

Excessive cadmium found in imported frozen shrimp sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (October 24) announced that a sample of imported frozen shrimp from Spain was detected with cadmium, a metallic contaminant, at a level exceeding the legal limit. The CFS is following up on the incident.

"The CFS collected the above-mentioned frozen shrimp sample at the import level for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained cadmium at a level of 2.79 parts per million, exceeding the legal limit of 2 ppm," a spokesman for the CFS said.

"Long-term excessive intake of cadmium may affect the kidney functions. The CFS has informed the importer concerned of the irregularity and instructed it to stop sales and remove from shelves the affected product. The CFS is also tracing the source and distribution of the product concerned," the spokesman added.

According to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V), any person who sells food with metallic contamination above the legal limit is liable upon conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The CFS will alert the Spanish authorities and the trade, continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action. The investigation is ongoing.