

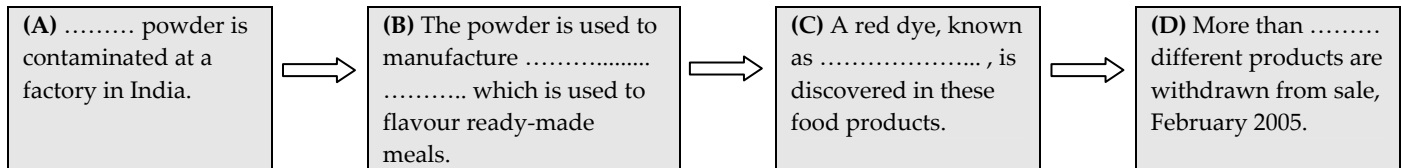
## Product recall

The biggest ever product recall in the UK has left the food industry counting the cost and asking: who is to blame?

1 Which is the 'odd one out' in the list below? Why? Which kinds of food do you usually buy?

fresh health ready-made spicy sauce pre-cooked

2 Study the flow chart of a recent product recall. Complete the missing information by scanning the article below.



## Food scare

Britain's biggest ever product recall could cost the insurance industry over £100 million. The Food Standards Agency discovered a cancer-causing dye known as Sudan 1 in a batch of chilli powder used to manufacture Worcester sauce. The dye, used for colouring solvents, oils and waxes, is banned for use in foodstuffs across the EU. The recall has led to the withdrawal of more than 400 products from supermarkets.

The sauce was sent to food manufacturers in order to flavour ready-made meals. These are sold in hundreds of pubs, restaurants, office canteens and hospitals. The FSA said the health risk was small but it was sensible not to eat the affected products. Critics of the food industry says it shows just how similar supermarket food is, since rival shops all buy from the same manufacturers.

Anyone breaking the food safety regulations faces a two-year prison sentence and an unlimited fine. Some say that there is not enough testing of food imports at ports, in food factories or by supermarkets. In Germany, testing is much stricter than in Britain. In July 2003 products containing Sudan 1 were first found in France and traced to exporters in India. Contaminated food has now turned up in 12 EU countries. China said it would now screen food imports from the EU.

Product recalls do happen quite regularly. The UK is now adding up the cost of stopped production and the cost to consumer confidence. Who will pay? Retail outlets are looking to pass liability back to the supplier. Meanwhile, there are many questions still to be answered, most importantly: how can products such as Sudan 1 be kept out of the food chain?

3 Read the article again. What type of food products were withdrawn? Did they present a danger to consumers?

4 How many collocations with food can you find in the article?

5 Match these words to create more collocations from the article.

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (1) product   | (a) outlets     |
| (2) insurance | (b) risk        |
| (3) safety    | (c) confidence  |
| (4) consumer  | (d) regulations |
| (5) retail    | (e) recall      |
| (6) health    | (f) industry    |

6 Discuss the following questions in small groups and report your ideas to the class.

- Have you ever experienced a food scare? If so, who was to blame?
- Do you know any other examples of a product recall? What was the problem and the outcome?
- Are you happy with the rise of powerful supermarket chains, or do you prefer smaller food shops?