

# IMPROVING PRODUCT QUALITY AND SAFETY

## 改善產品質素及安全

The Council undertakes research on, and tests of, consumer products to evaluate safety, performance, ease of use, durability and environmental sustainability. Such an undertaking generates beneficial outcomes for both consumers and product manufacturers.

消委會對產品的安全、效能、使用方便程度、耐用程度及產品對環境影響等各方面，進行研究及測試。這項工作對消費者和生產商均有裨益。

### Research and Test Reports

Sixty-seven product research and test reports were published in CHOICE Magazine during the year under review. The tests covered a wide range of product categories including electrical appliances and consumer electronics, photographic equipment, software, personal and household products. The findings of energy efficiency and performance tests on electrical appliances have been very well received. When products were found non-compliant with mandatory or relevant international standards, the Council notified regulatory bodies concerned for immediate follow-up, while also calling on manufacturers and their agents to make rectification and improvement. Over the years, the Council's product researches and tests and its follow-up actions have proven to be effective in enhancing regulations and enforcement<sup>8</sup>.

### Types of Product Tests

Product tests published in CHOICE Magazine fall into three types.

The first type includes tests initiated and undertaken solely by the Council, using its own resources. The majority of these tests are conducted by independent laboratories in Hong Kong but if local testing facilities are unable to meet the Council's requirements, suitable laboratories in other jurisdictions are commissioned.

The second type is joint tests co-ordinated by International Consumer Research & Testing (ICRT). ICRT is an international consortium of more than 35 consumer organisations and as an active member, the Council has benefited from the ICRT's joint tests through which resources and experiences from other markets can be effectively leveraged.

### 研究及測試報告

年內，《選擇》月刊發表的產品研究及測試報告共67份。測試涵蓋廣泛的產品類別，包括電器及電子產品，攝影器材，電腦軟件，個人及家居產品。其中，本會發表的電器產品能源效益和性能測試報告廣受消費者歡迎。當測試發現產品未能符合相關標準規定或適用的國際標準，本會會隨即通知政府相關部門即時跟進，並建議製造商及其代理商糾正及改善產品。多年來，本會的產品研究、測試，以及跟進工作對加強規管及執法均有著正面影響<sup>8</sup>。

### 產品測試的種類

在《選擇》月刊公布的產品測試可分為3個類別。

第一類是由本會自行發起及安排的測試，經費由本會獨力承擔。此類測試大部分由本會委託本地獨立的測試機構進行。若本地測試機構未能達到本會所需的測試要求，便交由其他地區的實驗室負責。

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的成員包括世界各地超過35個消費者組織。作為ICRT的活躍成員，本會透過參與其主辦的聯合測試，有效運用其他市場的資源和經驗。



<sup>8</sup> See Appendix 6 and 7 for the lists of product testing reports, product in-depth study and market survey reports published during 2015-16. 於2015-16年公布的產品試驗報告、產品研究及市場調查報告一覽表見附錄六及七。



The third involves product tests conducted in partnership with various local Government and statutory bodies, with test reports published by the Council.

## Food

### *Sodium and Sugars Levels in Condiments and Sauces*

The Council examined the nutrition labels of 130 samples of commonly used seasonings available from supermarkets and food departments of department stores.

Findings indicated that the majority of seasoning products surveyed contained high level of sodium, which has been linked to increased risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. The chicken powder samples were found to be most sodium-rich, containing an average 16,980 milligrams of sodium per 100 grams. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a daily intake limit of 2,000 milligrams of sodium for a healthy adult, but an intake of just 12 grams of the surveyed chicken powder would exceed this daily limit.

As for light soy sauce commonly used in Chinese cuisines, 19 samples surveyed were found to contain 6,200 - 8,390 milligrams of sodium per 100 millilitres. The average sodium content was 7,113 milligrams, which means a level teaspoon of light soy sauce already constitutes 18% of the WHO's recommended daily intake of sodium.

One sample of oyster sauce was found to contain 5,100 milligrams of sodium per 100 grams, and one level teaspoon of this sample would contain 306 milligrams of sodium. Consumption of just two teaspoons would equate almost one third of the recommended daily limit of sodium intake.

In addition to being sodium-rich, most of these seasoning products are also high in sugars content.

The report advised consumers to compare sugars and sodium content on product nutrition labels prior to purchase and to be mindful of amount of product used.

### *Sugars Content in Drinks*

In a study jointly conducted by the Centre for Food Safety and the Council, 101 non-prepackaged beverages from various Chinese restaurants, hotpot restaurants and Chinese-style tea restaurants were tested for sugars content. In addition, the nutrition labels of 40 prepackaged drinks were also examined.

Beverages containing more than 7.5 grams of sugars per 100 millilitres are considered high in sugars content. About 30% of the samples studied were found to be high in sugars especially the kumquat honey, citron honey, sour plum, and hawthorn drinks.

第三類是本會聯同本地不同政府部門及法定團體進行的測試繼而由本會出版相關報告。

## 食品

### *調味料的鈉和糖含量*

消委會調查130個在超級市場和百貨公司食品部常見調味料樣本的營養標籤。



大部分檢視的調味料樣本含高鈉。攝入高鈉食物與患上高血壓和心血管疾病的風險高度相關。雞粉產品的鈉含量在眾多款調味料中最高，平均每100克含16,980毫克鈉。世界衛生組織（世衛）建議一個健康成年人每日攝入鈉限量為2,000毫克。即是說，進食12克是次研究的雞粉產品已超出全日攝入限量。

至於常見使用於中式菜餚的生抽，發現19個樣本每100毫升含6,200至8,390毫克鈉。平均鈉含量為7,113毫克，這意味著每平茶匙生抽已達建議每日鈉攝入限量的18%。

有一個蠔油樣本每100克含5,100毫克鈉，這表示每茶匙含306毫克鈉。進食2茶匙幾乎達到每日鈉攝入量上限的三分之一。

除鈉含量高，大部分樣本含高糖也不容忽視。

該報告建議，消費者購買前應比較這些產品營養標籤中糖和鈉含量，並對食用分量有所警覺。

### *飲品的糖含量*

本會與食物安全中心合作測試101款非預先包裝飲品的糖含量，樣本分別來自不同的中式食肆、火鍋店及茶餐廳。此外，是次研究亦檢視了40款預先包裝飲品的營養標籤。

每100毫升飲品含有多於7.5克的糖可視為高糖。是次測試的樣本約有30%的糖含量屬於高。大部分柑桔蜜、柚子蜜、酸梅湯，及山楂飲品樣本的糖含量都屬於高。

The WHO recommends that an adult with a daily energy intake of 2,000 kilocalories should limit the intake of free sugars to less than 50 grams per day. However, in the tests one of the hawthorn drinks was found to contain 19 grams of sugars per 100 millilitres. Assuming that sugars found in the products studied are all free sugars, drinking a 250 millilitre serving of the hawthorn drink concerned would equal an intake of 47.5 grams of sugars - close to the daily limit recommended by the WHO.

Serving size is also a critical consideration. Many of the products tested came from hotpot restaurants - including the sour plum and sugar cane drinks which some restaurants offer free of charge and with unlimited refills. This makes it easy for patrons to over-consume, resulting in excessive sugars intake.

The Council urged the food industry to improve manufacturing processes or use alternative ingredients to reduce sugars levels in the drinks. Traders may also consider offering consumers "low sugar" or "no sugar" options, or serve sugar or sweeteners separately from the drinks so that consumers can manage their sugars intake independently.

### Vegetables

The Council conducted a comprehensive test of 127 samples of vegetables, including organic produce, to determine levels of over 300 pesticide residues and seven heavy metals.

The testing detected an excessive level of the pesticide Chlorpyrifos in a sample of French beans, but results also highlighted that organic produce can equally pose food safety risks as non-organic ones. One sample of organic purple sweet potatoes was found to contain Chlorpyrifos exceeding the relevant Maximum Residue Limit and a sample of organic carrots contained the heavy metal Cadmium at a level close to the legal limit.

The study also revealed that it can be difficult for consumers to distinguish between organic and non-organic vegetables, especially when items are not packaged. Many prepackaged organic vegetables carry on the packaging the word "organic" and logos or codes issued by certification bodies. However, retailers selling non-packaged organic vegetables might only rely on information the producers or distributors give them.

To boost consumer confidence, the Council calls on retailers to specify on the sales receipts whether their products sold are organic. In addition, the Council suggests the Government to study overseas regulations on organic vegetables and implement the right system for Hong Kong.

世衛建議每天攝取2,000卡能量的成人，每天的游離糖攝入量應低於50克。然而，於其中一個山楂飲品樣本檢出每100毫升19克糖，假設全部驗出的都是游離糖，喝下一杯（250毫升）這款山楂飲品樣本便攝入了47.5克糖，接近世衛建議的每日攝取量上限。

食用分量同樣值得注意。不少樣本來自火鍋店，包括部分食肆提供免費、無限添飲的酸梅湯及竹蔗飲品。無節制地飲用，可引致過量攝入糖。

本會呼籲飲食業界改善生產工序或使用不同材料以減低飲品的糖含量。商家亦可考慮提供「少糖」或「無糖」的選擇，或將糖漿或糖包分開奉上，讓消費者自行調校飲品的糖含量。

### 蔬菜

本會測試了127個蔬菜樣本（包括「有機」農產品）中超過300款除害劑殘餘和7款重金屬的含量。

除了在一個玉豆樣本檢出過量除害劑 — 毒死蜱的殘餘，測試結果亦顯示「有機」農產品也免不了出現食物安全風險。在一個有機紫薯樣本檢出的殘留毒死蜱亦超出最大殘餘限量，而一個有機甘筍的樣本也被檢出幾近法定限量的重金屬 — 鎘。



此研究還發現消費者有時難以清楚辨別有機蔬菜和而非有機蔬菜，在散裝售賣時情況尤甚。許多預先包裝的有機蔬菜，標籤附有「有機」字眼及認證機構的標誌或編號。然而，以散裝形式出售「有機」蔬菜的商店則只能依靠農場或分銷商提供的資訊。

為了加強消費信心，本會呼籲零售商在收據上標明其銷售貨物是否屬有機產品。此外，本會建議政府研究海外關於有機蔬菜的法規，並為本港市場設立有效規管系統。





## Electrical Products

### Dehumidifiers

The Council tested 14 dehumidifier models, and found that in five models the dehumidifying capacity was lower than the manufacturers' claimed capacity in both the standard environment and the manufacturers' own test environments. For seven models tested in the standard environment, the daily dehumidifying capacity values measured were lower than what were claimed (rated values) by approximately 5% or less. In a non-standard environment, which is often used by manufacturers, nine models had lower dehumidifying capacity values measured than what the manufacturers claimed. One model performed below the claimed capacity by over 16%. Apart from sending results to the Customs and Excise Department for follow up, the Council urged manufacturers again to stop using their own test environment (usually at 30°C and 80% relative humidity) as it does not reflect actual use environments.

### Air Purifiers

Results from a test of 10 air purifiers conducted by the Council showed that the air purifying performance varied greatly among the models. The largest variation was found in the speed of formaldehyde removal. For the five models claimed to be suitable for larger rooms, the variation was 95%, while for the remaining five models claimed suitable for smaller rooms, the variation was about 86%.

Moreover, the total cost for prolonged period of usage also varied depending on the model's filter retail price and frequency of replacement. For example, in one of the models the total expenditure required for 10 years of use could be as high as 3.3 times the initial retail price of the product. Some models also failed to comply with safety standards.

### Thermo Ventilators

Multifunctional thermo ventilators are promoted as all-in-one appliances to heat, circulate air and dry clothes in the bathroom, where they are typically mounted on the ceiling or window to save space, and to replace ventilation fans. The Council and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) jointly tested, for the first time, the safety of 10 thermo ventilator models with reference to the latest international safety standards. The Council also commissioned tests on performance including energy efficiency and time required to dry clothes.

The safety test results revealed issues in five models which had manufacturing deficiencies such as substandard insulation protection, fan guard baffles being too widely spaced or easy to break, or improper earthing arrangement.

Non-compliance in respect of heat resistance was identified in the material used in one of the models whilst the clothes drying performance varied significantly across models with the time required to fully dry the same amount of wet clothes anywhere from less than 1.5 hours to more than 5 hours.



## 電氣產品

### 抽濕機

本會測試了14款抽濕機，發現有5款抽濕機同時在標準及廠商測試環境下，抽濕量都低於聲稱數值。另外，有7款抽濕機在標準環境下測試，每日抽濕量比聲稱（額定數值）少約5%或以下。而在廠商慣用的非標準環境測試下，更有

多達9款樣本抽濕量比聲稱低，其中1款樣本更低逾一成六。本會將測試結果交海關參考及作適當的跟進，同時亦再次呼籲廠商停用不能反映實際使用情況的慣用測試環境（設於約30°C，相對濕度80%）。

### 空氣淨化機

本會測試10款空氣淨化機，發現各樣本的空氣淨化表現有很大差異，其中以去除甲醛的表現分別最大，在聲稱適用於較大房間的5款樣本中，去除甲醛的速度相差達95%；至於聲稱適用於較小房間的5款樣本，速度相差則約為86%。

而各樣本的實際花費，更因過濾器售價及更換頻密程度而有所不同。以使用10年計算，有樣本的總花費達到機價的3.3倍。安全方面，有樣本在測試中未能完全達標。

### 浴室暖風機

浴室暖風機聲稱集多功能於一身，包括製暖、空氣循環及乾衣，可安裝在浴室的天花或窗口，節省空間和代替抽氣扇。本會聯同機電工程署根據最新國際安全標準首次測試了10款浴室暖風機的安全表現。另本會委託實驗室測試其性能，包括能源效益和乾衣時間。

安全測試發現部分產品仍可改善，5個樣本的結構有瑕疵，例如絕緣保護未達標準，風扇防護罩間隙太闊或容易斷裂，或不當的接地安排。

另一個樣本出風口材料的耐熱能力不足。在乾衣測試方面，樣本烘乾相同數量濕衣物的時間為由少於1.5至超過5小時。



Energy efficiency was assessed in which two models performed poorly due to longer time required for clothes drying or higher power input, both leading to higher energy consumption.

## Cosmetics and Personal Care

### *Skin Sensitizers in Hair Dyes*

Consumers were cautioned to take care when selecting hair dye products after the Council's testing of 25 permanent hair dye products revealed that they all contained different concentrations of skin sensitizers.

Ten of the tested products contained p-phenylenediamine (PPD) and 18 contained toluene-2,5-diamine (PTD), both of which are extreme sensitizers. Though the concentrations found in the tested products complied with standards in Mainland China and the European Union, even a small amount of sensitizers could trigger allergic skin reactions in some people.

One product was even found to contain a strong sensitizer m-aminophenol (MAP) at a concentration in excess of the maximum limit.

Consumers were recommended to perform a skin allergy test and strictly follow the product use instructions. Consumers with sensitive skin should avoid products containing PPD or PTD, or consider products with lower concentrations of skin sensitizers or of lighter colour.

Manufacturers were urged to disclose ingredients in more detail to enable consumers to identify the presence of allergy-causing substances.

### *Light-based Hair Removal*

Light-based hair removal is the process of removing unwanted body hair by means of controlled exposure to pulses of laser or Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) on the skin. During the course of hair removal treatment the melanin in the hair follicles absorbs the light which damages the hair creating cells, rendering them incapable of producing new hair.

The Council investigated the potential risks of light-based hair removal procedures and suggested that consumers should be mindful of potential reactions during and after the procedures, including discomfort and pain. Side effects including erythema, oedema, hypopigmentation or hyperpigmentation might also occur in treated area(s).

In addition, improper operation of light-based devices or excessive frequency of treatment could cause severe adverse reactions such as epidermal damage, burns, blisters, erosions, crusts or even permanent scars.

在評估能源效益方面，兩個樣本由於乾衣時間較長或功率較高，令耗電量較高。

## 美容及個人護理

### *染髮劑驗出致敏物質*

本會測試了市面25款永久性染髮劑，發現全部樣本都含有致敏物質，但濃度各異，故此提醒消費者要小心選擇。

在檢測的樣本中，10款檢出p-苯二胺，18款檢出甲苯-2,5-二胺，兩者同屬極端致敏物質。檢出的濃度雖然符合內地及歐盟標準，但低濃度仍有機會令某些人產生過敏反應。

此外，1款樣本檢出強烈致敏物質m-氨基苯酚，其濃度超過規定。

本會建議消費者在染髮前先進行皮膚敏感測試，並按產品說明書使用。皮膚過敏人士應避免使用含p-苯二胺或甲苯-2,5-二胺的染髮劑，如有必要，可考慮選用濃度較低或顏色較淺的型號。

本會亦促請生產商詳細列明成分資料，方便消費者識別產品有否致敏物質。

### *光學脫毛程序*

光學脫毛是指以激光或彩光機，將光束照射在毛髮生長位置的皮膚上去除體毛。當毛髮內的毛囊黑色素吸收光束後，毛囊組織會受損，無法長出新毛髮，從而達到脫毛效果。

本會研究光學脫毛程序的風險，並提醒消費者在接受光學脫毛程序期間及之後，可能會出現輕微不適及疼痛。其他副作用包括出現紅斑、紅腫，色素變化而出現皮膚變白或變黑等情況亦有機會出現。

此外，如果程序操作不當，或太頻密地接受程序，可能引致嚴重的不良反應，例如表皮受損、灼傷、起水泡、脫皮、結焦，甚至造成永久性疤痕。



The investigation also reported that light-based hair removal may not be equally effective for everyone, and individuals with darker skin colour might be at a higher risk of skin burns.

### Eyelash Extension

Eyelash extensions have become increasingly popular in recent years with service providers claiming the effects of the procedure can last up to several weeks. In studying eyelash extension procedures, the Council reminded consumers to be more aware of the potential risks of eye infections.

Reviewing the information on the websites of some local beauty salons, the Council found that only a few clearly specified the major ingredients in the adhesive used in the procedure.

Consumers need to understand that chemicals in the adhesive vaporise during the procedure, which may cause eye and skin irritations or even respiratory irritation. Such chemicals may also affect the re-growth of natural eyelashes and could lead to permanent reduction in natural eyelash growth in the long run.

Although consumers may feel that eyelash extensions save a significant amount of time for the grooming process, the Council warned that improper care of eyelashes after the procedure could lead to ocular disorders, a loss that far outweighs the time saved.

### Household Products

#### Digital Door Locks

In recent years, consumers have increasingly adopted the use of residential digital door locks. Opening a door with a card key, personalised code or fingerprint seems a convenient alternative with the added advantage of not having to worry about misplaced or lost keys. However, such convenience comes with a safety risk that consumers should not ignore.

The Council studied 19 digital door locks available in the market and compared their key features with traditional mechanical locks.

The study revealed that some digital door locks available in the market are equipped with an anti-panic function allowing users to open the door by simply pressing the lever on the door handle from inside, even when the door is locked. Usually adopted in hotels and public areas, this function allows users to unlock the door and escape immediately if emergencies arise. As useful a function as this is it can also increase the risk of break-ins via accessing the lever through the gap between the door and the door frame to open the door from outside. Traditional mechanical locks may also feature this anti-panic function.

Industry experts consulted by the Council suggested that consumers using door locks with this function should install a fire and smoke seal around the door frame or automatic seal at

報告另提醒，並非所有人接受光學脫毛都見效。膚色較深的人士接受程序出現皮膚灼傷的風險較高。

### 植眼睫毛



近年流行「植眼睫毛」，而美睫效果聲稱可以維持數星期。本會提醒有意進行這個程序的消費者，在接受程序前須留意其可能引致眼部感染的潛在風險。

本會檢視部分美容中心網頁提供的資料，發現只有個別美容中心說明

所用黏合劑的主要成分。

消費者須留意黏合劑的化學成分具揮發性，可能刺激眼睛、皮膚及影響呼吸道。而長時間植眼睫毛亦可能影響部分真睫毛的再生，導致永久性減少睫毛的數量。

雖然植眼睫毛可省卻每天花在眼部化妝的時間，但如果打理不當，可能引致眼部受感染，隨時得不償失。

### 家居產品

#### 電子門鎖

近年家用電子門鎖愈趨普及，只需以感應卡、密碼，或指紋便可開鎖，免卻遺失鑰匙的徬徨。但方便之餘，安全隱患亦不容忽視。

本會檢視市面上19款電子門鎖，並比較電子門鎖與傳統機械門鎖的特性。

是次研究發現市面部分電子門鎖附設有防恐慌設計，即使已上鎖，用戶在屋內按下手柄便可即時解鎖。這設計多數應用於酒店及公共場所，

一旦發生火災等緊急狀況，確保用戶可迅速解鎖逃生。此功能雖然方便，但卻有機會被不法份子從門與門框空隙間解鎖開門進入室內。其實，防恐慌設計同樣應用於傳統機械門鎖。

本會訪問了業界專門人士並建議已安裝這類門鎖的消費者，





the bottom of the door to conceal the gap between the door and the frame, preventing the use of devices to slip around or under the door to access the lever for entry. Consumers were also advised to consider the addition of auxiliary locks to enhance security.

## Children's Products

### Safety Gates for Child Protection

In a test of eight safety gates intended for young children up to 24 months old, results showed that one model had a gap between the bottom of the gate door and the frame, presenting a trapping risk for fingers or toes. When adjusted to full width, two models failed to meet European safety standards as a hip probe simulating a 5-month-old baby's hip could be passed through the gap between the gate and the side of the door frame.

One model presented migration of an organotin compound at a level exceeding the limit prescribed under the European Toy Standard. Further testing confirmed the organotin compound to be mainly mono-methyltin (MeT), which is commonly added to PVC as a stabiliser to prevent deterioration of plastic from heat and light exposure. Although to date there is no data on the possible health impact of MeT on humans, animal studies reveal that intake of water containing MeT by lactating mother rats could result in learning deficiencies in breastfed young rats.

The Council's study also advised those purchasing safety gates online to be mindful of the possible discrepancies between images shown online and the actual product upon delivery, and that safety gates sold via overseas retail websites may not meet Hong Kong regulations or safety standards. Sometimes the name and address of the manufacturer or importer might be missing from the website, making it difficult for consumers to seek redress in the event of dissatisfaction or dispute.



## Other Products

### Salmonella in Raw Pet Food

A growing number of pet owners have taken to feeding their pets raw food in recent years. To better understand the potential risks of this growing trend, the Council tested 17 raw and undercooked pet food products, of which three frozen raw pet food samples were found to contain Salmonella - posing potential health hazards to both pets and their owners.

Pets with Salmonella infection can display symptoms that include vomiting, diarrhoea (or bloody diarrhoea), fever, decreased appetite or lethargy. Moreover, infected pets can be carriers even if they do not show any symptoms.

可考慮於門框加裝防火及隔煙門條，也可加設自動門底條，堵塞大門與門框之間的空隙，防止賊人從門縫套入任何物品來解開門鎖，用戶亦可考慮加裝輔助鎖以加強保安。

## 兒童產品

### 兒童欄柵

本會測試8款在本港出售，專為2歲以下的幼兒而設的兒童欄柵樣本。測試發現，1款樣本的欄柵門底部與底框之間的縫隙尺寸不符合要求，有機會夾傷幼兒的手指或腳趾。2款樣本在調校至最大寬度時，一個模擬5個月大幼兒臀部尺寸的測試探頭，可通過欄柵與門框間空隙，不符合歐洲安全標準。

另外，1款則檢測出有機錫化合物總釋出量高於歐洲玩具安全標準。經確認檢測，發現樣本所含的有機錫化合物主要是甲基錫 (MeT) 化合物，一般用於PVC膠料作穩定劑用途，用以抵抗因熱力和光線令膠料老化。雖然暫時未有研究數據顯示甲基錫化合物對人構成健康影響，但由動物試驗中發現，飲用含甲基錫化合物食水的大鼠所餵哺的幼鼠，在學習上出現發展障礙。

報告建議家長，留意於購物網站購買兒童安全欄柵有網上圖像與實物未必相符的風險；於非本地購物網站出售的欄柵結構，未必符合本港條例或相關安全標準；而且可能因欠缺生產商或入口商的名稱及地址等資料，當消費者發現產品有問題，產生糾紛時或會難以跟進。

## 其他產品

### 生肉寵物糧檢出沙門氏菌

近年興起以生肉餵飼貓狗。故此，本會檢測了市面17款生肉糧及非全熟鮮肉寵物糧，發現3款急凍生肉糧含沙門氏菌，可能同時影響寵物和主人的健康。

受沙門氏菌感染的貓狗，可能出現嘔吐、腹瀉(或帶血)、發燒，食慾下降或疲倦等病徵。即使寵物未有出現病徵，亦有可能成為帶菌者。



Pet owners can become infected if they do not clean their hands thoroughly after touching pet food, feeding utensils or faeces. The humid climate and crowded living environment in Hong Kong can contribute to a higher risk of Salmonella infection if pets are fed a raw food diet. If infected, pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems could develop serious symptoms.

Findings from the test suggested a need to strengthen legislative control on pet food for better protection of pets and their owners. Additionally, manufacturers were urged to ensure the hygiene and safety of their products, and to provide consumers with adequate information about the potential risks of feeding raw pet food.

## International Comparative Tests

During the year under review, the Council stepped up collaboration with ICRT and joined forces with consumer associations in other jurisdictions to conduct international comparative tests of:

- Audio-visual and optical products including mini/micro Hi-Fi systems, wireless loudspeakers, Bluetooth speakers, stereo headsets, waterproof cameras, super-zoom compact cameras, interchangeable lens cameras and action camcorders;
- Computers and telecommunications products comprising internet security software, external hard disk drives, smartphones, e-book readers, mobile security apps, smart watches, printers, tablet PCs, and batteries for mobiles devices;
- Automobiles, road vehicles, and related products including child car seats;
- Household, personal and travel products such as juicers, mattresses and electric toothbrushes; and
- Sports products including running shoes and fitness tracker wristbands.

Of the tests conducted, reports on mattresses and running shoes turned out to be very popular topics among CHOICE Magazine readers. The test results on cameras, meanwhile, were viewed by a significant number of visitors to the Council's Shopsmart website targeting tourists from Mainland China.

International comparative tests are an efficient use of resources and many of the test results offer useful and practical purchase advice to consumers, particularly for more expensive or durable products.

主人如果在處理含菌的貓 / 狗糧，或接觸寵物用過的器皿或糞便後沒有徹底清潔雙手，都有機會染病。本港潮濕的氣候，加上狹窄的居住環境，以生肉膳食餵飼寵物可能帶來的感染風險會較高。一旦染病，孕婦、幼兒，長者及免疫力較低人士會出現嚴重病徵。

報告亦提出有需要加強監管寵物食品，以保障寵物及主人的健康。而製造商亦應採取適當的措施確保產品衛生安全，並提供充分資料，讓消費者瞭解以生肉餵飼寵物的潛在風險。

## 國際合作產品測試

在2015-16年度，本會加強與ICRT合作，並聯同其他地區的消費者組織，進行國際性比較測試，有關產品包括：

- 影音及光學產品 — 小型音響組合、無線揚聲器、藍牙揚聲器、頭戴式耳筒、防水相機、高倍變焦相機、可換鏡頭相機和動作攝錄機；
- 電腦及通訊產品 — 網絡安全軟件、外置硬碟機、智能手機、電子書閱讀器、手機安全程式、智能手錶、打印機、平板電腦，以及流動裝置電池；
- 汽車、道路車輛，以及相關產品，包括兒童汽車座椅；
- 家居，個人及旅行產品 — 榨汁機、床褥、電動牙刷；
- 運動產品 — 跑步鞋、運動手環

其中床褥及跑步鞋的測試報告，深受《選擇》月刊讀者歡迎，而相機測試報告則成為專為內地旅客而設的「精明消費香港遊」網站的熱門瀏覽報告。

國際性的比較測試，不單有助減省資源，不少測試還為消費者提供實用的購買建議，特別是價格較昂貴，或耐用的產品。