

Veterinary drug chloramphenicol found in live abalone sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (September 17) announced that a live abalone sample was found to contain a veterinary drug, chloramphenicol. The CFS is following up on the incident.

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A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS collected the above-mentioned sample from a stall in Tai Po Hui Market, Tai Po, for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that it contained chloramphenicol at a level of 0.8 micrograms per kilogram."

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According to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap 132AF), no fish (including shellfish) sold in Hong Kong for human consumption is allowed to contain chloramphenicol. Offenders will be liable to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

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The CFS has informed the vendor concerned of the irregularity and instructed it to stop the sale of the affected batch of the product. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be initiated. The CFS is tracing the source of the affected product.€€

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The CFS will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action.