

Ensuring Product Quality and Safety

確保產品質素及安全

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The Consumer Council conducts tests on consumer products to provide unbiased comparative test results for consumers to make rational choices, to alert them to product hazards and to induce improvements in product quality and safety. Major test items generally include safety, performance, ease of use, durability and environmental sustainability.

Media coverage of testing results reach not only consumers in Hong Kong, but also the neighbouring regions in the Mainland, as well as overseas Chinese who have access to Hong Kong's broadcast and printed news.

That explains why the Council's product testing reports are well sought after by consumers while received with mixed feelings by traders, depending on the ratings of their products in comparison with those of their competitors. This has in turn become an impetus for traders to improve their products and service quality.

HOW THIS IS DONE

There are three different types of tests.

Firstly, those which are initiated and solely conducted with the Council's own resources, most of which are conducted by accredited and independent laboratories in Hong Kong. In case local testing facilities do not meet the Council's requirements, appropriate overseas laboratories will be commissioned. Secondly, joint tests which are conducted by International Consumer Research and Testing (ICRT), an international consortium of more than 35 independent consumer organisations worldwide. As an active member, the Council has benefited from ICRT's joint tests through which utilisation of resources can be maximised and experience shared. Otherwise, the Council could not have provided Hong Kong consumers with latest test findings of products with short life cycle such as digital cameras and mobile phones regularly. Thirdly, the Council also actively co-operates with various local Government/statutory organisations.

產品測試的重要性

本會進行產品測試，為消費者提供客觀、不偏不倚的資訊，令他們注意產品的安全並作出適當的選擇。產品測試主要在產品的安全、效能、使用方便程度、耐用程度及對環境的影響等多方面作出評估。

本會的產品測試結果喜獲傳媒廣泛報道，除了為本港的消費者提供資訊外，鄰近的華南地區及海外能接觸本港新聞的華人，均能獲益。

正因如此，本會的產品測試報告相當受消費者重視，而商界的反應則較為複雜，多因應其產品與競爭對手產品的評分差距而定，同時，本會的測試有助推動製造商改善產品的質素及安全。

如何測試？

消委會的測試分三類。

一是由本會獨立發起及進行的測試，費用及資源全由本會負責。此類測試由本會委託認可及獨立的測試機構進行，若本地未能提供所需的測試設施，便交由海外合適的實驗室測試。第二類是參與國際消費者研究及試驗組織 (ICRT) 的聯合測試，ICRT是包含世界各地超過35個消費者組織的協會，本會作為該會的活躍成員之一，參與其主辦的聯合測試，使資源得以充分利用，及與海外組織分享經驗，獲益良多。若沒有這些聯合測試，本會未必能定期為本港消費者提供包括數碼相機及手提電話等短產品生命周期產品的最新測試報告。第三類是本會積極與本地不同政府部門或法定團體的聯合測試。

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

In the year under review, 41 product testing reports were published in CHOICE. Findings in a number of tests indicated that not all products fully complied with relevant standards, e.g. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards, Mainland's Hygiene Standard for Cosmetics. Based on the findings, the Council notified the Government regulatory bodies for follow-up action, and made proposals to the manufacturers and agents for product improvement. Over the years, the Council's product testing has proved to be an effective mechanism instrumental in enhancing safety and quality of products. A list of the tests conducted is at Appendix 8.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TESTS

Electrical Products

Split-type Air Conditioners

The Council conducted a test on 15 models of cooling-only split-type room air conditioners with claimed cooling capacities of 2.5 kW to 2.8 kW. In terms of cooling capacity, five models were found to fall below their claimed values with the largest discrepancy of about 4.8%, while one model turned out to be about 4.7% higher than its claim. According to the energy efficiencies found in the test, the annual running costs of electricity for the models tested were estimated to vary from \$1,078 to \$1,314, at a 18% difference. Therefore, the savings for using the model with the highest energy efficiency can be as high as \$236 annually.

In terms of safety, most of the models passed a series of basic safety tests. Only two models failed to meet the requirements of the international standard (IEC 60335-2-40) for accessible basic insulated parts after opening the front panel of the indoor unit, which could pose potential hazards of electric shock. Test results had been forwarded to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for follow up.

Electric Blankets

Cross-border shopping is now popular between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Consumer Council tested the safety of 15 electric blankets, jointly with the Shenzhen Consumer Council, with reference to the latest edition of international safety standard. 10 of these single-size under-blankets were bought locally and 5 samples purchased by our partner in Shenzhen. Electric blankets from Shenzhen were significantly cheaper than those from Hong Kong. One local sample's transformer had only one single

我們完成的工作

年內《選擇》月刊發表的產品測試報告達41個。多個測試的結果顯示，並非所有產品均符合相關標準規定，例如國際電工委員會(IEC)標準、內地《化妝品衛生規範》。根據測試結果，本會通知政府執法部門以便跟進，及建議製造商及代理商改善產品。長久以來，本會的產品測試證實是提升產品品質及安全的有效機制。產品試驗一覽表見附錄八。

試驗工作摘要

電氣產品

分體式冷氣機

本會測試15款俗稱「一匹」的淨冷型分體式冷氣機，聲稱製冷量介乎2.5至2.8千瓦。在製冷量方面，有五款樣本在測試中量得的數值比其聲稱略低，最大的差別約4.8%，但其中一款量得的數值，比聲稱高約4.7%。根據測試量得的能源效率，各樣本每年電費支出估算為港幣1,078元至1,314元，相差達18%；能源效率最高的樣本比最低者，每年可節省電費約港幣236元。

在安全方面，大部分樣本均通過基本的安全檢測，只有兩款樣本有不合國際標準(IEC 60335-2-40)的項目，在打開室內機前蓋後，試驗手指可接觸到樣本的基本絕緣部分，如絕緣失效，會增加觸電的機會。測試結果已經轉交機電工程署跟進。

電熱氈

香港和內地之間的旅客跨境購物頻繁。本會聯同深圳市消委會測試了15款單人床墊式的電氈的安全，參照最新版本的國際安全標準進行。當中十款在本港



capacitor as protective impedance, while the standard requires at least two components connected in series for such purpose, and the sample's insulation distance between the transformer windings was also shorter than the standard requirement. Only seven samples were satisfactory on material's resistance against heat and fire, the rest were not in compliance with the requirement of glow-wire, needle-flame or ball pressure tests. No sample fully complied with the latest IEC requirement for marking and instructions; however, such IEC standard requirement was only introduced after the samples were purchased.

Multiple Socket Outlet Adaptors and Extension Sockets

Multiple socket adaptors and extension sockets are useful when there are only limited wall socket outlets. The Consumer Council and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) consecutively joint-tested the safety of 18 and 16 models of adaptors and extension sockets respectively, with reference to the British Standards. Some models came with individual on-off switches.

Only one adaptor passed all the safety tests. Four models were found to have insufficient insulation distance, while another models was found with an insufficient distance between the plug pins and the edge of the adaptor, its pins also failed to plug into socket securely. Deficiencies were found in the construction of the plug and the socket of some models. The insulating sleeves of the plug pins of two models failed in the high voltage test after an abrasion procedure. The insulating sleeves on the plug pins of another models were broken and/or worn off after treatment under pressure and heat. Other deficiencies were found in protection against electric shock and endurance requirements. EMSD subsequently alerted consumers not to use one of the test models.

For extension sockets, only five models passed all test items. The shutters of some models were either not rigid enough to resist a test pin, found deformed, damaged with live parts exposed, or shifted after undergoing the required socket endurance tests. The cord anchorage of two models were unable to hold a thinner power cord, while significant damage of fine power cord copper strands of another two models were found after a flexing test. Switches of about half of the models could not break the current sharply at slow speed of triggering, while three models did not pass the switch endurance test.

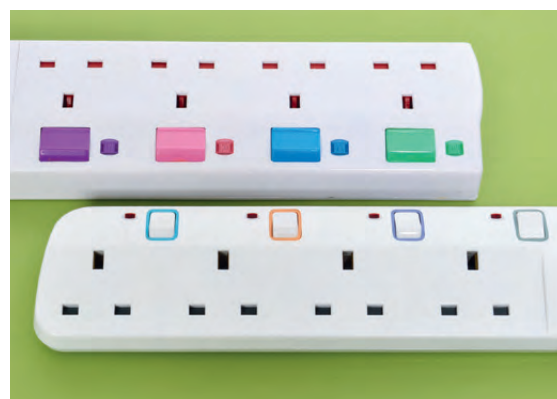
購買，五個型號由深圳市消委會在深圳購買。深圳的型號都明顯比香港的便宜。一個本地樣本的變壓器只有單一電容器作為保護阻抗，而標準要求至少需要兩個串聯連接，變壓器線圈之間的絕緣距離也未達標準要求。只有七個型號在物料耐熱和耐燃能力有滿意評分，其餘均有不符合灼熱絲、針焰或球壓測試的要求。沒有樣品完全符合最新的IEC標準對標示說明要求，不過，購買測試樣本時最新版本標準尚未推出。

萬能插蘇和拖板

當牆壁上的插座被插滿時，萬能插蘇和拖板便派用場。本會聯同機電工程署參照英國標準先後測試18和16款型號的萬能插蘇和拖板的安全。有些型號的插座附設獨立開關掣。

只有一款型號萬能插蘇通過了所有的安全測試。四個型號被發現絕緣距離不足，而另一型號的插腳離插蘇邊緣太近，插腳亦未能完全插入插座。部分型號的插頭和插座有不足之處，兩個型號插腳絕緣套管經磨損後通不過高電壓測試，另一型號插腳的套管在加熱加壓後斷裂，磨損程度超過標準所容許的限度。防觸電保護和耐力也發現其他不足之處。機電工程署隨後提醒消費者不要使用其中一款測試型號。

只有五款拖板通過了所有測試項目。有些樣本的插座活門不夠穩固，未能阻隔測試針，也有活門經插座耐用程度測試後破損、移位或變形，甚至外露帶電部分。兩型號電線固定裝置不能有效鎖緊直徑較小的電源線，另外兩個的電源線經彎曲擺動測試後，導線中的軟銅絲發現較嚴重折斷。約半數型號的開關掣慢速開關時未能有效接上或切斷電源，三款型號則未能通過開關掣耐用測試。



Hair Straighteners and Curlers

Hair straighteners and curlers are widely available in local market. The Council conducted a test to evaluate the safety and performance of seven hair straighteners, three curlers and two multi stylers, with the prices ranging from \$105 to \$1,480. On safety, certain internal construction of five models did not have adequate protection against contact with live parts, clearance, creepage distances and/or solid insulation. Also, the temperature rise of various parts of three models was found to be relatively high. The Council had notified EMSD of the test findings for follow-up.

In the performance test, test results showed that the measured heating-up time varied widely among the samples. One hair curler sample was found to claim to be able to reach 200°C, but its average measured maximum temperature was only 116°C, a shortfall of 84°C. Useful tips on the use of hair straighteners and curlers were included in the report.

Garment Steamers and Steam Irons

The Council conducted safety and performance tests on five garment steamers and seven steam irons. Of the five garment steamers, four models were found to have room for improvement in their construction and stability, resistance to fire, or wiring for earthing.

In the performance test, the maximum time of steam operation achievable (each with tankful of water) by one garment steamer model was found to fall short of its claim by 29%. Most of the tested steam iron models were found to generate less steam than their claims. The discrepancies between the test results and the manufacturers' claimed rate of steam output may have arisen because the manufacturers' testing methodologies were different from the standard methods, or the design supply voltage was different from the local mains voltage applied during testing.

Furthermore, for the latest models of steam irons which are equipped with a 'steam shot' function for dealing with creases or wrinkles in clothes, their rate of steam output per minute during a steam shot was grossly inflated by most manufacturers after some questionable mathematical manipulations. The inflated output is different from the steam output of each burst the Council measured with reference to international standard. The manufacturers are urged to uniformly adopt the international test method, for presenting the output of steam per shot to realistically reflect actual steam output.

直髮器及捲髮器

市面上廣泛銷售直髮器及捲髮器。本會測試了七款直髮器、三款捲髮器及兩款多合一造型器的安全程度和效能表現，售價由港幣105元至港幣1,480元。安全程度方面，五款型號未能通過防觸電保護及絕緣測試，三款型號部分部件的溫升稍高。本會將測試結果交予機電工程署跟進。

效能測試方面，各樣本所需的預熱時間差別很大。一款捲髮器標示的最高溫度為200°C，但量得的平均溫度只有116°C，比標註的少了84°C。報告亦提供使用直髮器及捲髮器時需注意的事項。

蒸氣掛燙機及蒸氣熨斗

本會對五款蒸氣掛燙機及七款蒸氣熨斗進行了安全及效能測試。五款蒸氣掛燙機樣本中，有四款型號的結構及穩定性、物料阻燃能力或接地裝置，仍有改善空間。

在效能測試方面，其中一款蒸氣掛燙機樣本的可提供蒸氣時間（以注水箱滿水計）量得的數值比其聲稱低約29%。大部分測試的蒸氣熨斗樣本的持續蒸氣輸出量量得的數值均比其聲稱為低。測量得的數值與聲稱不同，差別可能源於部分廠商的測試方法與標準方法不同，或產品的額定電壓與在測試時所用的本港供電電壓不同。

此外，新款熨斗設有蒸氣一按噴射功能，以對付衣物的頑固皺褶；蒸氣熨斗聲稱的一分鐘蒸氣噴射量往往是廠商以值得商榷的數學運算方法取得的誇大數值，與本會參考國際標準下量度的每次噴射量不同。本會建議，廠商在標註蒸氣噴射量時，應考慮統一採用國際標準的測試方法，以反映實際情況。



Food

Test Found Croissants and Pastries Relatively High in Trans Fats

In a test on trans fats level in food conducted jointly by the Council and Centre for Food Safety, pastries were found to contain the highest average level of trans fats.

The test focused on 84 samples comprising bakery products, French fries and cream soups with puff pastry. The highest average trans fats level was found in the types of croissant and puff pastry. Consuming one piece of the croissant and puff pastry containing the highest level of trans fats is equivalent to an intake of 0.51 g and 0.91 g trans fats respectively, equivalent to about 23% and 41% of the trans fats daily intake upper limit (2.2 g).

The test also revealed the levels of trans fats varied quite considerably in samples within the same food type and category, reflecting that during the production process of food, trans fats could possibly be avoided or minimised.

The Council therefore urged food manufacturers to observe and reduce the trans fats levels in their production by, for instance, avoiding the use of hydrogenated vegetable oils and developing methods to reduce trans fats contents.

Household Products

First Ever Safety Test on Swivel Work Chairs

19 models of swivel work chairs were examined in the first ever safety test on swivel work chairs jointly conducted by the Council and the Occupational Safety and Health Council.

食品

測試發現牛角酥和酥皮食品反式脂肪含量較高

本會及食物安全中心最新測試發現，酥皮類食品的平均反式脂肪含量最高。

測試集中於84款樣本，包括烘焙食品、薯條和酥皮忌廉湯。測試結果顯示，牛角酥和酥皮卷是所有測試食品中平均反式脂肪含量最高的種類。進食一個檢出反式脂肪含量最高的牛角酥及丹麥酥樣本，分別會攝入大約0.51克及0.91克反式脂肪，即反式脂肪每天攝入上限(2.2克)的23%和41%。

測試結果清晰顯示，同種類食品的反式脂肪含量差異極大，說明在食物生產過程中可避免或盡量減低反式脂肪的含量。

故此，食品製造商應留意及減低其產品的反式脂肪含量，盡量避免採用氫化植物油，以及研究方法減少食物中反式脂肪的含量。

家居產品

首次旋轉工作椅測試

本會與職業安全健康局合作，首次測試旋轉式工作椅，測試樣本共19款。



Swivel work chairs usually incorporate a gas spring for adjusting the height of the seat. The part that connects the seat to the gas spring should preferably be in one piece and should have smooth edge. Otherwise, upon long period of use, the gas spring might become deformed or its structure affected. The test found six of the tested models had room for improvement in this regard.

According to the European standard for office work chair EN1335, all safety test items should be conducted in prescribed sequence on the same sample of each model. Two models stood out in the test conducted with reference to EN1335, passing all the safety test items. The other models showed different extent of damage during different items of the stringent safety tests which might result in being assessed as unsuitable for subsequent test items. In addition to the test results, useful tips in the choice and use of swivel work chairs were included in the report.

High Levels of Chemicals Found in Some Suitcases

The Council joined an ICRT test on luggage which covered 19 models of non-cabin suitcases of over 22-inch of the hard and soft types, with a retractable handle and side handle.

Test results revealed that for four suitcase samples, the side handles were found to contain levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) ranging from 14.5 mg/kg to 17,960 mg/kg, which exceeded the guidelines set under a voluntary German certification scheme. Some PAHs can be carcinogenic and may be commonly found in plastics, rubber and lubricating oil. Various types of phthalate plasticizers were also detected in the side handles of eight samples.

According to the guidelines of the German voluntary GS Mark labelling scheme, the PAHs limit for consumer products with skin contact for longer than 30 seconds is 10 mg/kg while the relevant limit for consumer products with skin contact up to 30 seconds is 200 mg/kg. The Council's test revealed that PAHs detected in four tested samples exceeded the 10 mg/kg limit for skin contact of longer than 30 seconds.

一般旋轉工作椅都裝有氣壓棒以調校座位高度。連接座椅至氣壓棒的組件最好是一個整體，邊緣要夠圓滑；否則氣壓棒日久使用後可能會變形或影響其結構。測試結果發現六款測試型號的設計有改善空間。

根據為辦公室座椅而設的歐洲標準EN 1335，全部安全程度的測試項目須於每一個型號的同一個樣本上，按標準規定的次序進行。測試中，有兩款型號在參考上述標準而進行的安全程度測試中表現突出，通過全部測試項目。其餘型號在不同的嚴格測試項目中出現損壞，有型號因此被評定不適合進行部分餘下的測試項目。除測試結果外，報告亦包括旋轉工作椅的選購及使用貼士。

部分旅行噏化學物質含量偏高

本會聯同ICRT測試19款22吋以上有伸縮拉桿及手挽的直立式軟硬寄倉旅行噏。

測試顯示四款旅行噏樣本手挽檢出的多環芳香烴 (PAHs) 含量，由14.5毫克/千克至17,960毫克/千克，超過德國的自願性標籤計劃下所訂的PAHs限量；部分PAHs可能致癌，通常存在於塑膠、橡膠及潤滑油中。八款樣本的側手挽亦檢出不同種類的塑化劑。

根據德國的自願性標籤計劃GS Mark對消費品的物料PAHs的限量要求，消費品若接觸皮膚多於30秒，所含的PAHs總限量為10毫克/千克，若少於30秒，所



The Customs and Excise Department followed up on the findings and advised the supplier of the suitcase with which the handles were found with high PAHs in the handles to stop the sales of the concerned model and to replace the handles.

Test results of the weight, capacity, durability, overall ease of use and others were also published with a view to providing guidance for the selection of suitcases.

Personal Care

Stop Using Eye Shadows with Excessive Lead and Bacteria

The Council's test on 41 models of eye shadows, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$260, revealed that two single-colour samples failed to comply with the Mainland Hygienic Standard for Cosmetics: one was found to contain high amount of lead at a level of 400 ppm, while the other with excessive level of bacteria. Consumers were urged to stop using those products.

Using eye shadow products which contain lead, consumers may expose the consumers to the heavy metal through contact with the skin or eye mucous. Prolonged exposure may have adverse effect on health.

The Council suggested that labelling of the cosmetic products should be improved so as to aid consumers making an informed choice. Consumers are advised to choose eye shadow products labelled with clear expiry date, preferably with a 'best before date' and a 'period of time after opening'.

International Comparative Tests

During the year under review, the Council also joined forces with consumer associations overseas and stepped up the collaboration with ICRT to conduct international comparative tests, including those on:

- Audio-visual and optical products – Blu-ray disc players, camcorders, compact cameras, interchangeable lens cameras, MP3 and PMP players, MP3 loudspeakers, home theatre systems.
- Computer and telecommunications products – internet security software, mobile phone handsets, printers, tablet PCs.
- Automobile, road vehicles, and related products – bicycle helmets, cars (comprehensive testing), car crash safety, child car seats.

含的PAHs總限量為200毫克/千克。測試結果顯示以接觸多於30秒計，四款樣本檢出的PAHs超出總限量10毫克/千克的要求。

海關跟進檢驗結果，並建議被檢出手挽PAHs總含量高的旅行袋代理商，將有關產品下架及更換手挽。

為了向消費者提供選購貼士，有關樣本的重、容、耐用、方便程度等測試結果及其他資料亦一併刊印。

個人護理用品

消委會建議停用微生物及鉛含量超標眼影

本會的測試涵蓋了41款眼影產品，售價介乎港幣10元至260元。測試結果顯示，兩款單色眼影樣本未能符合內地《化妝品衛生規範》，其中一款檢出鉛含量高達400ppm，另一款衛生情況欠理想，建議消費者立即停用有關眼影產品。



消費者使用含鉛的眼影，可能透過皮膚接觸或眼睛黏膜攝入鉛。長時間接觸鉛對健康可能構成影響。

本會建議化妝品業界改善化妝品標籤載列的資料，方便消費者知所選擇。消費者選擇眼影產品時建議挑選有清楚標示使用期限的產品，最好是同時列出最佳使用日期和開封後使用期。

國際合作產品測試

年內，本會聯同海外的消費者組織，加強與ICRT的合作，進行國際性比較測試，包括：

- 影音及光學產品 — Blu-ray影碟播放機、攝錄機、輕便相機、可換鏡頭相機、MP3及PMP播放機、MP3機揚聲器、家庭影院組合
- 電腦及通訊產品 — 上網保安軟件、電話手機、打印機、平板電腦
- 汽車、道路車輛及相關產品 — 單車頭盔、汽車(全面測試)、汽車撞擊安全、兒童汽車座椅

- Household, personal and travel products – baby pushchairs, IPL devices for hair removal, suitcases, women's razors.
- Household appliances – espresso coffee makers.

Among them, test reports on digital products, e.g. digital cameras and mobile phone handsets, were more popular among CHOICE magazine readers and visitors to the Council's ShopSmart website.

In-depth Reports on Products and Health Issues

Apart from product tests, studies were also carried out on a wide range of consumer products to provide consumer information and, in some cases, to verify certain questionable product claims.

The lists of product study reports and regular columns published during the year are set out in Appendix 9.

Survey Found Inconsistent Olive Oil Labels

In a study conducted by the Council on olive oil products, it was revealed that some olive-pomace oils were labelled as 'olive oil' in Chinese.

The Council collected products labelled in English on the packages as 'Olive Pomace Oil' or 'Pomace Olive Oil' in the market. Of the 11 in question, 5 of them bore the Chinese labels '橄欖油', '純橄欖油', '精純橄欖油' or '精煉橄欖油' (which in English meant olive oil, pure olive oil, refined pure olive oil or refined olive oil) on the packages. There was no indication of '橄欖果渣油' (meaning 'olive-pomace oil') on these Chinese labels.

According to the Trade Standard Applying to Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils issued by International Olive Council, olive-pomace oil refers to the oil obtained by treating olive pomace with solvents or other physical treatments. It comprises the blend of refined olive-pomace oil and virgin olive oils, and in no case shall this blend be called 'olive oil'. The Codex Standard (Codex) has similar requirements.



- 家居、個人及旅行產品 — 嬰孩手推車、IPL脫毛機、旅行摺、女士剃毛刀
- 家居設備 — 特濃咖啡機

其中數碼產品如數碼相機及電話手機的測試報告，深受《選擇》月刊讀者及精明消費香港遊網站訪客的歡迎。

產品研究報告及健康問題

除產品測試外，本會還研究各類消費品，為消費者提供資訊及分析若干產品的聲稱是否屬實。

年內完成的產品研究報告及專欄一覽表見附錄九。

調查發現橄欖油標籤不一致

本會一項市場調查發現，有「橄欖果渣油」以中文標示「橄欖油」出售。

本會搜集市面上包裝以英文標示為「Olive Pomace Oil」或「Pomace Olive Oil」的產品。在調查所得的11款產品中，發現五款同時用中文標示為「橄欖油」、「純橄欖油」、「精純橄欖油」或「精煉橄欖油」，標籤上卻沒有關於「橄欖果渣油」（即Olive Pomace Oil的中文名稱）的標示。

根據國際橄欖理事會制訂適用於橄欖油和橄欖果渣油的業界標準，「橄欖果渣油」是採用溶劑或其他物理方法，從橄欖果渣中提取的油脂。市面出售的「橄欖果渣油」，一般混合了精煉橄欖果渣油和初榨橄欖

The survey found marked difference in the prices of 'olive-pomace oil' products and 'olive oil' products - the average price of the latter is more than double that of the former.

The findings were forwarded to the Centre for Food Safety and Customs and Excise Department for necessary follow-up actions.

Beware of Formaldehyde in Hair Treatment Products for Thermal Styling

The Council followed up on overseas reports that some hair smoothing/straightening products contained formaldehyde-releasing ingredients, which might release formaldehyde gas when heated with thermal styling tools.

Heat protecting products for hair have been packaged to prevent hair damage caused by blow drying and thermal styling tools. However, some heat protecting sprays were found to contain formaldehyde-releasing preservatives (e.g. imidazolidinyl urea and DMDM hydantoin), and gaseous formaldehyde might be released during thermal styling.

Exposure to formaldehyde may lead to eye, nose and throat irritation, high concentration may trigger asthma and allergic reaction. The Council's report cautioned consumers to avoid choosing hair products containing formaldehyde-releasing ingredients for thermal styling. If it cannot be avoided, consumers are advised to use them with good ventilation.

Effectiveness of Electronic Mosquito Repellents Questioned

The Council studied 19 models of electronic mosquito repellent devices and pest repellers available on the market, with prices ranging from \$79 to \$498, and with claims to operate with sonic, ultrasonic or electromagnetic waves to repel biting mosquitoes or pest.

Many overseas authorities have expressed doubt about the effectiveness of the electronic repellents: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Mosquito Control Association pointed out that ultrasound repellers cannot prevent mosquito bites or repel mosquitoes; the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group concluded that electronic mosquito repellents did not help in preventing the spread of malaria.

油。無論如何，「橄欖果渣油」都不能稱作「橄欖油」。食品法典委員會亦制訂了相近標準。

調查亦發現「橄欖果渣油」和「橄欖油」的售價有明顯差異，後者的售價較前者高一倍以上。

本會已將有關資料交予食物安全中心及海關，有需要時會作適當跟進。

當心頭髮護理用品釋出甲醛

海外研究指出，部分順髮劑或直髮劑含有可釋出甲醛的成分，配合加熱器具整理頭髮時，可能釋出甲醛氣體，本會作出跟進。

抗熱保護產品聲稱可保護髮絲，減低直髮器、捲髮器或風筒的熱力可能對頭髮造成的傷害。不過，本會發現部分產品標示含有可釋出甲醛的成分（例如 imidazolidinyl urea 和 DMDM hydantoin），使用該些產品後，再用直髮器、捲髮器或風筒加熱頭髮時，有釋出甲醛氣體的可能。

暴露在甲醛下，可引起眼睛、鼻子及喉嚨刺痛，高濃度更可能誘發哮喘或過敏反應。如要配合加熱器具使用，本會的報告建議消費者應避免選用含可釋出甲醛成分的美髮用品，如有必要選用，應在有良好通風的地方使用。

電子驅蚊器功效成疑

本會搜集市面19款電子驅蚊器、驅蟲器樣本，檢視它們聲稱的效能及操作原理，售價由港幣79元至498元，聲稱的操作原理主要為利用聲波、超聲波或電磁波，達致驅蚊或驅蟲的效果。

世界各地多個政府部門/組織均質疑電子驅蚊器的功效：美國疾病控制及預防中心及美國蚊蟲控制協會均指出，超聲波驅蚊器的功效不彰，並無助預防蚊咬或驅蚊；Cochrane傳染病工作小組認為，電子驅蚊器不能預防瘧疾的傳播。

Consumers relying on electronic mosquito repellents might neglect taking other effective measures to prevent mosquito bites. Tidying up the household environment to eliminate the potential breeding places for mosquitoes would be the most effective mosquito prevention measure.

Improper Use of Eye Drops May Bring Harm Rather Than Relief

The Council examined product information of 16 over-the-counter eye drops for use to soothe and moisten the eyes, reduce redness and alleviate allergy symptoms. Most of these products indicated the presence of preservative(s) on the labelling and three samples were labeled 'preservative-free'. Two samples of eye moisturisers did not indicate whether the products contain preservatives, but in response to the enquiries from the Council, the suppliers confirmed that the products do contain preservatives.

The information on whether the eye drops contain preservatives is crucial for consumers as preservatives can be potentially toxic to the eyes, causing dryness and irritations to the cornea. For contact lens wearers, preservatives like benzalkonium chloride may cling to the lens surface and become a source of irritant. They should take off the contact lenses when applying eye drops, and wear the lenses 15 minutes after using an eye drop with preservatives.

Since self-medication can be a problem without prior medical consultation or instructions, three cases of misuse of eye drop products were reported to remind consumers of the potential risk.

Consumers are also advised to check the expiry date for eye drops and dispose of them one month after being opened or as suggested by product insert.

International Exchange

The Council pays special attention to the movement of unsafe products into Hong Kong and will request suppliers to recall any such products as appropriate. Through communication with other consumer organisations and foreign authorities, the Council receives a constant flow of information about unsafe products found outside Hong Kong.

消費者可能單靠電子驅蚊器驅蚊，而疏於作其他有效的防蚊措施。最有效的驅蚊方法應從源頭著手，保持居所清潔，清除蚊子的滋生點。

亂滴眼藥水不護眼反傷眼

本會檢視了16款滋潤眼睛、去除紅筋或舒緩眼睛敏感的非處方眼藥水的產品資料。大部分產品有標籤所含的防腐劑，另有三款標示不含防腐劑。兩個潤眼藥水樣本沒標示是否含有防腐劑，其後在本會的查詢下，代理商確定產品含有防腐劑。

在選擇眼藥水時，產品是否含有防腐劑對消費者是一項關鍵性資訊，因為防腐劑對眼睛有一定毒性，可令眼睛乾涸及刺激角膜。對於隱形眼鏡佩戴者，防腐劑如苯扎氯銨可黏附在鏡片物料上而刺激眼睛。佩戴隱形眼鏡人士應先除下隱形眼鏡，使用含防腐劑眼藥水15分鐘後方重新戴上隱形眼鏡。

由於未經專業醫護人員診斷及指示而使用眼藥水自行治療，後果可大可小，所以本會在報告中輯錄三個誤用眼藥水的個案指出當中的潛在風險。

本會的報告還提醒消費者留意有效使用日期，一般多次使用型的眼藥水開瓶後一個月（或按產品說明書建議）應該棄掉。

國際間交換資訊

本會積極監察有否危險產品在本地市場出現，並要求有關供應商進行回收。本會透過與外地消費者機構的聯繫，定期收到外地危險產品的資訊。