

# Proposal on Regulation of Konjac-containing Jelly Confectionery (Update)

## 蒟蒻果凍的規管建議(最新情況)

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Trade Consultation Forum  
12 June 2025

業界諮詢論壇  
2025年6月12日

# Konjac as ingredient

- Jelly confectionery products in the market may contain the ingredient konjac, which is also known as conjac, konnyaku, yam flour, glucomannan or E425
- Codex considers konjac a safe food additive
  - usually used as a thickener, emulsifier, stabilizer, etc.
- Compared with gelatin, konjac jelly has a **much firmer** texture, is **less likely to dissolve**, and **retains its shape even when it is slurped**

# 蒟蒻作為食物配料

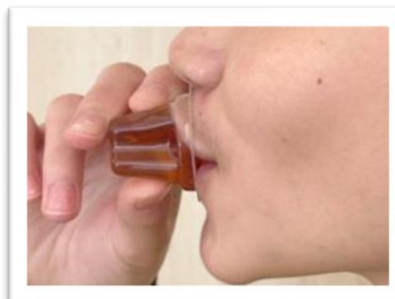
- 市面上一些果凍產品含有蒟蒻成分，蒟蒻也被稱為魔芋、葡甘露聚糖或 E425
- 食品法典委員會認為蒟蒻是一種安全的食物添加劑
  - 常用作增稠劑、乳化劑、穩定劑等
- 蒟蒻果凍比明膠果凍較為**結實且不易溶化**，即使被吸食也能保持形狀

# Product design

- Konjac-containing jelly confectionery products come in various sizes and shapes, including cups, pouches, and strips
- Mini-cup jellies are encased in semi-rigid, dome-shaped mini-cups or mini-capsules
- Consumed by
  - Sucking the entire jelly out of the cup in a single bite or
  - Applying pressure to the mini-cup or mini-capsule to squeeze the confectionery into the mouth

# 產品設計

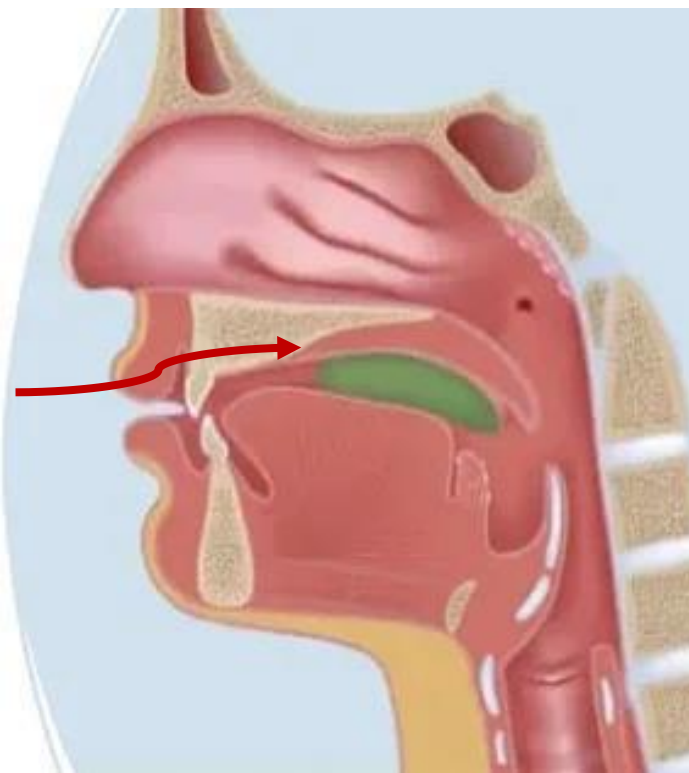
- 蒟蒻果凍產品有各種大小和形狀，包括杯裝、袋裝和條狀
- 小杯裝果凍裝在中等硬度的半球形小杯或小膠囊中
- 食用方式
  - 通過吸啜將整個果凍從杯中一口吸出或
  - 擠壓小杯或小膠囊，將果凍擠入口中



# Choking risk of mini-cup konjac jelly

# 小杯裝蒟蒻果凍的 哽噎風險

- Texture
  - Smooth and slippery
- Way of consumption
  - Suck out of mini-sized cup in one piece
- Konjac jelly slides along the tongue towards the back of the mouth
  - Difficult to control its direction, position, and time needed to coordinate swallowing action
  - Easily bypass the teeth
  - Children and the elderly may have a higher risk of choking



- 質地
  - 表面光滑
- 食用方式
  - 一口從小杯中吸出
- 蒟蒻果凍沿著舌頭滑向口腔後部
  - 難以控制其方向、位置和協調吞嚥動作的時間
  - 容易繞過牙齒
  - 兒童和老人可能有較高哽噎風險

# Other konjac jellies

- **Non-mini-cup** konjac jellies e.g. those in pouches and sachets
  - Usually consume in multiple bites
  - By squeezing the contents out through a small opening or
  - By pushing the contents out without the need to suck from the container
- **Larger-sized or non-prepackaged** konjac jellies
  - Typically consumed with a spoon
  - Without 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
  - 通常分多口食用
  - 通過包裝上的小開口擠出 或
  - 將果凍推出，無需從容器中吸食
- 較大尺寸或非預先包裝蒟蒻果凍
  - 通常用茶匙食用
  - 無需從容器中吸食
  - 減低哽噎風險



# Risk assessment and communication (1)

# 風險評估與傳達(1)

- Konjac is a safe food additive
  - Improper consumption of mini-cup konjac jellies may increase the choking risk, especially to children, due to their unique product design and firm texture
  - Fatal incidents related to the ingestion of mini-cup konjac-containing jelly confectionery products have been reported from time to time in different parts of the world
- 蒟蒻本身是安全的食物添加劑
  - 由於小杯裝蒟蒻果凍結實的質度和其獨特的產品設計，不當的食用方法可能會造成哽噎風險，尤其是對兒童而言
  - 世界各地也不時出現關於食用含有蒟蒻成分的小杯裝果凍產品而導致致命事件

# Risk assessment and communication (2)

# 風險評估與傳達(2)

- In Japan, there were 54 confirmed cases of accidental choking of konjac mini-cup jelly between July 1995 and July 2008, resulting in 22 deaths
- In Hong Kong, the Coroner recommended the Administration to consider banning mini-cup konjac-containing jelly confectionery products with a height or width of 45mm or less after hearing a case of choking death after consuming mini-cup jelly confectionery product
- The Government has been promoting health education messages on prevention of food choking through various channels
- 在日本，1995年7月至2008年7月期間，共有54宗因小杯裝蒟蒻果凍意外窒息的事件，導致22人死亡
- 在本港，死因裁判官審理一宗食用含蒟蒻成分的小杯裝果凍產品導致窒息死亡的案件後，建議政府考慮禁止高度或寬度為45毫米或以下，含有蒟蒻成分的小杯裝果凍
- 政府一直透過不同渠道推廣預防食物哽噎的健康教育訊息

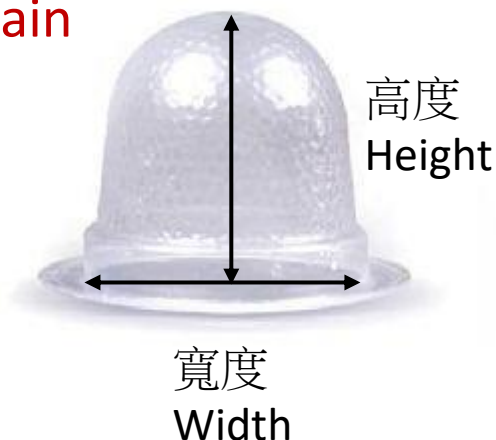


# Proposed amendments (1)

- Propose the following amendments to the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) during the meeting of LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 24 April 2025:
  - a) If a mini-cup jelly confectionery product is with a height or width of 45mm or less, it shall not contain konjac.

# 建議修訂(1)

- 在2025年4月24日的立法會食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會會議，建議對《食物及藥物（成分組合及標籤）規例》（第132W章）作出以下修訂：
  - a) 規定若小杯裝果凍產品的高度或寬度為45毫米或以下，不得含有蒟蒻成分





# Proposed amendments (2)

# 建議修訂(2)

- b) To require **all prepackaged konjac-containing jelly** confectionery products to be **labelled with a warning statement** on prevention of choking hazard **in both Chinese and English**:

- b) 要求**所有預先包裝並含蒟蒻成分的果凍**產品須以中英文標示預防**哽噎**風險的警告字句:

注意：勿一口吞食，長者及兒童需在監護下食用。

Caution: Do not swallow whole. Elderly and children must consume under supervision.

# Proposed commencement timeline

- Proposed amendments to **ban the sale of mini-cup konjac-containing jelly** confectionery products with a height or width of 45mm or less
  - Take effect **6 months after passage of the amended Cap. 132W**
- **Labelling requirements** for all konjac-containing jelly confectionery products
  - Come into operation **12 months after passage of the amended Cap. 132W**

# 建議實施時間

- 建議有關**禁止銷售**高度或寬度為45毫米或以下的含蒟蒻的**小杯果凍產品**的修訂
  - 在**修訂條例通過6個月後**生效
- 所有含蒟蒻成分果凍產品的**標籤要求**
  - 在**修訂條例通過12個月後**實施

## Stakeholder engagements and consultation (1)

- Expert Committee on Food Safety
  - Members **supported** the proposal
- Food Trade
  - Consulted via a trade meeting and a Trade Consultation Forum
  - **No objection** to the proposal
- World Trade Organization
  - **Notified** of the regulatory proposal

## 持份者的參與及諮詢(1)

- 食物安全專家委員會
  - 委員均表示支持
- 食物業界
  - 透過業界會議和論壇諮詢
  - 不持異議
- 世界貿易組織
  - 已通報建議規管方案

## Stakeholder engagements and consultation (2)

- Public and trade consultation
  - Generally supported the proposed amendments
- LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
  - Consulted at its meeting of 24 April 2025

## 持份者的參與及諮詢 (2)

- 公眾及業界諮詢
  - 普遍對建議修訂表示支持
- 立法會食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會
  - 在2025年4月24日的會議徵詢委員的意見

# FSEH Panel members' suggestions

- LegCo FSEH Panel members generally support the proposal and provided the following suggestions:
  - **Strengthen the labelling requirements** of the warning statement on prevention of choking to ensure it is visible to consumers
  - **Shorten the commencement timeline for labelling requirements** for all konjac-containing jelly confectionery products
  - **Enhance health education for ethnic minorities** on the prevention of choking

# 食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會的意見

- 立法會食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會委員普遍支持有關修訂建議，並提出以下意見：
  - **加強預防哽噎警告字句的標籤要求**，以確保標示清晰可見
  - **縮短蒟蒻果凍標籤規定的生效時間**
  - **加強對少數族裔有關預防哽噎的教育工作**

# Propose to strengthen the labelling requirements

- In response to FSEH Panel members' suggestions, it is **proposed to strengthen the labelling requirements** as follows:
  - The warning statement should be either *underlined as well as marked in dark colour upon a light-coloured background* **or** *in light colour upon a dark-coloured background*
- OR
- *Marked in red text on a white or yellow background*, and in a **conspicuous position** on the **outer packaging** to enhance visibility
  - Font size requirement "with a text height of not less than 3mm" will be provided in the trade guidelines
- **Shortening of commencement period** for the labelling requirements from 12 to 6 months

# 建議加強標籤要求

- 就委員的意見，建議加強標籤要求如下：
  - 於**外包裝顯眼處**標示預防哽噎風險的警告字句；有關字句應**以深色字體印在淺色的背景上，或以淺色字體印在深色的背景上，並在字體下面劃線**
- 或
- 用**白底或黃底紅字**標示
  - 業界指引將建議“標籤文字高度不小於3毫米”
- 標籤規定的**生效時間**由12個月縮短為6個月

# Labelling requirements (1)

(i) **Underlined** as well as marked in dark colour upon a light-coloured background **or** in light colour upon a dark-coloured background

- With reference to current regulation (Cap. 132W)

# 標籤要求 (1)

(i) 以深色字體印在淺色的背景上，或以淺色字體印在深色的背景上，並在字體下面劃線

- 參考現行法例 (Cap. 132W)

注意：勿一口吞食，長者及兒童需在監護下食用。

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# Labelling requirements (2)

# 標籤要求 (2)

OR

- (ii) Marked in **red text on a white or yellow background**
- With reference to Mainland requirement

或

- (ii) 用**白底或黃底紅字**標示
- 參考內地要求

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# Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene

# 食物及環境衛生諮詢委員會

- ACFEH was consulted on the updated regulatory proposal at its meeting on 28 May
- Members were supportive and advised to consult the trade on the commencement timeline for labelling requirements
- 在5月28日的會議中，就最新的規管建議諮詢食物及環境衛生諮詢委員會的意見
- 委員表示支持，並建議就標籤要求的實施時間向業界進行諮詢

# Trade guidelines

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- Prepared guidelines on the requirements under the amended Cap. 132W
- Technical meeting will be arranged to introduce the draft guideline when available
- Will upload onto the CFS website for the trade's reference

# 業界指引

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- 就修訂後132W章規管要求，制定業界指引
- 將安排技術會議介紹指引擬稿
- 會上載至食安中心網站供業界參考

# Health education

- Continue to collaborate with stakeholders to enhance health education on choking prevention through a series of targeted publicity and promotional activities
  - Produce educational video and video advertisement
  - Organise school talks and disseminate relevant information online
- Further strengthen health education among ethnic minorities
  - Translate the health advice into multiple languages to improve accessibility and understanding

# 健康教育工作

- 繼續與各持份者合作，通過針對性宣傳推廣活動，加強預防哽噎的健康教育
  - 製作教育短片及短片廣告
  - 舉辦學校講座，並在網上發布相關資訊
- 進一步加強對少數族裔的健康教育
  - 把相關健康建議翻譯成多種語言，以便少數族裔社群獲取和理解有關資訊

# Proposed way forward 未來路向

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- Plan to gazette the proposed amendments to Cap. 132W, and table the amendment regulation at LegCo for negative vetting in Q3 2025
- 計劃將有關《第132W章》的建議修訂，在2025年第三季刊憲和提交立法會審議

# Discussion

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- We welcome your views on the proposed amendments particularly regarding:
  - 1) Strengthening of labelling requirements
  - 2) Shortening of commencement timeline for the labelling requirements to 6 months after passage of the amendment regulation

# 討論

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- 我們歡迎業界就建議修訂提出意見，特別是對：
  - 1) 加強標籤要求
  - 2) 縮短標籤規定的生效時間至修訂條例通過6個月後

END 完

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