

# Ensuring Product Quality and Safety.

## 確保產品質素及安全

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The 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 include safety, performance, ease of use, durability and environmental sustainability for most products.

Media coverage of testing results reach not only consumers in Hong Kong, but 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 at times 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 product 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 these tests 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 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 short product life cycle products such as digital cameras and mobile phones regularly. Thirdly, the Council also actively co-operates with various local Government / statutory organisations. It should be noted that all test samples were sourced from reliable outlets in the market.

### 產品測試的重要性

本會進行產品測試，為消費者提供客觀、中肯的資訊，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？

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，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。特別一提，所有測試樣本均從市場上可靠的零售點採集。

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

In the year under review, 45 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 in enhancing quality and safety of products. A list of the tests conducted is at Appendix 9.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF TESTS

### Electrical Products

#### Test Revealed Exaggerated Claims in Performance of Dehumidifiers

The Council conducted a test to evaluate the performance and safety of 12 dehumidifiers on the market. Test results showed that in a standard environment, the daily dehumidifying capacities of three samples were below their claimed values where one model was found with dehumidifying capacity of 11.8% below its claim. The test also observed that a great majority of manufacturers were found to adopt a high temperature and high humidity test conditions in their favour to measure the dehumidifying capacity of their products. The Council was critical of this approach as it might not accurately reflect the indoor environment when the dehumidifier is operating with the windows closed. Manufacturers were urged to use a more realistic test condition to measure the dehumidifying capacity, such as the standard test condition laid down in the US American National Standards Institute/ Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (ANSI/AHAM) standard for the compressor type dehumidifiers. It is the same standard test condition stipulated in the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department which covers compressor type dehumidifiers.

As for energy efficiency, one sample failed to meet the requirements of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). Its measured energy efficiency was 13.9% below the claimed value, exceeding the acceptable tolerance set by the Scheme. After EMSD's follow-up, the model has been removed from the Labelling Scheme and is not allowed to be supplied

## 我們完成的任務

年內《選擇》月刊發表的產品測試報告達45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九。

## 試驗工作摘要

### 電氣產品

#### 測試發現抽濕機效能聲稱誇大

本會測試市面上12款抽濕機的效能及安全程度。測試結果顯示，在標準環境下，三款樣本的每日抽濕量比聲稱的數值低，當中一款的差異達11.8%。是次測試亦發現，絕大部分製造商採用有利於量度其產品抽濕量的高溫度及高濕度的測試環境。本會認為，這不能準確反映實際使用抽濕機時關上窗戶的室內環境，製造商應採用較真實的測試環境量度其產品的抽濕量，例如美國國家標準(ANSI/AHAM)對壓縮式抽濕機所採用的標準測試環境。這亦是機電工程署對壓縮式抽濕機的強制性能源效益標籤計劃所用的標準測試環境。

能源效率方面，一款樣本不符合機電工程署強制性能源效益標籤計劃要求，量得的能源效率比代理商早前呈交予機電署的數值低13.9%，超出強制性標籤計劃可接受的公差範圍。機電署跟進後，該型號已從標籤計劃被刪除，不得在本港供應。安全程度方面，一款樣本有部分位置的絕緣距離不足，增加意外觸電的風險。本會將測試結果交予機電署跟進。報告亦提供使用抽濕機時的安全要點。

in Hong Kong. On safety, one sample failed for inadequate insulation distances at some positions, which would pose potential hazards of electric shock. The Council had notified EMSD of the test findings for follow-up. Useful safety tips in the use of dehumidifiers were included in the report.

### Test on the iDTV Revealed Considerable Discrepancy in Performance

iDTV sets in market are more and more versatile these days. Apart from the standard feature of internal digital TV tuner, some also offer recording function and even 3D effect. The Council commissioned a specialised laboratory in Germany to conduct a performance test on 20 models of iDTV sets, 15 of them with 42-inch screen while five with 40-inch screen. Their retail prices ranged from \$3,999 to \$18,380.

The test evaluated the samples on picture quality, sound quality, ease of use, recording, versatility, special feature and energy efficiency. Five samples were found to have serious screen reflection problem due to their glossy display design. Four samples offered 3D effect, but with varied performance. Problems detected included flickering, crosstalk and grainy images. The sound quality of most samples was not satisfactory, probably due to the limitation of the very thin housing design where only weak speakers could be accommodated. Majority of the samples had video recording function providing instant or timer recording. Some were of more flexible designs, for instance during the time of recording, those models allowed switching to other channels of the same broadcast frequency, or playing back of old recordings. Since the test revealed that their performance varied vastly on different functions, consumers were advised to compare carefully before making the purchase.

### Be Smart When Choosing an Air Purifier

The Council conducted the safety and performance tests on 10 models of air purifiers, with prices ranging from \$629 to \$4,000. Four models were found to provide insufficient insulation protection while some plastic parts in four models had inadequate heat and flame retardant capabilities. For all tested models with claims of usable area, calculations based on the deduced Clean Air Delivery Rates (CADRs) showed that usable area was smaller than the claimed by 12% to 90%. The Council also found on the market models with plasma ion generators claimed to be able to suppress the activities of viruses, etc. However, one such sample without any HEPA filter was found



### iDTV測試·表現差異大

市售iDTV的功能越來越多樣化，除了有內置數碼電視廣播接收的基本功能外，部分更可錄影，甚至具備3D效果。本會委託德國實驗室測試20款iDTV性能，包括15款42吋屏幕及五款40吋屏幕樣本，價錢由港幣3,999至18,380元。

測試審視各樣本的畫質、音質、使用方便程度、錄影功能、多功能程度、特殊使用及省電程度。五款樣本由於採用鏡面設計，出現嚴重反光問題。四個樣本具備3D功能，但表現差異大。樣本出現的問題是呈輕微閃爍、互相干擾、或影像粗糙。大部分樣本的音質功能表現令人失望，主要原因是機身纖薄，只能內置小型揚聲器，影響質素。大部分樣本都擁有錄影功能，包括即時錄影或預校錄影。部分樣本的功能較為靈活，例如錄影期間，可轉換至其他相同廣播頻率的頻道，或播放較早前已錄影的片段。由於測試揭露不同功能上的表現有巨大差異，報告建議消費者在購買前細心比較。

### 精明選購空氣淨化機

本會測試十款售價由629至4,000元的空氣淨化機的安全和效能。測試發現四個型號的絕緣保護不足，亦有四個型號的塑膠物料的阻燃能力不及國際標準要求。按本會量得淨化速度推算的可使用面積，比有此聲稱型號的聲稱面積低，偏差由12%至90%。本會亦發現市面有些聲稱為「離子機」或「抗菌機」的空氣淨化機型號，其中一款沒有高效能過濾器的型號在測試中不能去除塵埃或煙霧，報告建議想清除煙塵的用戶須注意產品說明並比較型號的聲稱和構造。

inadequate in removal of dust or smoke. Users looking for remover of such contaminants should compare the description of the products by checking the claims and construction.

### Test revealed Potential Risks of some Induction Cookers

The Council and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) conducted a joint-test on safety of 15 models of induction cookers within the price range of \$150 to \$2,180. The Council further assessed smells and input power of the samples. In one model, it was found that users could touch the internal live parts through a small hole at the bottom. After follow-up by EMSD, the model was voluntarily recalled by the agent. On two other models, insulation distance across the fuse-link was found insufficient. Total Volatile Organic Compound (TVOC) concentrations were measured to give indication of smells emitted from induction cookers. Six samples did not emit significant levels of TVOC during operation, while two showed relatively higher levels of TVOC than others. Input power were also measured at the local voltage of 220V and compared to the claimed value. Four showed close matches, but the rest had power input comparatively lower than their marked power rating.

### Food Calling for Mandatory GM Food Labelling

In a study conducted by the Council on soy drinks, it was revealed that traces of genetically modified soy bean materials were found in some samples labelled with 'organic' and 'made with non GM soy beans' or similar claims.

50 samples including ready-to-drink and powder-form products were tested. Half of the tested samples were detected with GM materials, but mostly at trace amounts which are below the limit of quantification.

Among the samples detected with amounts of GM materials, none of them was labelled as 'genetically modified'. Four of them even contained quantifiable amount of GM component ranging from 0.2% to 1.1%. Out of these four samples, two bore the claims of 'Non-GMO'.

The Council urged the Hong Kong Government to enact the legislation for implementing mandatory GM food labelling system as soon as possible to ensure consumer rights for making an informed choice.

### 電磁爐測試發現危險

本會與機電工程署攜手測試15款售價由150至2,180元的「單頭」電磁爐的安全程度，本會更加入異味評審及量度輸入功率試驗。一個型號的底部設有蓋小孔，用戶打開蓋子後手指可觸摸內部帶電部分；經機電署跟進後，代理商自願回收該型號。另兩型號的保險絲兩端之間的絕緣距離不足。異味評審是量度總揮發性有機物濃度作比較，六個型號操作時沒有明顯釋出揮發性有機物，但兩個型號則量得較大釋放量。本會亦量度樣本在220伏特輸入電壓操作時的輸入功率，再與聲稱比較，四款的偏差較少，但其他樣本量得的數據均較其標示值低。

### 食品 建議制訂強制性基因改造食物標籤制度

本會的豆漿測試發現，聲稱「有機」或「非基因改造大豆製造」的樣本，檢出微量基因改造大豆成分。

50款樣本包括即飲和沖劑兩類產品。半數樣本檢出低於定量限的微量基因改造成分。

全部檢出含微量基因改造成分的樣本，均沒有標示「含基因改造成分」或相關字眼。其中四款的基因改造成分足以被定量，含量由0.2%至1.1%。這四款樣本中，兩款附「非基因改造」的標示。

本會期望港府盡快立法推行強制性基因改造食物標籤制度，保障消費者的知情權，讓消費者可憑標籤選擇合適的食品。

## Household Products

### Leaching of Contaminants Found in Melamine Tableware

The Council tested 39 models of melamine tableware including bowls, plates and chopsticks, with prices ranging from \$2 to \$50. The test revealed that nine models did not comply with the Mainland's hygienic standard.

Formaldehyde and melamine are commonly used in the manufacture of melamine tableware. Migration of formaldehyde was detected in five models and leaching of melamine monomer found in nine models.

Deficiencies in the production process might lead to excessive migration of contaminants from the tableware to food. The Council offered some tips for using melamine tablewares in the test report.

### Cleaning Power of Washing Balls No Better Than Plain Water

Washing balls were gaining popularity recently due to its green claims. Some of them claimed to replace detergents and no washing powder was needed. However, our test revealed that in general the cleaning power of washing balls was not significantly better than plain water.

The Council tested 13 powdered detergents and 10 liquid detergents, together with three washing balls. No significant difference in washing performance was found between powdered and liquid detergents. While powdered detergents performed better in keeping clothing bright, they caused greater discoloration when compared with liquid detergents.

Among the powdered and liquid detergents, seven models were found to contain phosphorus compounds with total phosphorus content ranging from 0.03% to 10.7%. The Council urged manufacturers to lower the phosphorus content in laundry detergents to minimise the possible impact on aquatic ecosystem.



## 家居產品

### 仿瓷餐具可能釋出污染物

消委會抽查市面上39款仿瓷餐具，包括飯碗或湯碗、餐碟及筷子，價錢由港幣2至50元不等。測試結果顯示，有九款產品未能符合內地的衛生標準。

甲醛及三聚氰胺是製造仿瓷餐具常用的原料。樣本中有五款檢出甲醛，九款檢出三聚氰胺單體。

製造過程中工序不完善可能導致製成的餐具釋出過量的甲醛或三聚氰胺單體，污染食物。報告亦提供了使用仿瓷餐具的小貼士。

### 洗衣球去污能力儼如清水

近年聲稱環保的洗衣球吸引了不少消費者購買使用。部分洗衣球更聲稱可代替洗衣劑或洗衣時毋須加入洗衣劑。不過，消委會的測試卻發現，洗衣球的去污能力與清水無明顯分別。

本會測試了13款洗衣粉、十款洗衣液和三款洗衣球。整體來說，洗衣球的功效與清水無明顯分別，而洗衣粉和洗衣液的清潔功效相若。洗衣粉保持衣物潔白表現較佳，但與洗衣液比較，引致衣物褪色問題較嚴重。

測試顯示，樣本中共七款洗衣粉和洗衣液檢出磷化合物，總磷含量由0.03%至10.7%。本會建議供應商盡量減少產品的磷含量，減低對水生生態可能構成的影響。

## Personal Care

### Prohibited Colourant Detected in Lip Gloss

The Council tested 37 brands of lip gloss with prices ranging from \$2 to \$230; among them one was found to contain a prohibited colourant CI 15585 (Pigment Red 53) at a level of 74.5 ppm. The use of CI 15585 had been banned for use in cosmetics in the Mainland, the United States and the European Union.

In addition, 25 models were detected with lead ranging in concentration from 0.043 to 0.91 ppm, and one of them was found to contain 0.068 ppm mercury while another contained 0.91 ppm arsenic. The level of heavy metals found in those samples was far below the limits set by the Hygienic Standard for Cosmetics of the Mainland, and therefore should be in theory safe to use.

Traces of the lip cosmetics might be ingested, and heavy metals are hence consumed. As such, consumers were suggested to wipe off the lip cosmetics before eating or drinking.

### International Comparative Tests

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

- \* Audio-visual and optical products – Blu-ray disc players, digital camcorders, digital compact cameras, headphones, interchangeable lens cameras, MP3 and PMP players, pocket camcorders.
- \* Computer and telecommunications products – internet security software, mobile phone handsets, printers, tablet PCs.
- \* Automobile and related products – car crash safety.
- \* Household and personal products – heart rate monitors, men's razors, non-stick frying pans, pressure cookers.
- \* Household appliances – NiMH battery chargers, steam ovens.

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.

## 個人護理用品

### 一款唇彩驗出含禁用染色劑

本會測試了37款市面有售的唇彩及唇蜜，每支售價由港幣2至230元，測試發現一款唇彩含有禁用染色劑CI 15585（顏料紅53），含量為74.5 ppm。內地、美國和歐盟等地均不允許在化妝品中添加這種着色劑。

此外，25款唇彩檢出微量鉛，鉛含量由0.043至0.91 ppm，其中一樣本同時檢出微量水銀（0.068 ppm），另一樣本同時檢出微量砷（0.91 ppm）。在樣本中檢出的重金屬含量，仍遠低於內地《化妝品衛生規範》的標準上限，因此理論上仍屬安全。

使用含有重金屬的唇部化妝品，有機會因吞食小量化妝品而攝入重金屬，因此本會建議消費者考慮於飲食前先將唇部化妝品抹掉。

### 國際合作產品測試

年內，本會加強與國際消費者研究及試驗組織的合作，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、數碼攝錄機、數碼輕便相機、耳筒、可換鏡頭相機、MP3及PMP播放機、輕便型攝錄機
- \* 電腦及通訊產品—上網保安軟件、電話手機、打印機、平板電腦
- \* 汽車及相關產品—汽車撞擊安全
- \* 家居及個人產品—心率錶、男士剃鬚刀、易潔鏟、壓力煲
- \* 家居設備—鎳氫電池充電器、電蒸爐

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。

## 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 product claims.

The lists of product study reports and regular columns published during the year are set out in Appendix 10.

## Beware of Misleading Claims of Follow-up Formula

In a study on the beneficial claims made by follow-up formulas, it was revealed that some of them might have been exaggerated and misleading.

The ingredients studied were probiotic, prebiotic/soluble fibre, DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid), AA (Arachidonic Acid),  $\beta$ -glucan, PhD (phospholipid) and partially hydrolyzed protein formula.

According to expert opinions, although individual studies did show certain beneficial effects in adding probiotics, prebiotics, soluble dietary fibre, DHA, AA in formulas for infants and young children, further research is necessary to confirm their clinical efficacy and whether they should be routinely added to infant formulas. Current CODEX standards do not stipulate these ingredients as essential ingredients in either follow-up or infant formulas.

As for  $\beta$ -Glucan, PhD (phospholipid) and hydrolyzed protein formula, there is insufficient evidence to prove the beneficial effects as claimed.

Experts also commented that the claims of prebiotic or soluble fibre being capable of alleviating the problem of constipation might be misleading. Parents should not change to other formula or choose formula with these ingredients simply to deal with bowel problem.

Breast-milk is the best food for babies, but if parents choose to feed their babies with formula, they should disregard the exaggerated claims when selecting a formula.

The Council urged the government to prohibit exaggerated and misleading claims made by formulas suppliers. In the long run, the government should consider establishing a local code

## 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十。

## 注意較大嬰兒配方誤導

本會研究較大嬰兒配方奶粉的聲稱，發現某些成分聲稱的益處，可能誇大及誤導。

研究的成分包括益生菌、益菌素/可溶性膳食纖維、DHA（二十二碳六烯酸）、AA（二十碳四烯酸）、 $\beta$ -Glucan（ $\beta$ -聚葡萄糖）、PhD（磷脂）和部分水解蛋白配方。

根據專家意見，雖然有個別研究顯示奶粉添加益生菌、益菌素/可溶性膳食纖維、DHA 和AA對嬰幼兒有益處，但仍需進一步研究才能証實其臨床效用，以及是否有需要常規性地加入奶粉。食品法典委員會現行的相關標準，並沒有將這些成分列為嬰幼兒奶粉的「必需成分」。

至於 $\beta$ -聚葡萄糖、磷脂及部分水解蛋白配方，沒有足夠證據證明其具有所聲稱的益處。

專家亦認為有關益菌素或可溶性膳食纖維可改善便秘問題的聲稱可能有誤導成分，父母不應因為排便問題或便秘而轉換奶粉，或因此而食用含以上成分的奶粉。

母乳是嬰兒的最佳食物，但若父母選擇以奶粉餵哺，選擇奶粉時不要受各式誇大廣告聲稱影響。

本會促請政府禁止以誇大或誤導的宣傳手法推銷奶粉。長遠而言，政府應參考世界衛生組織（世衛）《國際母乳代用品銷售守則》，制訂適用於本港的守則，規定不可向公眾作廣告宣傳奶粉，包括初生和較大嬰兒奶粉。

based on WHO's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes to regulate against advertising or promoting breast-milk substitutes, including infant formulas and follow-up formulas.

### Advocating Clear and Legible Nutrition Labels

The Council examined the legibility of nutrition labels of several dozens of pre-packaged food collected from supermarkets and bakeries, including biscuits, yoghurts, canned foods, chocolates, breads, cakes, etc.

Several observations were made from the samples studied: font size adopted was too small; spacing was not sufficient; printing quality was poor; lack of colour contrasts; background was confusing; characters in the label overlapped with other patterns/characters on the package.

According to the current Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations, prepackaged food shall be legibly marked or labelled with a list of nutrients. The definition of 'legible', however, is not stipulated.

The Council considers that food manufacturers should be responsible for providing clear and easy-to-read food information to consumers, including information on nutrient contents. With regard to the format of nutrition labels, the United States and European Union have set out clear regulations regarding font size, colour contrast, and line spacing on the labels.

To enhance the protection to consumers, the Council urged the Government to clearly define 'legible labels' in the legislation.

### Safety of Folding Tables Arouses Concerns Again

A folding table is a common potential household hazard. According to Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance, all folding tables are required to comply with the general safety requirements, and need to be equipped with safety locking devices to ensure the legs of the table will not accidentally fold up.

### 本會促清晰易讀營養標籤

本會在超市及麵包店搜集數十款預先包裝食物，包括餅乾、乳酪、罐頭食品、朱古力、麵包、蛋糕等，檢視營養標籤的可讀性。

就檢視的樣本，綜合觀察結果如下：營養標籤字體太小、字和字之間間距不足、印刷質素不理想、顏色對比度不足、背景顏色雜亂、字體重疊。

本港的《食物及藥物（成分組合及標籤）規例》規定，預先包裝食物須加上一個營養素的「可閱」標記或標籤。但規例沒有訂明「可閱」的定義。

本會認為，食物生產商有責任向消費者提供清晰及易讀的食物資料，包括營養素資料。就食物營養標籤的格式，美國和歐盟均有明文規定字體的大小、顏色對比及行距。

為加強對消費者的保障，本會建議政府應把食物標籤的「可閱性」定義納入法例規管。

### 摺檯安全再惹關注

摺檯是家居陷阱之一。根據《消費品安全條例》，所有摺檯均須符合一般安全規定，須有適當的安全鎖掣，以確保摺檯在翻轉後，不會意外摺合。



A fatal accident in which a two-year old boy was trapped by a folding table aroused concerns again. The Council conducted a random survey in the market to find out whether folding tables were equipped with safety locks. It was found that two models did not come with any safety devices. It also found that some small folding tables, though installed with safety devices, do not have necessary instruction labels on how to use the safety devices while in other cases user instructions or safety warnings were found missing.

The Council urged manufacturers or suppliers to improve the safety of the folding table and label the product with appropriate user instructions as a safety reminder to consumers. Consumers were advised to choose a sturdy folding table which had a reliable safety lock, and always activate the safety device.

### **Beauty Treatment of Microneedle Therapy System May Cause Bacterial Infection**

Microneedle Therapy System (MTS) became a popular beauty treatment. With the do-it-yourself MTS tools kit available on market, consumers could acquire one to conduct the treatment themselves. The Council cautioned beauty-conscious consumers of the use of MTS tools, which might not only result in bacterial skin infection, sharing the device might also transmit human immunodeficiency (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses.

The Council received 43 complaint cases regarding microneedle treatments from December 2007 to August 2011. More than 10 cases reported different levels of adverse skin conditions.

Under the voluntary listing system of medical devices maintained by the Department of Health, no microneedles device was listed as a medical device. The Council called for tightening the regulations on the provision of the relevant beauty devices and services.

一宗兩歲男童被摺檯夾死的致命意外再惹關注。本會隨機抽查市面出售的摺檯，是否配備安全鎖掣，結果發現有兩款摺檯，沒有任何安全鎖掣。部分小摺檯雖然配備安全鎖掣，但沒有標貼說明如何使用安全鎖，部分則沒有適當的使用須知或安全警告。

本會呼籲製造商或供應商改善摺檯的安全，標示適當的使用說明以提醒消費者安全使用摺檯，又提醒消費者選購結構穩固及備有可靠安全鎖掣的摺檯，以及使用時上鎖。

### **提防微針美容導致細菌感染**

坊間時興微針美容，自助式微針美容用品在坊間亦有售，消費者可輕易購得自行施用。本會提醒愛美一族，使用微針工具除了可能引致微生物感染，與人共用微針工具可能增加傳染愛滋病、乙型和丙型肝炎等病毒的機會。

本會自二零零七年十二月至二零一一年八月，共接獲43宗有關微針美容的投訴，其中超過十宗個案的投訴人指，於接受服務後，皮膚出現不同程度的不良反應。

根據衛生署的醫療儀器自願表列制度，暫未有微針工具表列為醫療儀器。本會認為有必要加強對有關美容工具及服務的管制。



## Health Ornaments and Utensils With Unsubstantiated Claims

Experts' comments were recapped in a report to remind consumers of various dubious claims of health ornaments and cups.

The health ornaments are in a variety forms such as bracelets, necklace and pendant. One expert doubted whether a small ornament can exert great physiological effects on the whole body. Another expert opined that the health claims of these products were written in vague terms and described feelings which are subjective in nature.

The ingredient claims were also examined. In one case, the product claimed to contain germanium but the report submitted by the supplier showed that the element was 'not detected'. In another case, a bangle presented as a product emitting negative ions was shown to contain a radioactive substance named thorium in the test report provided by the supplier. There are concerns over whether the radioactivity content of the product is within safety limits.

The promotional materials of various nano cups made claims of breaking clusters of molecules in water poured into it, producing special biological effects, making water inside the cups bear very strong energy, etc. However, experts opined that all pure water produces the same biological effects and that the strength and amount of hydrogen bonding among water molecules does not imply any mysterious energy in the water.

Consumers were advised to consult medical professionals first before trying out any health products.

## 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.

## 無科學根據的健康飾物及餐具

本會再將專家對於健康飾物及水杯可疑聲稱的意見歸納起來，提醒消費者選購時要小心。

健康飾物有很多不同形態，例如手鐲、頸鍊及鍊墜。有專家質疑這些配戴在身上的小飾物，可對人體的生理反應會起多少作用。另一位專家指出，這類產品所聲稱的療效，使用如「覺得」，「感覺」等字眼，受主觀感受所左右，難以驗證。

此外，亦對產品的成分聲稱進行研究。有產品單張聲稱有關的健康飾物含銻，然而，供應商交予本會的產品測試報告卻標示銻含量為檢不出。在另一個案，一款手鐲產品聲稱能放出負離子，其供應商交予本會的產品測試報告顯示產品含有放射性物質釷，令人擔心其放射性劑量是否在安全範圍。

研究發現市面上出售的納米水杯，聲稱用納米材料生產，可令飲用水的水分子間締結斷裂，增加水的營養生理功能，喝後容易被身體吸收及會產生「生物效應」，杯中水能量超強。然而本會諮詢的專家認為，任何純水都有「生物效應」，而水分子中氫氧成鍵的強或弱，並不表示水有甚麼神奇能量。

報告建議消費者如欲試用任何健康產品，應先諮詢專業醫護人員。

## 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。