

**Salmonella Recall
USA**

March, 2010

A thorough root cause analysis built as a Cause Map can capture all of the causes in a simple, intuitive format that fits on one page.

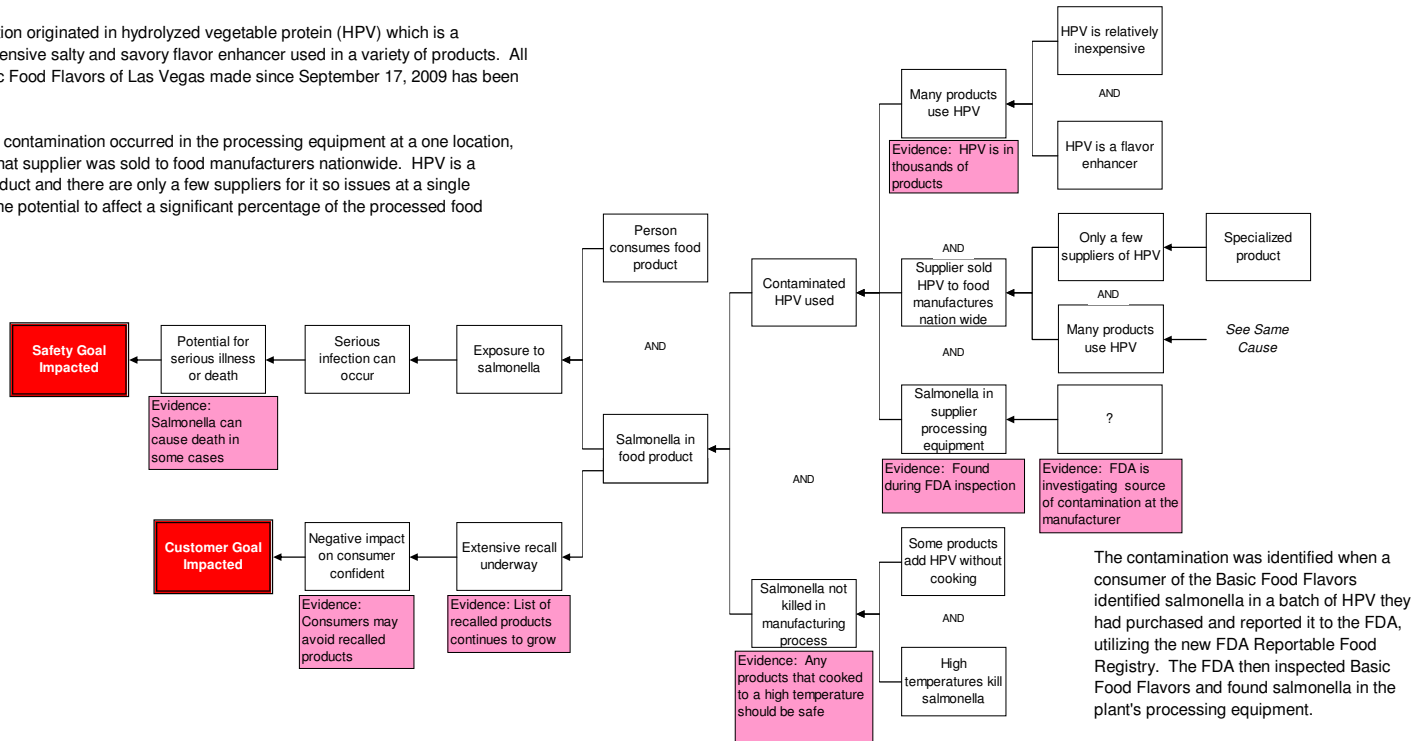
A number of food products have been recalled recently because of potential salmonella contamination. The recall list is still growing and has the potential to affect thousands of items in nearly every aisle at the grocery store.

The contamination originated in hydrolyzed vegetable protein (HPV) which is a common, inexpensive salty and savory flavor enhancer used in a variety of products. All HPV from Basic Food Flavors of Las Vegas made since September 17, 2009 has been recalled.

The salmonella contamination occurred in the processing equipment at a one location, but HPV from that supplier was sold to food manufacturers nationwide. HPV is a specialized product and there are only a few suppliers for it so issues at a single supplier have the potential to affect a significant percentage of the processed food supply.

Even more detail can be added to this Cause Map as the analysis continues. As with any investigation the level of detail in the analysis is based on the impact of the incident on the organization's overall goals.

HPV - Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein

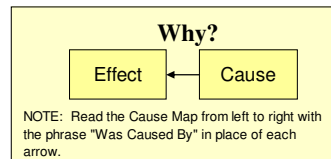


The contamination was identified when a consumer of the Basic Food Flavors identified salmonella in a batch of HPV they had purchased and reported it to the FDA, utilizing the new FDA Reportable Food Registry. The FDA then inspected Basic Food Flavors and found salmonella in the plant's processing equipment.

**Cause Map
Intermediate Level**



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The overall risk to the public is considered low. No cases of illness from this contamination have been reported. As long as products are heated to a sufficient temperature, either during the manufacturing process or cooked after purchase, the salmonella risk will be eliminated. The highest risk products are ready to eat products such as chips, dips, and dip powder.