

Taiwan recalls food products due to unapproved food additive

17 May 2013: The Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an alert on the detection of maleic acid, an unapproved food additive, in some food products manufactured in Taiwan. Occasional consumption at the levels detected by Taiwan FDA does not pose any significant health risk. However, long term consumption of high levels of maleic acid can cause kidney damage.

- The affected products include fish paste products (oden), flat rice noodles, taro/yam balls and tapioca balls, which are commonly used in bubble tea. Information on the affected products is detailed in Annex A.
- 3 Of the affected products, only Sunright brand tapioca balls were imported. AVA has informed local importers of Sunright brand tapioca balls to withdraw them from sale and the withdrawal has been completed. Consumers who have purchased the affected product should either return it to the retailer or discard the product and not consume it.
- As a precautionary measure, AVA is conducting surveillance of other similar food products from Taiwan to ensure that they do not contain maleic acid.



Information on the affected products from Taiwan

Sunright brand tapioca balls

波霸粉圓





Taro/Yam balls

九份芋圓 地瓜圓



Flat rice noodles

美濃板條





