Government of Canada   Gouvernement du Canada

Canadian Recalls and Safety Alerts API Guide

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Introduction

The Recalls and Safety Alerts web site brings together information from Health Canada, Transport Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in order to provide Canadian consumers with a central location to find recall and safety information.

This Application Programming Interface (API) allows developers to access that information in JSON format for reuse in their own applications.

The base URI for the Recalls and Safety Alerts site is http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/index-eng.php. Any requests are made relative to this URI.

Recent recalls

The place where most applications would start is with recent recalls. This request returns a response with the 15 latest recalls in each category.

Parameters

There is only one parameter in the request: language.

Request language parameters

Parameter	Meaning	Values	Required?	Notes
/api/recent/ `lang`	Changes language	en - English fr - French	**Yes**	Determines whether the response is in English or French.

Recent recalls can be accessed via these URIs:

- http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/api/recent/en
- http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/api/recent/fr

Response format

The response is in JSON, and consists of a **result** object that contains five objects:

Response result objects

Key	Value
ALL	The latest 15 recalls from any category, as an array of 15 **recall** objects
FOOD	The latest 15 recalls from the food category, as an array of 15 **recall** objects
VEHICLES	The latest 15 recalls from the vehicles category, as an array of 15 **recall** objects
HEALTH	The latest 15 recalls from the health products category, as an array of 15 **recall** objects
CPS	The latest 15 recalls from the consumer products category, as an array of 15 **recall** objects

Each **recall** object consists of the following values:

Recall object values

Key	Value
recallId	The ID of the recall.
title	The title of the recall.
category	An array of categories in which the recall was published (typically only 1 category is seen): 1 for food, 2 for vehicles, 3 for health products, 4 for consumer products.
date_published	UNIX timestamp for publication date
url	A partial URL that provides the complete details of the recall in JSON format.

Sample response

```
{
    "results": {
        "ALL": [{ //All categories
            "recallId": "41799",
            "title": "Enjoying Leftover Food Safely",
            "category": ["1"],
            "date_published": 1412899200,
            "url": "\/api\/41799\/en"
        }],
        "FOOD": [{ //Food recalls and alerts, category 1
            "recallId": "41799",
            "title": "Enjoying Leftover Food Safely",
            "category": ["1"],
            "date_published": 1412899200,
            "url": "\/api\/41799\/en"
        }],
        "VEHICLE": [{ //Vehicle recalls and alerts, category 2
            "recallId": "41163",
            "title": "FORD issued a recall on the ESCAPE,  and FOCUS models",
            "category": ["2"],
            "date_published": 1407801600,
            "url": "\/api\/41163\/en"
        }],
        "HEALTH": [{ //Health product  recalls and alerts, category 3
            "recallId": "41655",
            "title": "Health Canada takes action to stop import of products f
            "category": ["3"],
            "date_published": 1412035200,
            "url": "\/api\/41655\/en"
        }],
        "CPS": [{ //Consumer product recalls and alerts, category 4
            "recallId": "41765",
            "title": "Shoppers Drug Mart recalls \"Novelty Toy\" Halloween  S
            "category": ["4"],
            "date_published": 1412899200,
            "url": "\/api\/41765\/en"
        }],
    }
}
```

jQuery example

Example for a function that appends a list of the most recent recalls of all categories to an element with id "#responses", given a language selection:

```javascript
function getRecent(lang) {
    var base = 'http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis';
    var uri = base + '/api/recent/' + lang;
    $.ajax({
        url:uri,
        type:'GET',
        Accept:"application/json",
        dataType: 'json',
        success:function(data){
            var frag = document.createDocumentFragment();
            for (var i=0; i<data.results.ALL.length; i++) {
                var a = document.createElement("a");
                var title = document.createTextNode(data.results.ALL[i].title
                a.appendChild(title);
                a.setAttribute("href", base + data.results.ALL[i].url);
                frag.appendChild(a);
                frag.appendChild(document.createElement("br"));
            }
            $("#responses")[0].appendChild(frag);
        },
        error:function(error){
        },
    });
    return;
};
```

Recall details

When requesting the recall details you only have to specify two parameters in the API call, the recall ID of the recall and the language (`en` or `fr`) that you would like the output in.

Parameters

Recall detail parameters

Parameter	Meaning	Values	Required?	Notes
/api/ #####	Returns recall details	##### - ID of the recall to be returned	**Yes**	Recall IDs can be found by doing a request for recent recalls, searching using the API, or via the Recalls and Safety Alerts website.

/api/#####/ `lang`	Changes language	`en` - English `fr` - French	**No**, but defaults to English if not specified	Determines whether the response is in English or French.

Response format

Response format values

Key	Value
url	URL for the recall on the full Recalls and Safety Alerts website
recallId	ID of the recall
start_date	UNIX timestamp for the recall start date
date_published	UNIX timestamp for the publication date
category	The category in which the recall was published; 1 for food, 2 for vehicles, 3 for health products, 4 for consumer products.
panels	More details about the recall. A "panel" corresponds to approximately one section of the recall on the full webpage. Of those panels, the following are likely to be of most interest: • **basic_details**: a short summary of the recall • **cms_issue_problem**: details about the issue. May not be present in every recall. • **cms_who_what_consumer**: instructions to consumers (ie, to return a product to the retailer.) Usually present in consumer product recalls. • **details**: details about the issue. May not be present in every recall. • **product_1**: details about the affected product. For a recall involving multiple products, subsequent panels labeled **product_2**,**product_3**, and so on will be present. • **more_information**: references to other information about the topic • **media_enquiries**: contact information for media enquiries • **public_enquiries**: contact information for public enquiries • **id_numbers**: ID number for the recall

Sample response

```
{
    "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/recall-alert-rappel-avis\/hc-sc\
    "recallId": "RA-41799",
    "title": "\n Enjoying  Leftover Food Safely",
    "start_date": 1412899200,
    "date_published": -62169984000,
    "category": ["1"],
    "panels": [{
        "panelName": "basic_details",
        "title": "Summary",
        "text": "<b>Issue:<\/b> Food Safety, Important Safety  Information<BR
    }, {
        "panelName": "cms_issue_problem",
        "title": "Issue",
        "text": "\n Many Canadians enjoy eating leftovers from family dinners
    }, {
        "panelName": "more_information",
        "title": "For more information",
        "text": "<p><h3>\n Government of  Canada<\/h3>\n<ul>\n <li>\n    <a hr
    }, {
        "panelName": "media_enquiries",
        "title": "Media enquiries",
        "text": "\n Health Canada<br \/>\n 613-957-2983"
    }, {
        "panelName": "public_enquiries",
        "title": "Public enquiries",
        "text": "\n 613-957-2991<br \/>\n 1-866 225-0709"
    }, {
        "panelName": "id_numbers",
        "title": "Identification number",
        "text": "<b>Identification number:<\/b>  RA-41799<BR\/>"
    }]
}
```

jQuery example

Example for a function that appends the title and summary of a recall to an element with id "#responses", given a recall ID and language selection:

```
function getRecall(id, lang) {
    var base = 'http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis';
    var uri = base + '/api/' + id + '/' + lang;
    $.ajax({
        url:uri,
        type:'GET',
        Accept:"application/json",
        dataType: 'json',
        success:function(data){
            console.log(data.title);
            var frag = document.createDocumentFragment();
            var h2 = document.createElement("h2");
            var title = document.createTextNode(data.title);
            var p = document.createElement("p");
            var text = document.createTextNode(data.panels[0].text);
            h2.appendChild(title);
            p.appendChild(text);
            frag.appendChild(h2);
            frag.appendChild(p);
            $("#responses")[0].appendChild(frag);
        },
        error:function(error){
        },
    });
    return;
};
```

Search

The API offers limited search functionality.

Parameters

Note that these parameters are passed in the query string:

Query string parameters

Parameter	Meaning	Values	Required?	Notes
/api/search? search=`text`	Searches the database	`text` - the text string to search the database for	**Yes**	Response will contain search results for `text`. Other parameters are optional, see below.

&lang=`lang`	Changes language	`en` - English `fr` - French	**No**, but defaults to English if not specified.	Determines whether the response is in English or French.
&cat=`n`	Selects specific categories to search	`1` - Food `2` - Vehicles `3` - Health Products `4` - Consumer Products	**No**, searches all categories if not specified.	Determines whether the response is in English or French.
&lim=`n`	Limits the number of results	A positive integer value `n`	**No**, defaults to 5 if not specified.	If specified, the response will only contain `n` results.
&off=`n`	Offsets the search results	A positive integer value `n`	**No**, defaults to 0 if not specified.	If specified, the response will only contain the `n`th result onwards. For example, if off=5, then the response will contain only the 6th response onwards.

Example request URIs:

- http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/api/search?search=peanuts&lang=en&cat=1&lim=5&off=0
- http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/api/search?search=arachides&lang=fr&cat=1&lim=5&off=0

Response format

This is very similar to the response obtained by getting the most recent recalls, with the exceptions that:

- the number of results returned in the response is not fixed at 15; it can be changed using the `lim` parameter
- the number of results found in the database is at the end of the response, as **results_count**
- the **department** where the recall information came from is specified

Otherwise, the organization is the same as recent recalls.

recall objects contain:

Recall object values

Key	Value
recallId	The ID of the recall; note that this ID is the same ID as used on the Recalls and Safety Alerts website. This ID is also used to retrieve recall details (see the next section for more details.)

title	The title of the recall.
department	The department where the recall information came from is specified.
category	The category in which the recall was published; 1 for food, 2 for vehicles, 3 for health products, 4 for consumer products.
date_published	UNIX timestamp for publication date
url	A partial URL to get more details about the recall.

Sample response

```json
{
    "results": [{
        "recallId": "41705",
        "title": "Next by Nature brand Dark Chocolate Cherries recalled due t
        "department": "Canadian Food Inspection Agency",
        "date_published": 1412208000,
        "category": ["1"],
        "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/api\/41705\/en"
    }, {
        "recallId": "41349",
        "title": "EBM brand biscuits recalled due to undeclared milk",
        "department": "Canadian Food Inspection Agency",
        "date_published": 1409875200,
        "category": ["1"],
        "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/api\/41349\/en"
    }, {
        "recallId": "41193",
        "title": "Allergens and food safety at school - What's in your child'
        "department": "Health Canada",
        "date_published": 1408492800,
        "category": ["1"],
        "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/api\/41193\/en"
    }, {
        "recallId": "40899",
        "title": "A1 Mountain Globe brand curry powders recalled due to undec
        "department": "Canadian Food Inspection Agency",
        "date_published": 1406764800,
        "category": ["1"],
        "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/api\/40899\/en"
    }, {
        "recallId": "40397",
        "title": "Kawartha Dairy brand Chocolate Ice Cream recalled due to  i
        "department": "Canadian Food Inspection Agency",
        "date_published": 1404086400,
        "category": ["1"],
        "url": "http:\/\/healthycanadians.gc.ca\/api\/40397\/en"
    }],
    "results_count": 90
}
```

jQuery example

```
function doSearch(lang, text, cat, lim, off) {
    var base = 'http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis';
    var uri = base + '/api/search?search=' + text + '&lang=' + lang + '&lim='
    $.ajax({
        url:uri,
        type:'GET',
        Accept:"application/json",
        dataType: 'json',
        success:function(data){
            var frag = document.createDocumentFragment();
            for (var i=0;i<data.results.length;i++) {
                var a = document.createElement("a");
                var title = document.createTextNode(data.results[i].title);
                a.appendChild(title);
                a.setAttribute("href", data.results[i].url);
                frag.appendChild(a);
                frag.appendChild(document.createElement("br"));
            }
            $("#responses")[0].appendChild(frag);
        },
        error:function(error){
        },
    });
    return;
};
```

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