

**Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene**

**Summary of Recent Food Incidents and Surveillance**

**Contaminated salmon from Scotland**

In mid-February, the Food Standards Agency in the United Kingdom (UK) issued a food alert with subsequent updates concerning the recall of a number of salmon products (ranging from fresh salmon fillets and steaks to smoked salmon and fish pies) sold under different brands and available in various supermarket chains. These salmon products were suspected to be contaminated with petroleum products (e.g. diesel), resulting in an unpleasant taste. According to the information provided by the UK authorities, the chemicals implicated in the recall were present at low levels which were very unlikely to constitute a risk to health.

2. The CFS alerted traders to the incident. The CFS also contacted the UK authorities and was informed that six boxes of such products had been imported into Hong Kong. Following up on the case, the CFS learnt that the product was once sold in four shops of a local supermarket chain.

3. As a precautionary measure, the shops concerned had stopped selling the product. The CFS issued a press release to advise consumers not to consume the relevant product.

**Contaminated pear juices from Canada**

4. In early March, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency issued a health hazard alert for two brands of pear juice for toddlers because they might be contaminated with arsenic which was a toxic heavy metal.

5. The CFS contacted the relevant authorities for more information and alerted the trade to the case. Sales check revealed that the concerned products were not available in major local retailers. The CFS issued a press release to appeal to retailers not to sell the two types of pear juice. The public were also advised not to consume the affected batches of juice.

### **Mozzarella cheese from Italy contaminated with dioxins**

6. In late March, the media reported that some mozzarella cheese from Italy was found to contain dioxins at levels exceeding the European Union standard. The Consulate-General of Italy and the Office of the European Commission in Hong Kong informed the CFS that no mozzarella cheese from the establishments concerned in Italy was exported to other countries. Samples of Italian mozzarella cheese collected locally at retail and import levels were sent for testing of dioxins, and the reports so far are satisfactory.

### **Hot chocolate drink product from UK containing glass fragments**

7. In late March, the Food Standards Agency in the UK announced that a certain batch of hot chocolate drink product was recalled as they might contain glass fragments. The CFS alerted the trade and contacted the UK authorities for more information. A local supermarket chain reported that a different batch of the product was available in its shops. A press release was issued to advise against consuming the affected batch and to appeal to the trade to stop selling the product.

### **Blueberry yogurt suspected of containing plastic or glass fragments**

8. In early April, the Food and Drug Administration of the United States (US) announced that certain batches of a named blueberry yogurt were recalled as they might contain plastic or glass fragments. The CFS contacted the US authorities for more information and alerted the local trade. A local supermarket chain reported that the product was once sold in two of their shops and the products were all disposed of. The CFS issued a press release to advise against consuming the affected batches of yogurt and to appeal to the food trade to stop selling the product.

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