

# Targeted Food Surveillance on Infant Formula

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau  
Food Safety Centre



# 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.



# Infant Formula

## ■ Infant

A person of any age up to and including 12 months.

## ■ Infant formula (e.g. powdered infant formula)

A breast-milk substitute specially manufactured in liquid or powdered form to satisfy, by itself, the nutritional requirements of infants during the first months of life up to the introduction of appropriate complementary feeding.



# Surveillance on Infant Formula

- Where breastfeeding is not feasible or breast milk supply is not adequate, infant formula will be used as a complete or partial substitute for breast milk. Therefore, the hygiene condition and nutrient contents of infant formula are vital to the health and growth of infant.
- Majority of infant formula sold in Macao are not sterile products. Improper handling during production or processing may lead to contamination from pathogenic microorganisms, which can cause serious illness in infants and even death in severe cases.

# Surveillance on Infant Formula (Cont.)

- Infancy is marked by rapid growth and development. Infants will experience rapid increase in weight and height at this stage of life. Therefore, energy and nutrients such as protein, minerals, etc. in infant formula are vital to the growth and development of infants. Insufficient supply of these nutrients in infants may lead to adverse health effects such as weight loss, decrease ability in tissue repair, etc..
- Therefore, the Food Safety Centre has carried out this targeted surveillance for nutrient contents and pathogenic microorganisms in infant formula on local market, in order to investigate the safety of such products.



# Market Surveillance

## Popularity

Covers infant formula under various brand in the market.

## Country or Region of Origin

France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, etc..

## Location

Local department stores, supermarkets and pharmacy.

# Test Parameters

- **Samples:** A total of 25 samples of infant formula.
- **Test Parameters:**
  - **Pathogens:** *Enterobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella*, a total of 2 tests.
  - **Nutritional Requirement:** Energy, fat, protein, linoleic acid,  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid, iron, calcium, sodium, manganese, chlorine, potassium, iodine, selenium, a total of 13 tests.



# Test Results

- All the samples were satisfactory. The overall satisfactory rate was 100%;
- In addition, infants with specific disorders, diseases or medical conditions should seek medical advice before purchase and consumption.

## Reference:

Macao Administrative Regulation No. 16/2015 "Limits of Pathogenic Microorganisms in Powdered Infant Formulae" and Administrative Regulation No. 28/2016 "Nutritional Requirements for Infant Formula" .

# Advice To The Public

**When purchasing infant formula, you should:**

- Purchase from approved and reliable sources;
- Check the package if it is intact and pay attention to the expiry date;
- Store infant formula properly according to the label instruction after purchase and consume as soon as possible after opening;
- Prepare infant formula according to the instruction for use on the food label, then cool down to suitable feeding temperature and consume immediately;
- Do not purchase or eat any food if in doubt about its safety or quality.

# Advice To The Trade

- The trade should purchase food products from reputable suppliers, ensure each stage of food processing such as transportation and storage comply with the hygiene and safety requirement and should store and display food properly;
- The trade should **keep the purchase and sales records** for product tracing by the competent government authorities whenever necessary;
- Do not buy or sell any food if in doubt about its safety or quality, e.g. if packaging is damaged, the can is deformed, etc..

*In addition, Administrative Regulation No. 16/2015 "Limits of Pathogenic Microorganisms in Powdered Infant Formulae" and Administrative Regulation No. 28/2016 "Nutritional Requirements for Infant Formula" has entered into force, the trade should pay attention to the relevant provisions, and submit application for importation of infant formula during import.*

# Released Results And Enquiries

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

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





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