

Targeted Food Surveillance on Pre-packaged Aquatic Food Products

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau
Food Safety Centre



Pre-packaged Aquatic Food Products

■ Aquatic Products

Including fish (e.g. sardines, salmons), shellfish (e.g. scallops), crustaceans (e.g. shrimps, crabs) and echinoderms (e.g. sea cucumbers), etc.

■ Pre-packaged Aquatic Food Products

Aquatic Food Products, such as canned fish, pre-packaged shredded squid, etc., which are processed by cooking, drying, salting or chopping, etc., and sealed in food grade packaging or containers.



Targeted Food Surveillance

- **Objective:** The Centre proactively identifies potential risks of the targeted food items and assesses the safety of food items commonly consumed in Macao in order to safeguard food safety.



Targeted Food Surveillance

- The Centre conducts relevant analysis based on the types of food. Priority will be given to the popular food items.

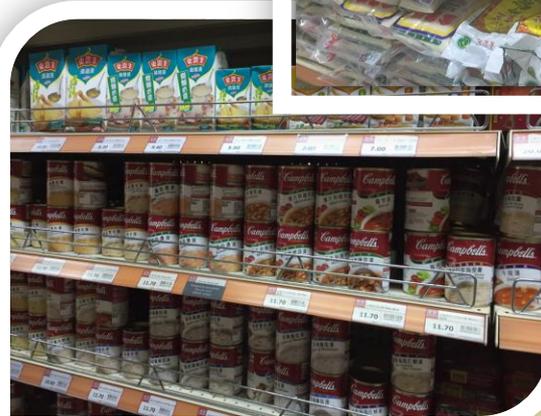
Factors

Risk Level

Social Concern

Eating Habits

Food Incidents



Surveillance on Pre-packaged Aquatic Food Products

- Pre-packaged aquatic food products such as canned fish, shredded squid are commonly consumed in Macao. Heavy metals prone to accumulate in fish, shellfish and other aquatic food products. In addition, general processing cannot eliminate heavy metals in aquatic food products. If contaminated aquatic food products are consumed, heavy metals may enter the body through the food chain.
- Long-term intake of excessive heavy metal from contaminated food may cause damage to the kidney, liver, central nervous system and other organs, particularly to young children, pregnant or breastfeeding women .

Surveillance on Pre-packaged Aquatic Food Products (cont.)

- Food additives such as sweeteners and preservatives may be added to enhance the flavor (e.g. sweetness) and extend the shelf life of pre-packaged aquatic food products.
- Long-term intake of excessive food additives may cause health damage.
- In order to assess the safety of pre-packaged aquatic food products, the Food Safety Centre of IACM carried out this food surveillance.



Market Surveillance

Popularity

Covers pre-packaged frozen aquatic food products, canned aquatic food products and dried aquatic food products under various brand in the market.

Country or Region of Origin

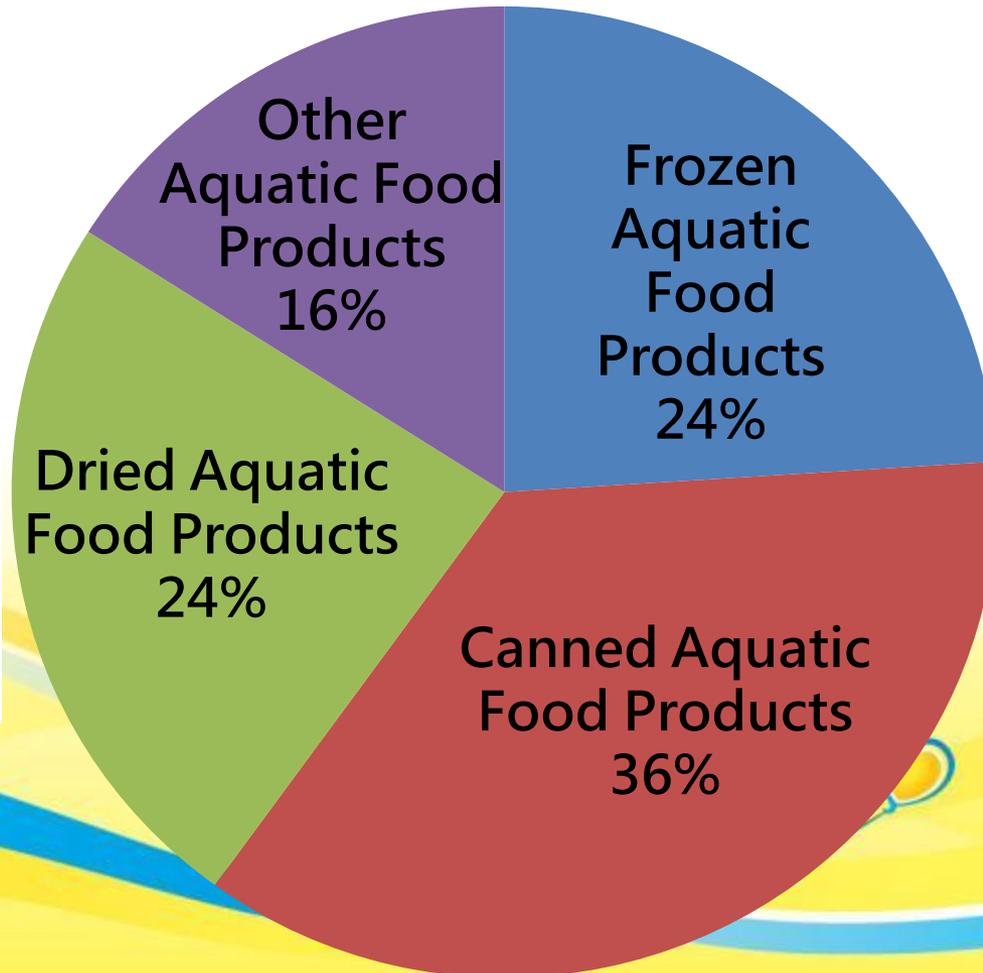
Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Germany, Portugal, Norway, Iceland, Australia, Latvia, Morocco, South America, etc. .

Location

Local supermarkets and department stores.

Types of Samples

■ Collected a total of 50 samples of pre-packaged aquatic food products , which include:



Test Parameters

■ Heavy metals

Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, Mercury and Tin, in total of 5 tests

■ Food Additives

Sweeteners: Acesulfame potassium, Aspartame, Saccharin, Stevioside and Neotame , in total of 5 tests.

Preservative: Sorbic acid , in total of 1 test.



Test Result of Pre-packaged Frozen Aquatic Food Products (Partial)

Sample	Packaging Condition	Origin	Test parameters	Result
Boiled Scallop	Pre-packaged	Japan	Heavy metals: Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, Mercury and Tin Food Additives: Acesulfame potassium, Aspartame, Saccharin, Stevioside and Neotame	Satisfactory
Salmon Fillet	Pre-packaged	Norway		Satisfactory
Tempura Fish Fillets	Pre-packaged	Malaysia		Satisfactory
Fried Fish Ball	Pre-packaged	Hong Kong		Satisfactory
Fried Prawn Ball	Pre-packaged	Vietnam		Satisfactory
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Test Result of Canned Aquatic Food Products (Partial)

Sample	Packaging Condition	Origin	Test parameters	Result
Tuna	Pre-packaged	Korea	Heavy metals: Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, Mercury and Tin	Satisfactory
Sardines in Tomato Sauce	Pre-packaged	Portugal		Satisfactory
Salmon in Oil with Green Peppercorn	Pre-packaged	Thailand	Food Additives: Acesulfame potassium, Aspartame, Saccharin, Stevioside and Neotame	Satisfactory
Mackerel in Tomato Sauce	Pre-packaged	Taiwan		Satisfactory
Canned Abalone in Seasoning	Pre-packaged	Australia		Satisfactory
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Test Result of Dried Aquatic Food Products (Partial)

Sample	Packaging Condition	Origin	Test parameters	Result
Shredded Squid	Pre-packaged	China	Heavy metals: Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, Mercury and Tin	Satisfactory
Cuttlefish	Pre-packaged	Malaysia		Satisfactory
Isoyaki Scallop	Pre-packaged	Japan	Food Additives: Acesulfame potassium, Aspartame, Saccharin, Stevioside, Neotame and Sorbic acid	Satisfactory
Grilled Octopus	Pre-packaged	Japan		Satisfactory
Thailand Dried Fish	Pre-packaged	Thailand		Satisfactory
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Test Result of Other Aquatic Food Products (Partial)

Sample	Packaging Condition	Origin	Test parameters	Result
Dried Fish Fillet	Pre-packaged	Malaysia	Heavy metals: Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, Mercury and Tin Food Additives: Acesulfame potassium, Aspartame, Saccharin, Stevioside, Neotame and Sorbic acid	Satisfactory
Fish Sausage	Pre-packaged	China		Satisfactory
Fish Sausage	Pre-packaged	Japan		Satisfactory
Tuna Cube	Pre-packaged	Japan		Satisfactory
Fried Shredded Sailfish	Pre-packaged	Taiwan		Satisfactory
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Test Results

- All the samples were satisfactory. The overall **satisfactory rate was 100%** ;
- Although the results were satisfactory, IACM reminded the public to maintain a balanced diet, and consume moderate amount of pre-packaged aquatic food products ;
- In addition, phenylketonuria patients or people who are sensitive to food additives, such as sweeteners, should read the food label in detail when purchasing pre-packaged aquatic food products. If necessary, consult your doctor before purchasing and consumption .

Reference :

CODEX STAN 193-1995 《 Codex General Standard For Contaminants And Toxins In Food And Feed 》 , CODEX STAN 192-1995 《 General Standard For Food Additives 》 , China GB 2762-2012 《 Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods 》 , Hong Kong 《 Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations 》 , 《 Preservatives in Food Regulation 》 or 《 Sweeteners in Food Regulations 》 , etc .

Advice To The Public

When purchasing pre-packaged aquatic food products, you should:

- Purchase from approved and reliable sources ;
- When purchasing pre-packaged food, check the package if it is intact and pay attention to the expiry date, and store them according to the label instructions after purchase ;
- Consume as soon as possible after opening ;
- When purchasing food online, it is not easy to verify whether appropriate measures have been put in place during storage, transport, etc. to ensure food safety. The public should pay special attention to the nature and potential risks associated with the food items that they bought online .
- Do not purchase or eat any food if there is any doubt about its safety or quality.

Advice To The Trade

- The trade should purchase food products from reputable suppliers, meet the hygiene and safety requirements in various food processes, such as transportation and storage, store and display the food properly ;
- The trade should **keep all the purchase and sales records** for product tracing by the competent government authorities whenever necessary ;
- Do not sell any food if there is any doubt about its safety or quality, e.g. the package is damaged, canned food appears to be bulged .



保存食品紀錄指引

目的：

根據《食品安全法》，食品生產經營者有義務在指定期間內保存進出貨紀錄或相關單據。本指引旨在使食品生產經營者了解保存食品紀錄的要件及如何妥善進行相關的保存工作，以便一旦發生食品事故時能讓政府權限部門進行及時有效的食品溯源及跟進工作，共同攜手保障本國的食品安全。

適用範圍：

- 適用於所有擬供人食用的食品。根據《食品安全法》，「食品」指任何供人食用的經處理或未經處理的物質，包括飲料及香口膠類產品，以及在生產、配製及處理食品過程中所使用的所有成分。
- 本指引旨在為食品生產經營者提供原則性的保留食品紀錄建議，但受現行其他指引規範者，則可沿用既有的規定。

保存紀錄的內容：

為有效追查食品的來源和流向，保存紀錄的內容應清晰並涵蓋以下資料：

1. 食品日期(獲取食品的日期；以批發方式供應食品的日期)；
2. 食品的來源資料(公司或個人的名稱、地址及電話)；
3. 食品的数量；
4. 食品的描述(應為特徵性描述，讓人可清楚辨識，如食品名稱、批號及產地來源等)。

食品生產經營者一般須備存的紀錄

	進口紀錄	獲取紀錄	供應紀錄
食品進口商	√		√
食品分銷商		√	√
食品零售商 (直接供應給消費者)		√	
飲食業界		√	
本地食品製造商		√	√

Announcement And Enquiries of Surveillance Results

The Centre releases food surveillance results and precautions through the following channels:

- Press releases;
- Food Safety Information website and Food Safety Information App.





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INSTITUTO PARA OS
ALIMENTOS, SEGURANÇA
E BEM-ESTAR

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