



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གསོ་བ་ལྷན་ཁག འབྲུག་བཟའ་ཆས་དང་སློན་རིགས་དབང་འཛིན།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BHUTAN FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY



BFDA/FD/MoH/5-47/1041

May 27th 2024

NOTIFICATION

The Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (Bhutan FDA), Ministry of Health, recently conducted surveillance in both imported and locally produced milk brands for Aflatoxin M1 (AFM1) levels. It was found that some imported milk brands contained Aflatoxin M1 above the permissible limits. These findings were further confirmed by an accredited reference laboratory outside Bhutan.

In accordance with the Bhutan Mandatory Standards (BMS) for Mycotoxins in Foods, the maximum permissible concentration of Aflatoxin M1 in milk is 0.5 µg/kg. Aflatoxin M1 is regarded as a potential carcinogen and its presence in food products is subject to stringent regulation. Two rounds of meetings were held with the milk importers to familiarize them on the import requirements including the existing Import Guidelines and on the specific BMS and also to discuss the way forward in interest of protecting the public health. Consequently, the Bhutan FDA will implement the import control system on milk through the issuance of import authorization with effect from 1st July 2024.

Therefore, all milk importer wishing to import milk into Bhutan shall apply for import permit to the nearest BFDA office with all the relevant documents as prescribed in the Import Permit Application. All the imported consignment batches shall be tested for Aflatoxin M1 in an accredited laboratory prior to importation into the country and Test Reports must be presented at the Points of Entry along with the milk consignment at the time of import. In addition, the Bhutan FDA will also conduct independent random testing to ensure that the milk batches do not exceed the permissible limit for Aflatoxin M1 and if found above permissible limit importers shall recall implicated products and take necessary action.

All Food Business/Food Business operators involved in milk imports must adhere to this notification with effect from 1st July 2024. Failure to comply will result in the prohibition of milk imports into the country as per the existing food legislation of Bhutan.

Director
(Bhutan Food and Drug Authority)