



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



Press Release

Ethylene Oxide Presence in Everest Brand Masala Samples below Permissible Levels

14th May 2024: Following recent reports regarding the presence of ethylene oxide in the 'Everest fish curry masala' from India exceeding the permissible level of 0.1mg/kg, the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), Ministry of Health, has taken measures. BFDA has collected various masala samples of the 'Everest Brand' and forwarded them to accredited laboratories outside Bhutan for thorough testing.

The laboratory reports indicate that the majority of the samples tested below the limit of quantification (0.01mg/kg). However, a few samples did contain traces of ethylene oxide; nevertheless, these levels were found to be below the permissible limit of 0.1mg/kg.

Ethylene oxide is commonly used as a fungicide, bactericide, and insecticide in foods. While some countries have banned its use in food products, those that permit its use strictly enforce a maximum residue limit of 0.1 mg/kg, regardless of its origin.

Given the results from the laboratory tests and considering the general consumption of spices in Bhutan, the public should rest assured that the levels of ethylene oxide detected in the Everest Brand masala samples do not pose a significant concern.

BFDA remains committed to ensuring the safety and quality of food products available in Bhutan. We will continue to monitor and regulate the presence of harmful substances in food items, prioritizing the health and well-being of our citizens.

Director