April 1, 2008

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2008.10

Subject: Field Supplies – Voluntary Recall of Ricca pH buffers

This is to inform you that the Ricca Chemical Company has issued a voluntary recall of certain lots of pH 4 and 10 buffers due to a cosmetic problem with mold appearing in the solutions. The letter describing the recall and listing the affected lot numbers is attached below. Ricca says that the mold is a cosmetic issue only and will not affect the pH of the solutions. Some of our USGS experts have been consulted and they feel that the buffer should not be used if there is visible mold growth.

Ricca has agreed to replace buffer from the affected lots at no cost to your Centers. If you have buffers currently in stock in your office that you would like to have replaced, email the following information to nfss@usgs.gov:

Lot No:
Quantity to be replaced:
Address to ship replacement buffer to:
Contact at this address (name, email, phone):

Please try to consolidate the response for your office and include only lot numbers from the list in the Ricca letter. The National Field Supply Service (NFSS) at the NWQL will compile the information and send it to Ricca. The Ricca Chemical Company will then ship the replacement buffer directly to the address supplied.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Fitzgerald (kkfitz@usgs.gov) or the NFSS (nfss@usgs.gov).

If this Note was forwarded to you and you'd like to have your name placed on the WaQI Notes distribution, please send email to nlsnow@usgs.gov.

WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality web site,
http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/WaQI/index.html

Attachment

RICCA CHEMICAL COMPANY LLC
www.riccachemical.com
448 West Fork Dr • Arlington, Texas 76012
Manufacturing & Distribution Sites
Arlington, TX • Pocomoke City, MD • Batesville, IN

February 22, 2008

Dear Valued Customer:

SUBJECT: Voluntary Market Withdrawal of pH BUFFER due to cosmetic growth of mold

Over the last few months, RICCA CHEMICAL COMPANY has experienced cosmetic issues on several lots of RICCA Brand pH buffers related to mold growth. Upon notification, we immediately initiated a very thorough root cause analysis. It was determined that the cause of the mold contamination was a specific lot of color dye and inoculated mixing vessels.

Process improvements were initiated to eradicate the mold spore contamination that is commonly found in the dye, modified cleaning procedures including treatment of manufacturing equipment with industrial sterilants, environmental monitoring, and improved change control procedures were put in place to train new employees. Additionally, we are increasing the retention and testing of lots for mold. All retained lots of material that were produced prior to the process improvements were tested for mold growth and specification. As a result of the product investigations and quality inquiries, several lots of material are being replaced as a preventative measure, even though these products passed quality review on the pH specification.

RICCA CHEMICAL COMPANY has initiated this broad voluntary replacement to put to rest all concerns on the quality of their product. The mold was limited in each instance to a specific identifiable source. The species found in the pH 4 Buffer was *Exophiala.* The species found in the pH 10 Buffer were *Acremonium* and *Fusarium*.

If you have any of the lots of the material listed on the following page, we will gladly replace the product at our cost. Please contact the RICCA CHEMICAL COMPANY QA department at (800)742-2235 for a prompt replacement. Ask for Todd Oberg (toberg@riccachemical.com). If Todd is not available, please ask for Tracy Madden (tmadden@riccachemical.com).

We very much regret this deviation from our usual high quality standards. Your same contact for the replacement product will be able to assist you with the credited products. Should any other problems arise or for further assistance with this issue, please feel free to contact Quality Assurance at Ricca Chemical Company.

We thank you for using Ricca Chemical Company products and look forward to successful resolution of this issue to your satisfaction.

Respectfully,

Peter J. Ricca,
President
Ricca Chemical Company
pricca@riccachemical.com, 800-742-2235, ext 301

RICCA CHEMICAL COMPANY

SUBJECT: Voluntary Market Withdrawal of pH BUFFER due to cosmetic growth of mold

Date: February 22, 2008

Product Code	Lot	Description
1601	2709039	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2709387	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2710215	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2710346	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2710482	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2710570	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2711140	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2711211	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2711339	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2711404	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2712098	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2712183	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2801501	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2801645	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1601	2801646	pH 10 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Blue
1501	1701006	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1702279	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1703B29	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1701845	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1703939	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1705993	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1704923	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1705032	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1706140	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1706984	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1706A43	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1707562	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1707607	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1708242	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1708463	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red
1501	1709279	pH 4 Reference Buffer, Color Coded Red