

Survey of Aflatoxin in Pistachios, Almonds and Seeds

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ABSTRACT

A survey of aflatoxin content in retailed pistachio, almond, and edible seeds was conducted by the Bureau of Food and Drug Analysis. One hundred and eleven samples including 25 pistachio, 21 almond, 22 sunflower seed, 25 pumpkin seed and 18 melon seed samples were collected by the local health officials from retailers from April to June in 2008. Samples were analyzed by the Chinese National Standard Method 4090. Eight samples (7.2%) contained aflatoxin ranging from 0.2 to 28.4 ppb. Among them, one pistachio and one sunflower seed samples (1.8%) were identified to contain aflatoxin at the levels of 17.6 ppb and 28.4 ppb respectively, which didn't comply with the regulatory limits (10 ppb) of aflatoxin in nut and seed set in Taiwan. Penalty was enforced by the local authority according to the Food Sanitation Management Act.

Key words: pistachio, almond, sunflower seed, pumpkin seed, melon seed, aflatoxin

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