



WHITE RABBIT CREAMY CANDY AND BAIRONG GRAPE BISCUITS FROM CHINA SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has conducted tests on the White Rabbit Creamy Candy and Bairong Grape Biscuits from China and found them to be safe for consumption.

2 The tests were conducted following reports that four products - White Rabbit Creamy Candy, Milk Candy, Balron Grape Biscuits and Yong Kang Foods Grape Biscuits – were withdrawn by the Philippines' Food and Drug Agency for possible formaldehyde contamination. Of these products, only the White Rabbit Creamy Candy is imported into Singapore. However, Singapore also imports Bairong Grape Biscuits, which has a similar name to Balron Grape Biscuits. Samples of both Bairong Grape Biscuits and White Rabbit Creamy Candy were taken for testing.

3 Formaldehyde is a chemical that is not permitted for use as a food additive. However, formaldehyde occurs naturally at low levels in a wide range of foods. The World Health Organization (WHO) has established a Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) of 0.15 mg/kg body weight for formaldehyde.

4 Our tests indicate that there were minute amounts of formaldehyde in the samples of White Rabbit Creamy Candy and Bairong Grape Biscuits tested. However, based on the TDI established by WHO, normal consumption of these products would not pose a health risk. The presence of the minute amounts of formaldehyde could be due to its natural occurrence in the ingredients used for making the products. There is no evidence to suggest that formaldehyde was added into the products as a preservative.

5 Approximately 275,000 kg of White Rabbit Creamy Candy and 269,000 kg of Bairong Grape Biscuits were imported into Singapore in 2006. AVA would like to assure the public that the White Rabbit Creamy Candy and Bairong Grape Biscuits available in Singapore are safe for consumption. Nevertheless, AVA will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that food products sold in Singapore are safe for consumption.

6 Consumers can call AVA's hotline at 1800-226 2250 if they have any queries.

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