Risk Summary: Cheetos Crunchy

Category: Snack Foods | Timeframe: 1992-Jan 2026

Executive Summary

- Total findings: 2 lawsuits (both Flamin' Hot variant), 0 active recalls, 0 regulatory warnings
- Primary themes: historical undeclared-allergen recalls; reputational lawsuit unrelated to core product
- Most material exposure: operational (supply-chain allergen controls)
- Overall risk level: Low

Findings Overview

Category	Count	Key Issues Identified (themes only)	Timeframe
Lawsuits	2	Defamation/fraud over Flamin' Hot origin story	2024-2025
Recalls	0	Historical undeclared milk (UK 2016), Glass concern (US 1992-no glass found)	1992-2016
Warnings	0	No FDA or FTC warnings identified	-

Key Notable Examples

Lawsuits
- Richard Montañez v. PepsiCo/Frito-Lay: defamation & fraud claims over Flamin' Hot invention narrative; dismissed May 2025, amend deadline passed (status: Dismissed)
Sources: https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2025-05-30/federal-judge-dismisses-lawsuit-over-flamin-hot-cheetos-origin-story

Recalls
- UK 2016: importer recalled four Cheetos SKUs for undeclared milk allergen (scope: Retail withdrawal)
- US 1992: voluntary recall of red-bag Crunchy over possible glass; no injuries (scope: Precautionary)
Sources: https://www.bromley.gov.uk/leaflet/316330/22/680/d; https://www.upi.com/Archives/1992/12/30/Frito-Lay-recalls-CHEETOS-brand-Crunchy-snacks/6259725691600/

Warnings
- No material examples identified.

Risk Implications

- Milk allergen present in seasoning; past labeling failures could affect milk-allergic consumers
- No current safety signals for standard Crunchy cheese flavor

Recommendations

- Safe for general population; milk-allergic individuals should avoid
- Consume in moderation due to high sodium and saturated fat content
- Check packaging for allergen statements on every purchase

Methodology: Publicly available lawsuits, recall databases, and regulatory warnings reviewed via deep search.
Disclaimer: Informational summary only; not legal advice.