

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



Excessive levels of aflatoxin found in popular Hsinchu peanut butter souvenir

A popular peanut souvenir from Hsinchu has been found to contain excessive levels of aflatoxin, a poisonous carcinogen produced by molds. The sample, taken from a supermarket in Taipei came from a jar of Fuyuan Peanut Butter, and other batches from the same wholesaler in Taoyuan were later found to also be in violation of regulations. Taipei health authorities have ordered the products to be pulled off shelves. Though the maker says the cause may be improper storage at the supermarket, investigators say the contamination could have arisen from subpar raw peanuts used to make the nut butter. Let's hear more.

Lee Hui-chih

Taipei Department of Health

We tested 30 samples in total. Two peanut powder products and one peanut butter product were found to contain aflatoxin B1 and total aflatoxin levels that exceeded the permitted levels. Upon further investigation it was determined that the products came from outside Taipei.

Tseng Chun-chiang

Peanut butter company

This batch was made in April and was sampled at the Carrefour store in Taoyuan. We immediately recalled and destroyed the entire batch and the products have since cleared two further inspections by the Department of Health. Perhaps the products were stored improperly at the supermarket or during shipping, causing the aflatoxin contamination.

Health authorities say that peanut products are especially susceptible to be contaminated with aflatoxin. So, when purchasing any products of the kind, its best to ensure they are properly packaged upon purchase, and properly stored after opening.

Source: <https://english.ftvnews.com.tw/news/2025728W06EA>