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# FDA unveils Internet consumer alert for recalls

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has unveiled a more consumer-friendly Internet search engine on its website for food and other product recalls.

The database, <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/default.htm>, provides information from news releases and agency announcements in a table form, according to a news release. The information is organized by date, product brand name, product description, reason for the recall and the recalling company.



For some recalls, the search results provide status information on whether the recall is completed.

"Recalls, mandatory or otherwise, are serious, and we must do everything possible to make it easier for people to know about these recalls so they can take all appropriate steps to protect themselves and their families," Mike Taylor, deputy commissioner for foods, said in the release.

The redesigned website also meets requirements of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, which became law earlier this year.

Before designing the new search engine, the FDA consulted with groups including the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumers Union, Food Marketing Institute, Grocery Manufacturers Association and the Pew Health Group to gain insight on how to communicate recall information to consumers, according to the release.