



CONSUMERS NEED NOT BE UNDULY CONCERNED OVER MELAMINE INCIDENTS

In view of AVA's recent detection of melamine in three dairy products imported from China, consumers are understandably concerned about the possible adverse health effects associated with the consumption of the affected products. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to reassure the public that the risk to Singaporeans is low.

2 The levels of melamine detected in the three products (namely "Yi Li Choice Dairy Fruit Bar Yogurt Flavoured Ice Confection", "Dutch Lady Strawberry Flavoured Milk and "White Rabbit Creamy Candy") are low. The levels are much lower than those found in China, and are thus less likely to result in adverse health effects. Consumers have to consume contaminated products over a prolonged period of time to have any potential ill effects on health.

3 The Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) of melamine as established by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is 0.63 mg/kg body weight. This means that an adult weighing 60 kg or a child weighing 30 kg can ingest 37.8 mg of melamine and 18.9 mg of melamine respectively every day over a lifetime without any appreciable health risk.

4 Based on the melamine levels detected by AVA in the three affected products, the TDI limits translate to the following amounts of contaminated products for an adult weighing 60 kg or a child weighing 30 kg respectively:

Adult of 60 kg weight	Child of 30 kg weight
7 bars of Yi Li Choice Dairy Fruit Bar Yogurt Flavoured Ice Confection daily over a lifetime, or	3.5 bars of Yi Li Choice Dairy Fruit Bar Yogurt Flavoured Ice Confection daily over a lifetime, or
815 ml of Dutch Lady Strawberry flavoured milk daily over a lifetime, or	407.5 ml of Dutch Lady Strawberry flavoured milk daily over a lifetime, or
47 pieces of White Rabbit Creamy Candy daily over a lifetime.	23.5 pieces of White Rabbit Creamy Candy daily over a lifetime.

5 Even if consumers have occasionally ingested more than the above amounts, the health risk will still be low, because the TDI limits incorporate a margin of safety of 100-fold.

6 Nevertheless, consumers are advised not to consume any milk or milk products, including any products that contain milk ingredients from China, as melamine is not meant for use in food.

7 Consumers can call AVA's hotline at 63257625 during office hours (8.30 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday) or MOH's hotline at 1800-2254122 if they have any queries.

**Issued by Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA)
on 23 September 2008**
