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The LegCo Panel

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re : Submission to the LegCo Panel on labeling of food additives used

I would like to comment on the proposed amendment on the requirement for food labeling, in order to enhance food safety for consumers.

I strongly support the proposal that the presence of eight types of substances which are known to cause allergy should be declared. Reactions to these food types have been described. While some reactions may be mild, some are potentially fatal especially if medical care cannot be administered rapidly. Some individuals may have been told by their doctors to avoid certain foodtypes; however, unless these are declared, it is difficult for individuals to know all the ingredients of the food that they are consuming. Although the number of serious cases of allergies may be small, the possible occurrence of serious/fatal reactions should weigh strongly towards this requirement, overriding possible commercial considerations.

Sincerely,

Professor Jean Woo  
Director