



Coca-Cola recalls drinks in UK due to chemical levels



Coca-Cola file pic

A range of Coca-Cola products have been recalled in the UK after the firm's bottling partner said it had identified "elevated levels" of a chemical called chlorate

Coca-Cola recalls drinks in UK due to chemical levels

A range of Coca-Cola products have been recalled in the UK after the firm's bottling partner said it had identified "elevated levels" of a chemical called chlorate

Cans of Coca-Cola Original Taste, Coca-Cola Zero Sugar, Diet Coke, and Sprite Zero sent to cafes and restaurants are being withdrawn as well as 6x250ml Appletiser multipacks sent to UK supermarkets.

Coca-Cola recalls drinks in UK due to chemical levels

Getty Images Cans of Coca-cola against a red backdropGetty Images

A range of Coca-Cola products have been recalled in the UK after the firm's bottling partner said it had identified "elevated levels" of a chemical called chlorate Cans of Coca-Cola Original Taste, Coca-Cola Zero Sugar, Diet Coke, and Sprite Zero sent to cafes and restaurants are being withdrawn as well as 6x250ml Appletiser multipacks sent to UK supermarkets.

The announcement follows a larger recall of Coca-Cola products across Europe on Monday.

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, the firm's bottling partner, said the risk of illness was "very low".

The affected cans carry production codes from 328 GE to 338 GE on their base.

The majority of Coca-Cola products, including standard cans, and all glass and plastic bottles sold in the UK are not affected, the firm said.

The UK recall comes after Coca-Cola products were pulled from the shelves in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands on Monday. The higher levels of chlorate were discovered during routine testing at the company's production facility in Ghent, Belgium, according to an unnamed company spokesperson quoted by the AFP news agency.

Coca-Cola said at the time just five product lines had been shipped to Britain, and they had already been sold. It added it had "alerted the authorities".

However, on Wednesday, the firm confirmed a UK recall "following ongoing dialogue with the UK Food Standards Agency".

Chlorate can be produced when chlorine-based disinfectants are used in water treatment and food processing.

Exposure to high levels of chlorate can cause health problems including thyroid problems, especially among children and infants.

NHS and private nutritionist Caron Grazette told the BBC on Monday: "We need to question whether or not we want to ingest chemicals in soft drinks which are used in the production of fireworks and disinfectants, however small the quantity".

Chlorate's effects on humans when taken in excess include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and limiting the blood's ability to absorb oxygen, added Ms Grazette, citing recent research into the chemical.

But the company said the risk to consumers was small.

"Independent expert analysis concluded that any associated risk of feeling temporarily unwell from consuming these products is very low," Coca-Cola Europacific Partners said.

"The quality and safety of our products is our top priority and we're sorry that on this occasion, a small number of our products have not met our high standards, and we apologise for any inconvenience this has caused," it said, in a statement.

LENS ASIA