

## Press Release

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FEHD steps up surveillance on eel and eel products

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The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has contacted the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine concerning the reported recall by Guangdong of eel products destined for exports.

"Initially, we understand the recall is a precautionary measure taken by the Mainland authorities to ensure that all eel products for exports do not contain the chemical, malachite green," a spokesman for the department said.

While some animal studies show that malachite green may cause liver tumour in rats, there has yet no such conclusive evidence in human.

"As a precaution, FEHD has collected samples of eels and eel products at the import control points and markets for laboratory tests for detection of malachite green.

"If the tests indicate the presence of malachite green, we would ban the sale of related products," the spokesman said.

The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Dr York Chow, said: "I understand people have a lot of concern about eels. They could refrain from consuming eels for the time being, pending FEHD's laboratory tests as to whether the food contain malachite green."

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