

FDA Takes Enforcement Action Against Three New Jersey Dietary Supplement and Protein Powder Manufacturers
Companies failed to declare allergens in products and correct filthy conditions

The U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, has filed a complaint for permanent injunction against Quality Formulation Laboratories, Inc., American Sports Nutrition Inc., Sports Nutrition International LLC and Mohamed S. Desoky, who oversees operations at all three companies.

WESLACO - A warning tonight from the Food and Drug Administration: Something you take to stay healthy might contain dead rodents, urine, and feces. The FDA says if you have this product in your home, American Whey Protein, stop using it. Government inspectors found filthy conditions at the plant and mislabeling. That could put your health in danger.

Robert Pena has three protein shakes a day to help him build muscle. He says, "You think that it's already been tested, everything's good, it's clean."

The FDA says American whey protein is downright dirty. Inspectors found live and dead rodents, rodent urine and feces, and gnaw holes on bags of product. Pena says, "Well that's pretty, pretty nasty."

It's also potentially dangerous. The FDA adds equipment was not cleaned in between batches. Inspectors also found milk ingredients in products that were not on the labels. Anyone with a milk allergy could get sick.

Matthew Pearce takes protein. He says, "Whoever's selling it should be shutdown because that's not a very good product to be selling in the first place."

The government issued a warning about American Whey Protein in July and asked stores to pull it from their shelves. CHANNEL 5 NEWS found it for sale at extreme nutrition in Weslaco. We ask Arnold Cavazos, the owner, why he is still selling the product. He says, "No, we don't sell it anymore. That's the last shipment we have."

We ask, "So do you feel like you're selling an unsafe product?"

Cavazos answers, "Not really. it's a safe product."

The owner of the vitamin shack in Pharr doesn't think American Whey is safe. Owner Louie Palacios says, "Bottom line is I just decided to pull it off the shelves,

but as for now, until it clears out, until the company does what it has to do, I'm no longer gonna carry it."

CHANNEL 5 NEWS left a message at the New Jersey offices of American Whey, but never got a call back. Folks at the gym who take protein are switching brands. The government is trying to permanently shut down the manufacturer of American Whey. A court order filed by the Department of Justice is still pending.