



## **NO IMPORT OF “SIMPLYTHICK”, THICKENING AGENT FOR PREMATURE INFANTS**

31 May 11: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an alert to warn parents, caregivers, and health care providers not to feed “SimplyThick”, a thickening agent for management of swallowing disorders, to infants born before 37 weeks.

2. There is no import of the affected products. Nevertheless, AVA advises consumers not to feed their premature infants with the affected products if they had purchased the products outside of Singapore.

3. Consumption of “SimplyThick” may cause necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). NEC is a life-threatening condition characterized by inflammation and death of intestinal tissue. The condition is most often diagnosed in babies who are born prematurely. To date, the FDA is aware of 15 cases of NEC, including two deaths, involving premature infants who were fed “SimplyThick” for varying amounts of time. The product was mixed with mothers’ breast milk or infant formula products. The FDA is actively investigating the link between “SimplyThick” and these illnesses and deaths.



# FOOD ALERT



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