

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE NOTICE

Reference Number: PR172259, Press Release Issue Date: Oct 05, 2017

In accordance with the Food Safety Act and Regulation (EC) No. 178 of 2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council and EU Recommendation 2013/647/EU, the Environmental Health Directorate within the Superintendence of Public Health wishes to inform the public that from information received through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, the said product must not be consumed since it contains a high level of acrylamide.

Product description: Biscuits for infants with apple concentrate

Product name: BISKids

Brand: Belkorn

Weight: 150g

Lot numbers: 171401 and 164001

Origin: Belgium

Since the companies involved declared that part of the consignment has been sold, this Directorate is obliged to inform the public of this recall.

Acrylamide ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCONH}_2$) may be formed in foods, typically carbohydrate-rich and protein-low plant commodities, during cooking or other thermal processing such as frying, baking or roasting at temperatures of 120°C or higher. The critical effects of acrylamide are its neurotoxicity and carcinogenicity. Acrylamide is considered to be both genotoxic and carcinogenic in laboratory animals. Shortly after the Stockholm University and the Swedish National Food Administration released the new findings of acrylamide in food in April 2002, the EC Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) issued an opinion related to this topic. The SCF expressed concerns about exposure levels and recommended that exposures should be as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) (EFSA, 2005).

For further information, the public is kindly requested to contact the Health Inspectorate Services between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the telephone number 21337333, or by calling personally at its offices at Continental Business Centre, Old Railway Track, Santa Venera or by email mhi@gov.mt. The public is also being invited to access the Directorate's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Environmental-Health-Directorate-Malta/145027878928626?ref=hl> or our official website at <http://health.gov.mt/en/environmental/Pages/Home-Page.aspx> for similar information.

