



NO LEVELS OF MALACHITE GREEN RESIDUES FOUND IN CANNED DACE FISH FROM CHINA

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) would like to assure members of the public that canned dace fish from China sold in Singapore is safe for consumption. To date, malachite green has not been detected in canned dace fish from China.

2 Following recent reports in Hong Kong on malachite green residues in canned dace fish from China, AVA took immediate steps to intensify our inspection and surveillance programme on imported canned dace fish. Samples were taken from all seven brands of China canned dace fish. No malachite green was detected.

3 As a precautionary measure, future imports of canned dace fish from China will be required to have pre-export testing for freedom from malachite green. All imports from China will also be subjected to a "hold and test" inspection regime, i.e., products can only be released after satisfactory testing results for malachite green residues.

What is malachite green?

4 Malachite green is a synthetic dye used to colour silk, cotton and paper. Malachite green is also used in aquaculture for bath treatment against certain groups of external parasites and fungus in fish and also for fungus control in fish eggs.

5 There are no known or expected human health effects from consuming fish products with low levels of malachite green residues. For malachite green to have any ill effects, a person will have to consume more than 500 kg of canned dace fish containing malachite green residues at the low level detected over a long duration.

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