

Suspension of 9 local kueh manufacturers' operations for improper usage of food additives

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) suspended the production of various kueh products by 9* local kueh manufacturers due to the improper use of food additives. The suspension takes effect from 26 July 2022, until further notice.

2 Under the Singapore Food Regulations, the use of benzoic acid/sorbic acid is not allowed in kueh products, except for its filling, which should not exceed the maximum permissible limits. Since the detection of benzoic acid in locally manufactured kueh products in Mar 2022 (<https://go.gov.sg/kuehproducts10mar>) SFA has been closely monitoring local kueh manufacturers. Benzoic acid/sorbic acid was detected at high levels in the kueh and components (e.g. dough) of kueh, manufactured by 9 kueh manufacturers.

3 In the interest of public health, SFA is taking enforcement actions against the implicated manufacturers and had suspended the production, distribution, and sale of the implicated kueh products which were found to be non-compliance with the Singapore Food Regulations. Food manufacturers should adhere to the Singapore Food Regulations and ensure that only permitted food additives within the permissible levels are used. As a precautionary measure, SFA has also directed the kueh manufacturers to recall the implicated kueh products. The recall is ongoing.

4 Based on the levels detected, consumption of the affected products once or twice is not of food safety concern. Consumers should not consume food containing high levels of benzoic acid/sorbic acid over a long period of time. This is because even though benzoic acid and sorbic acids are common additives which are safe when used in small quantities, studies in animals fed with high doses of benzoic acid had shown disorder of the central nervous system as well as changes in their brains. Animals fed with high doses of sorbic acid had shown effects like reduced growth. Consumers who have consumed the implicated products and have concerns about their health should seek medical advice. Consumers may contact their point of purchase for enquiries.

5 Food safety is a joint responsibility. While SFA puts in place and enforces the regulatory measures, food manufacturers should ensure that their products adhere to all the requirements in Singapore's food related laws. SFA will take enforcement action against food operators who do not adhere to these laws and would not hesitate to prosecute offenders in Court.

Details of the 9* local kueh manufacturers and their implicated products are as follows:

Implicated Manufacturers	Implicated Products
Toh Chuan Kee Foodstuff Pte. Ltd	Kueh Lapis, Mochi Skin
Tongli Food Manufacturing	Yam Cake
AMK Nonya Kueh Pte. Ltd	Kueh Lapis, Red bean Kueh Lapis, Black sesame Kueh Lapis, Yam Kueh, Lapis, Kueh Salat, Tapioca Kueh, Sweet Potato Kueh
Chit Guan Foodstuff Pte. Ltd.	Ang Ku Kueh (Bean paste, Peanut and Sesame)
Delight Baker Pte. Ltd.	Pulut Hitam, Kueh Lapis, Chendol Kueh, Tapioca Kueh
Thomson Foodstuff Manufacturing	Huat Kueh
Sin Hwa Coconuts Industrial Pte. Ltd	Ondeh-Ondeh, Tapioca Kueh
Tiong Bahru Tian Bo Shui Kueh Pte. Ltd.	Chwee Kueh, 9 Layer Kueh, Tapioca Kueh
Lim Food Industries	Png Kueh, Soon Kueh

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