



image inks

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December 5, 2005

RE: ITX (isopropylthioxanthone) in UVACURE HS 23 Series UV Cup Inks on Food Packaging.

There have been numerous news reports in Europe recently regarding ITX which is a photoinitiator common to UV inks. At this time it seems to involve only one company's product, Tetra Pack. From my research, it appears that inks containing ITX were present on the **inner** surface of the packaging before it was filled which indicates the UV ink used was not fully cured.

Furthermore, the FSA (Food Standards Agency www.food.gov.uk) has stated that based on current evidence the Agency does not consider this to be a food safety issue. The issue has been forwarded to the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority www.efsa.eu.int) for review with their results expected no later than March 2006.

In addition, there have been no reports of any contamination in any other country, other than in Europe, at this time. Based on the information available, it would appear that the contamination was caused by contact with uncured UV ink.

ITX is present in our UVACURE HS 23 Series UV Inks.

When properly used and cured effectively, the dried film is chemically inert so that it is stable, and cannot be affected by external influences.

As well, the inks meet FDA regulations for food packaging, incidental food contact (printed on a functional barrier), as well as numerous heavy metal regulations including CONEG (Coalition of Northeast Governors), Toy Manufacturers specification ASTM 963 and California Proposition 65.

Sincerely,

Anthony T. Kurz
President
Image Group

Included with this statement: Food Standards Agency – Release dated November 25, 2005-12-05
European Food Safety Authority – Statement dated November 24, 2005

The statements made here are according to our present knowledge. They do not absolve the user from his/her own responsibility to ascertain that our product is suitable for their process. No legal implication should be derived from our statements as explicit guarantees with respect to product performance which are neither expressed nor implied. Currently existing laws and regulations should be observed by the consignees of our products at their own risk.

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No action necessary over infant formula, FSA advises parents

Friday 25 November 2005

The Food Standards Agency has been informed that the chemical ITX (Isopropylthioxanthone), a component of printing inks used on some food packaging, may be present at very low levels in some liquid infant formula products.

Some liquid infant formula products sold by Nutricia and SMA may be affected although powdered formula products are not believed to be affected. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has advised that based on current knowledge the presence of ITX in food is not considered to be an immediate health risk.

On the basis of current evidence, the Food Standards Agency is advising parents and carers that there is no need to change their baby's feed.

It is understood that the ink containing the chemical transferred to the inner surface of the packaging before it was filled with the infant formula.

The packaging manufacturer, Tetra Pak, has now stopped using this type of ink for infant formula products.

Please note: This document was updated at 1800 hours on Friday 25 November 2005 after Tetra Pak informed us that the ink was no longer used for infant formula products. Previously the sentence above read: 'The packaging manufacturer, Tetra Pak, has now stopped using this type of ink.'

It is likely that other food products of other companies may have been affected by ITX. However, on the basis of current evidence the Agency does not consider this to be a food safety issue requiring consumer action.

Liquid infant formula products produced by SMA may be affected. Some other liquid infant formula products made by Nutricia with a best before date of up to and including 8 August 2006 may also be affected.

The EFSA's advice on this issue can be found at the link below.

EFSA undertakes risk assessment on ITX

Read the EFSA's press release

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PRESS STATEMENT

EFSA undertakes risk assessment on ITX

ITX (Isopropylthioxanthone), a substance utilised in printing inks for certain packaging materials has been recently found in foods including infant formula. On the basis of the very limited data available today, the presence of ITX in food could be considered undesirable but it is not likely to present a health risk at the levels reported. The European Commission has requested that EFSA carry out a risk assessment on ITX. EFSA will provide preliminary advice in the next two weeks and expects to deliver its final opinion no later than March 2006.

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For further information about the European Food Safety Authority:

<http://www.efsa.eu.int>