

Proposal on Regulation of Konjac-containing Jelly Confectionery

蒟蒻果凍的規管建議

Trade Consultation Forum
27 March 2025

業界諮詢論壇
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Outline

- Background
- Assessment on the choking risk associated with the consumption of jelly confectionery containing konjac
- Proposed regulatory framework for konjac jelly
- Market survey and possible impact to the trade

概要

- 背景資料
- 食用蒟蒻果凍的哽噎風險評估
- 蒟蒻果凍的建議規管架構
- 市場調查及對業界的影響

Background 背景

Background information (1)

- Konjac is a safe food additive
- Consuming mini-cup konjac jellies improperly may cause choking accidents easily, particularly by the young population
 - product design
 - firm consistency
 - manner of consumption (sucking)

背景資料 (1)

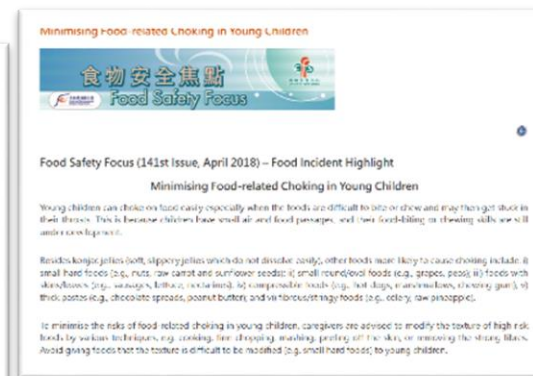
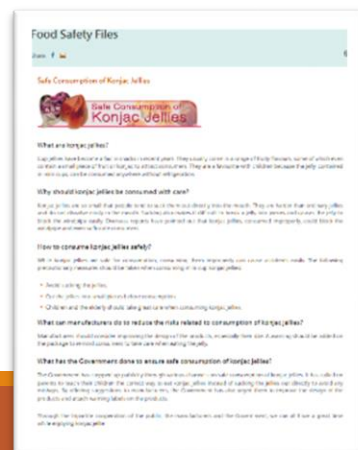
- 蒟蒻是一種安全的食物添加物
- 不當食用小杯裝蒟蒻果凍，容易造成窒息/哽噎事故，特別是兒童
 - 產品設計
 - 質地結實
 - 食用方法(吸啜)

Background information (2)

背景資料 (2)

- CFS has been promoting messages on measures that can be taken to reduce choking hazards of food through various channels
 - called on parents to teach their children the correct way to eat konjac jelly to avoid any mishaps instead of sucking the jellies out directly

- 食物安全中心一直透過不同渠道向市民推廣如何減低食物哽噎的風險
 - 呼籲家長教導孩童進食蒟蒻果凍的正確方法，切勿吸食，以防發生意外



Assessment on the choking risk
associated with the consumption of jelly
confectionery containing konjac

食用蒟蒻果凍的哽噎風險評估

Product design

- Jelly confectionery can come in various sizes and forms, including cup, pouch, sachet and strip
- Mini-cup jellies are contained in semi-rigid dome-shaped mini-cups or mini-capsules
- Ingested by
 - **sucking** the jelly **out** of the cup **in a single bite** or
 - exerting pressure on the mini-cup or mini-capsule to project the confectionery into the mouth

產品設計

- 果凍產品有各種大小和形狀，包括杯裝、袋裝和條狀
- 小杯裝果凍裝在中等硬度的半球形小杯或小膠囊中
- 食用方式
 - 一口將果凍從杯中**吸出** 或
 - 對小杯或小膠囊施加壓力，將果凍擠入口中

Konjac as ingredient

- Jelly confectionery products may contain the ingredient konjac, which is also known as conjac, konnyaku, yam flour, glucomannan or E425
- Konjac is considered as a safe food additive by Codex
 - serve as a thickener, emulsifier, stabilizer, etc.
- Konjac jelly is much **firmer and dissolves less readily** than gelatin
- With **smooth and slippery** surface

蒟蒻作為食物配料

- 果凍產品可能含有蒟蒻成分，蒟蒻也被稱為魔芋、葡甘露聚糖或E425
- 食品法典委員會認為蒟蒻是一種安全的食物添加劑
 - 可用作增稠劑、乳化劑、穩定劑等
- 蒟蒻果凍比明膠果凍較為**結實且不易溶化**
- 表面光滑

Water, sugar, mixed corn syrup, Sugar, Grape juice, Dextrin, Konnyaku powder, Gelling agent (E407), Thickener (E415, E412), Acid (E296), Acidity regulator (E331), Grape flavor

粉、蒟蒻葡甘露聚糖、刺槐豆粉、金盞草萃取物(含葉黃素)

20%)、檸檬酸、檸檬酸鈉

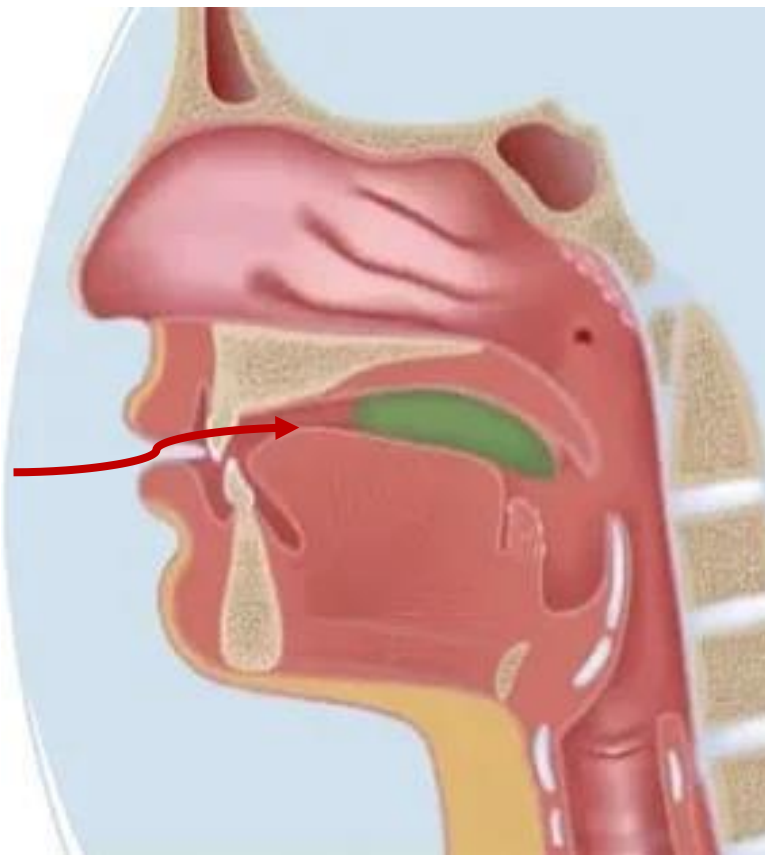
Ingredients: high fructose corn syrup, Passion fruit juice, Gelling regulators (Citric acid, Calcium lactate, Sodium citrate), Gelling agent (E407), Thickener (E415, E412), Acid (E296), Acidity regulator (E331), Grape flavor, Potassium chloride, Xanthan gum, Glucomannan, Natural fruit flavouring, Calcium pantothenate, Emulsifier (E415), Fatty acids, Niacin, Vitamin E, Vitamin B, Vitamin D, Vitamin B12

成分：水、白砂糖、魔芋粉、酸度調節劑 (E331)、增稠劑 (E407)、調味劑 (葡萄)、增稠劑 (E410)、穩定劑 (E508)、增稠劑 (E415)、酸度調節劑 (E330)、色素 (E163(ii)、E164、E150a)、防腐劑 (E202)

Choking risk of mini-cup konjac jelly

小杯裝蒟蒻果凍的哽噎風險

- Way of consumption
 - Suck out of mini-sized cup in one piece
- Texture
 - firm, does not easily dissolve, smooth, slippery
- Konjac jelly slides along the tongue toward the back of the mouth
 - poor control over its direction, positioning, and timing / coordination with swallowing
 - bypassing the teeth
 - **May have a higher risk of choking**



- 食用方式
 - 一口從小杯中吸出
- 質地
 - 結實,不易溶化,表面光滑
- 蒟蒻果凍沿著舌頭滑向口腔後部
 - 難以控制其方向、位置和吞嚥時間/協調
 - 繞過牙齒
 - 可能有較高哽噎風險

Other konjac jellies

- **Non-mini-cup** konjac jellies such as pouches and sachets
 - Consume in multiple bites through a small opening in the packaging
 - Push the contents out without sucking from the container
 - Lower the risk of choking
- **Larger-sized or non-prepackaged** konjac jellies
 - Typically eaten with a spoon
 - Eliminate the need to suck from the container
 - Reduce the choking risk

其他蒟蒻果凍

- **非杯形蒟蒻果凍**，如袋裝
 - 通過包裝上的小開口分次食用
 - 將果凍推出並放入口中，而非從容器中吸食
 - 減低哽噎風險
- **大裝或非預先包裝蒟蒻果凍**
 - 通常用匙羹食用
 - 無需從容器中吸食
 - 減低哽噎風險

Proposed regulatory framework for konjac jelly

蒟蒻果凍的建議規管

Proposed amendments

- a) **Prohibit the sale of mini-cup jelly confectionery products containing konjac having a height or width less than or equal to 45 mm upon passage of the proposed amendment**
- b) **All prepackaged konjac-containing jelly confectionery shall be legibly marked or labelled with warnings and advice on consumption**

建議修訂

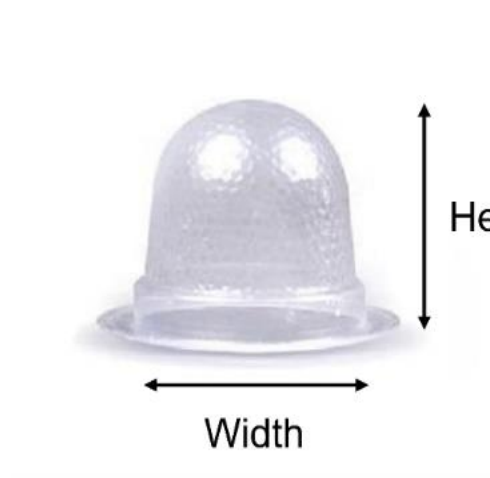
- a) 條例通過後，禁止銷售高度或寬度小於或等於45毫米的含蒟蒻的小杯果凍產品
- b) 所有預先包裝含蒟蒻的果凍產品須於包裝上清晰標示警示語和食用方法

Measurement on the size of mini-cup konjac jelly

- “Height” refers to the maximum internal vertical distance from the base to the opening of the mini-cup
- “Width” refers to either the inner diameter or the maximum width of the opening

量度小杯蒟蒻果凍的大小

- 「高度」指的是小杯底部到開口的最大內部垂直距離
- 「寬度」指的是小杯開口的內徑或最大寬度



Labelling requirements of konjac jelly products

- Add warning labels on **the outer packaging** only; no need to add additional labels on individual packages
(unless the individually packaged product is sold separately)
- Label in **Chinese or English or in both languages**

Example:



蒟蒻果凍產品的標籤要求

- 只需在**外包裝**加上警告標示而無需在個別包裝上再加上標籤
(除非單獨個別包裝產品用作獨立銷售)
- 以**中文或英文，或中英文兼用**標示

Trade facilitation

- CFS will **prepare a set of trade guidelines** to assist the trade in having a better understanding of and complying with the relevant requirements

便利業界措施

- 食物安全中心將制訂指引，協助業界進一步了解和遵守規例要求

Market survey and possible impact to the trade

市場調查及對業界的影響

Market survey on jelly confectionery products

- Between December 2024 and January 2025
- 112 jelly confectionery products
- Over 80 brands
- Various sizes and shapes, including cup-shaped, tubular, pouch and sachet forms
- Primarily came from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Mainland China
- 59 samples (53%) found to contain konjac

果凍產品市場調查

- 2024年12月至2025年1月
- 112種果凍產品
- 超過80個品牌
- 各種大小和形狀，包括杯狀、管狀、袋裝
- 主要來自日本、台灣、韓國及中國大陸
- 59 個樣本（53%）含有蒟蒻

Possible impact to the trade (1)

- Only 9 (8% of the total samples) measured less than 45 mm in height or width (i.e. subject to proposed ban)
 - Most of them come from Taiwan and Japan
 - The trade can comply with the proposed regulatory requirements by resizing the packaging of their products

對業界的影響 (1)

- 僅有9個樣本（佔總樣本的8%）的高度或寬度上小於45毫米（即屬建議禁售）
 - 大部分來自台灣及日本
 - 業界可調整產品包裝大小，以符合建議的規管要求

Possible impact to the trade (2)

- 32 out of 59 samples (54%) of the samples containing konjac have choking **warning labels** in Chinese or English
 - For those products without warning label, they can still be sold in the market once a warning sticker is affixed to the packaging of products
- Potential impact on the trade resulting from the proposed amendment would be minimal

對業界的影響 (2)

- 在含有蒟蒻的59個樣本中，有32個樣本（54%）附有中文或英文的哽噎警告標示
 - 沒有相應警告標籤的產品，在產品包裝上貼上警告標籤後，仍可在市場上銷售
- 建議修訂對業界可能造成的影響輕微

Expert Committee on Food Safety

- For advising the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
 - In formulation of food safety measures, review of food safety and risk communication strategies
- Consists of academics, professionals, food experts, members of the trade and other experts
- EC was consulted - members agreed with the proposed amendments

食物安全專家委員會

- 向食物環境衛生署署長提供意見
 - 就制定食物安全措施、檢討食物安全標準，就風險傳達策略等
- 專家委員會由學者、專業人士、食物專家、食物業人士及其他專家組成
- 已諮詢專家委員會 - 委員贊成有關修訂建議

Implementation plan

推行時間

- **Prohibit the sale of mini-cup jelly confectionery products containing konjac** having a height or width less than or equal to 45 mm
 - Propose to **take effect three months after the Amendment Regulation is passed by LegCo**
- **Labelling requirement**
 - Propose to **take effect twelve months after the Amendment Regulation is passed by LegCo**

- **禁止銷售高度或寬度小於或等於45毫米的含蒟蒻的小杯果凍產品**
 - **建議於立法會完成審議後三個月實施**
- **標籤要求**
 - **建議於立法會完成審議後12個月實施**

Discussion

- We welcome your views on the proposed regulation for konjac-containing jelly confectionery products

討論

- 我們歡迎業界就蒟蒻果凍產品的規管提出意見

END 完
