

| Crisis Management

Insurance implications for food spoilage vs food pathogens

Liberty International Underwriters offers insurance products that can protect food manufacturers from pathogenic contamination and food spoilage. It's important to know which product suits which situation.

How food deterioration differs from food poisoning

Aren't they the same?

One of the less known facts of food safety is that the organisms that cause food deterioration and spoilage are commonly different to the organisms that cause food poisoning or sickness.

Most food poisoning bacteria **do not** cause food to look, smell or taste 'bad'. So food which seems normal in appearance, taste and odour can have enough harmful bugs to make someone ill.

What is food spoilage?

This is usually yeasts, moulds or bacteria which if given enough time, and the right temperature, will end up on any food. These result in the rotten smells, off tasting product or product decomposing which we eventually see on almost all products.

On the plus side, while in the vast majority of cases food that has been spoiled may have the 'yuck' factor, it won't make you sick.

What will make you sick?

Food pathogens will make you sick and in extreme cases food pathogens can even cause death.

A pathogen is a biological agent that causes disease or illness to its host. When it comes to food these include bacteria, viruses and parasites. Examples that are commonly known are E. coli, salmonella, listeria, noro virus and giardia.

Unfortunately these organisms often cannot be seen, smelled or tasted, and it sometimes takes very few of them to infect a person. Sometimes it is the by-products from their growth, rather than the bacteria itself, that can make you sick.

How does this impact Contaminated Products Insurance?

The trigger for Accidental Contamination requires that the consumption of the Product would cause bodily injury. This means that cover is really designed to respond to food pathogens and that it is very unlikely to respond to an incident due purely to food spoilage.

Can food spoilage be insured?

Yes. Liberty offers a Retailers Withdrawal Endorsement which has been specifically designed to respond to claims that traditionally fall outside a Contaminated Products policy.

Liberty's Retailers Withdrawal Endorsement has several key benefits:

- Provides for costs and expenses imposed by retailers for the withdrawal of a client's product
- Costs include third party recall cost and replacement costs
- Inclusion of defence costs

Our Crisis Management team are industry leaders, providing unparalleled underwriting expertise and individually tailored solutions.



A relationship that protects what you value most

As part of Fortune 100 company Liberty Mutual Insurance, we have a wealth of experience evaluating, pricing and managing risk for most types of assets – including warships, airports, power plants, oil rigs, boards of directors, office towers and financial institutions.

We partner with insurance brokers to offer solutions to Asia Pacific's most significant business and government organisations – helping them protect what they earn, build and own.

No matter which sector you're in or how complex your needs, our experts will find a way to speak your language. Working with you to truly understand your business, offer practical guidance and provide custom levels of cover.

It's all part of our belief in looking after you – and why we're trusted for our reliability and consistency. And it's why our partners count on us to help them deliver the best claims outcome for every client.

To find out more about Liberty's Crisis Management team and solutions, visit www.liuasiapacific.com

Contact us

If you're looking for more information on insuring the food and beverage industry, please get in touch with our specialist crisis management underwriters:

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