

**Abstract: Amendment Regulations on
Preservatives and Colouring Matters**

Preservatives, antioxidants and colouring matters are common types of food additives applied in food. In Hong Kong, the use of these food additives is regulated by the local food safety legislations. While the preservatives and antioxidants in food are regulated by the *Preservatives in Food Regulations*, the colouring matters in food are regulated by the *Colouring Matters in Food Regulations*. To better protect the public health, only those listed in the respective regulations are permitted to be used in food.

In 2008, Centre for Food Safety (CFS) conducted amendment exercises on these two regulations. As a result of the amendments, more choices of preservatives and antioxidants are permitted to be used in food. By considering the new scientific evidence on safety concerns, Red 2G (a colouring matter) and propyl para-hydroxybenzoate (a preservative) were deleted from the permitted list so as to ensure the food safety for the public in Hong Kong.