

Public urged not to consume two kinds of prepackaged anchovy fillets detected with histamine

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (June 25) urged the public not to consume two kinds of prepackaged anchovy fillets as they were found to contain histamine. The trade should stop using or selling the affected products immediately if they possess them.

Details of the product are as follows:

(1) Product name: Filetti di Acciughe in Olio d'Oliva con Tartufo (Anchovy Fillets with Truffle in Olive Oil)

Brand: TartufoLanghe

Place of origin: Italy

Net weight: 90 grams per pack

Best before date: August 31, 2018

(2) Product name: Flat Fillets of Anchovies With Capers in Olive Oil

Brand: ROCCA

Place of origin: Italy

Net weight: 100 grams per bottle

Best before date: July 31, 2019

A CFS spokesman said, "The Centre collected the two abovementioned samples from the city's super supermarket in Causeway Bay for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test results showed that the samples contained histamine at levels of 220 milligram (mg) per 100 gram (g) and 260mg per 100g respectively."

"The CFS has informed the vendor concerned of the irregularities. The vendor has removed from shelves and stopped sale of the affected products, and initiated a recall according to CFS' instructions. Members of the public may call the vendor's hotline at 2736 3866 during office hours for enquiries about the recall," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that histamine is commonly found in certain kinds of fish such as tuna, sardine, mackerel and anchovy, as a result of bacterial spoilage. Consumption of fish containing high levels of histamine can cause foodborne intoxication. Symptoms of histamine poisoning include tingling and burning sensation around the mouth, facial flushing and sweating, nausea, vomiting, headache, palpitations, dizziness and rash. The onset of intoxication symptoms is within a few hours after consumption and these symptoms will normally disappear in 12 hours without long term effect, the spokesman noted.

The CFS will alert the trade to the incident and will continue to

monitor the case and take appropriate follow-up action. Investigation is ongoing.