

Lab 1 – Product Description

Parker Davis

Old Dominion University

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Dr. Sarah Hosni

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1 Introduction

Food recalls happen all the time, all around us, and all have the potential to be awful. Despite this, there is not an adequate reporting system to keep people informed of these recalls. We all eat food. It is for this reason that food recalls must be taken seriously. Of particular risk are children. Parents need to be aware of what their kids are eating. Often, there are unmarked allergens or cross contamination. These allergies can be life threatening. Another common cause of recalls is harmful bacteria. This is especially serious for those with immunodeficiencies. There is also the economic factor. Every case of strong illness related to a recall is both expensive and can harm a companies reputation. For these reasons, information reaching consumers fast is vital.

Before anybody can become better at paying attention to recalls, they must first be aware that recalls are happening in the first place. Most people do not hear about the vast majority of recalls. Only 13% of Americans check government websites for recalls, and only 3% are subscribed for automatic reports (Hallman). Then there is the worry about how important any one recall is to a person. Notification fatigue may arise when a user gets constant notifications about recalls that would never affect them. This could cause users to stop paying attention to notifications, or turn them off completely. What is needed is a service that can provide users with relevant information promptly.

That is where Spoiler Alert comes in. An app that allows users to stay safe their own way with customized and expedient recall reports. Spoiler Alert is an app that will deliver fast, reliable, and customizable recall notifications to users, so they may never have the misfortune of falling ill to bad food. Through the use of the FDA's recall API, Spoiler Alert will alert users of any and all recalls as soon as possible. With barcode and receipt scanning, users can both check that what they have bought is safe and can be alerted about any future recalls that may affect

their food. Previous purchases will be securely saved so that if that box of corn dogs that you were just about to open is recalled, you will be notified before you take a bite.

2 Glossary

Product Recall: When a manufacturer notifies the market of a product with a defect or potential danger.

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

API: Application Programming Interface, this allows computer programs to communicate with each other.

3 References

Dr. William Hallman (2025). Recall Modernization Initiatives with the Consumer in Mind. 2025 Food Safety Summit.

https://www.food-safety.com/ext/resources/FSS_Event/Presentations/2025/S7---Combined-Slides.pdf