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DOH-FDA Advisory
No. 2011- 007

SUBJECT: FDA PRESS RELEASE ON DEHP CONTAMINATION

What is DEHP?


Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) is widely used as a plasticizer in the manufacturing of articles including medical devices such as intravenous bags and tubing, blood bags and infusion tubings and nasogastric tubes.

While low doses of DEHP is generally safe, high doses or prolonged exposure can have harmful effects. Therefore, exposure should be limited.

Children are especially prone to the harmful effects of high doses of DEHP or to repeated exposure which can lead to testicular effects, fertility problems and toxicity to kidneys.

Updates

1. Taiwanese authorities have discovered that the plasticizer (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) was illegally added to a food product raw material called as cloudy agent which improves emulsification of the product.
2. The Taiwan government is cooperating with DOH-FDA to provide more information as results of the investigation in Taiwan progresses. FDA has established a direct link with Taiwan FDA.
3. As a precautionary measure and pending identification of implicated products, FDA will instruct supermarkets and retail stores to temporarily remove from the store shelves identified high-risk products that include sports drinks, soft drinks, fruit juices, and jellies and until such time when these have been proven to be free of the contaminant, DEHP. DTI has been informed.



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