrier

The carrier stand hinge may be missing one or two bolts, which may cause the stand to be unstable. If the carrier stand hinge has missing bolt/s the carrier may be unstable, resulting in a risk of a child falling or the carrier tipping over when placing a child in or out of the carrier, increasing the risk of serious injury to the child.

### 6 August 2020 – Silicone baby teether

The teethers have white ear inserts that can separate from the main ear. If the white ear insert detaches from the teether, it may become lodged in an infant's throat and pose a choking or suffocation hazard.

### 26 October 2020 – Dummy chains

The chain length does not meet the specifications of the standard. The dummy chain may get caught around an infant/child's throat and pose a strangulation hazard.



## Contact us

If you're looking for more information regarding product recall insurance, please get in touch with our specialist crisis management underwriters.

### Sydney

#### Shelley Devane

Assistant Vice President, Crisis Management

**T** +61 2 8298 5959

**E** shelley.devane@libertyglobalgroup.com

#### Michael Lincoln

Vice President, Crisis Management  
Asia Pacific

**T** +61 2 8298 5958

**E** michael.lincoln@libertyglobalgroup.com

### Melbourne

#### Keith Bostock

Underwriter, Crisis Management

**T** +61 3 9619 9832

**E** keith.bostock@libertyglobalgroup.com

#### Donna Niblock

Assistant Vice President  
Crisis Management & Victorian Branch Manager

**T** +61 3 9619 9832

**E** donna.niblock@libertyglobalgroup.com

### Brisbane

#### Bill Hardie

Senior Underwriter, Crisis Management

**T** +61 7 3235 8808

**E** bill.hardie@libertyglobalgroup.com

### Hong Kong

#### Joyce Cheng

Assistant Vice President,  
Crisis Management, Asia

**T** +852 3655 2685

**E** joyce.cheng@libertyglobalgroup.com

### Singapore

#### Si Min Tay

Senior Underwriter, Crisis Management

**T** +65 6622 9191

**E** simin.tay@libertyglobalgroup.com

### Malaysia

#### Ken Tung

Underwriter, Crisis Management

**T** +60 3 2082 4000

**E** ken.tung@libertyglobalgroup.com

 View our office locations

 Meet our Crisis Management team members



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