



Pat Quinn, Governor

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)

TO: Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs

FROM: Bill Beaty, Division Chief

DATE: December 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Maribel Sweet's Inc. Recalls Gourmet Chocolate Candies

*The Illinois Department of Public Health received the following recall notice. It is being forwarded for information purposes only. There is no action required.*

Contacts:

Consumer: (212) 925-6999 - Media: Maribel Lieberman, (212) 925-6999

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - December 23, 2011 - Maribel's Sweets Inc. of New York, is recalling its New York Handbag Collection gourmet chocolate candies because they may contain undeclared peanuts and tree nuts (pistachios). People who have allergies to peanuts and pistachios run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products.

The recalled chocolates were **distributed nationwide in retail stores and through mail orders.**

The chocolates are packaged in either blue or red boxes in the quantities described below. Products were distributed between November 1, 2011 and December 23, 2011.

9 pieces in a blue box, UPC 58289 00011  
9 pieces in a red box, UPC 58285 00086  
16 pieces in a blue box, UPC 58285 00012  
16 pieces in a red box, UPC 58289 00087  
25 pieces in a blue box, UPC 58285 00013  
25 pieces in a red box, UPC 58289 00088  
100 pieces in a blue box, UPC 77708 00154  
100 pieces in a red box, UPC 77708 00185

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. The recall was initiated after it was discovered that the nut-containing product was distributed in packaging that did not reveal the presence of nuts. Subsequent investigation indicates the problem was caused by a temporary breakdown in the company's production and packaging processes.

The product label has been corrected to properly declare all ingredients, including any nuts or other allergens.

Consumers who have purchased the chocolate candies are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-212 925 6999 between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.