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CBA issues Letter to Industry on Potential Lead Leaching in Cookware

As mentioned in our Safeguard (SG 014/25), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a letter to retailers and distributors of cookware products to inform them that certain imported cookware products made from aluminum, brass, and aluminum alloys known as Hindalium/Hindolium or Indalium/Indolium, demonstrate the potential to leach lead into food and that this cookware should not be distributed or sold in the U.S. market.

The FDA was made aware of this issue through collaboration with the Public Health Department of Seattle and King County (PHSKC) on their testing of imported cookware and associated high blood lead levels in resettled refugee populations.



As cooking with these products could cause lead to leach into food, there is a potential for the use of these products to contribute to elevated levels of lead in the blood.

The potential for adverse health effects from consuming food contaminated with lead vary depending on the level of lead in the food; age of the consumer; length, amount, and frequency of exposure to lead in the food; and other exposures to different sources of lead. For example, the very young are particularly vulnerable to the potential harmful effects from lead exposure because of their smaller body sizes and rapid metabolism and growth. High levels of exposure to lead in utero, infancy, and early childhood can lead to neurological effects such as learning disabilities, behaviour difficulties, and lowered IQ.

How can SGS help?

SGS has the expertise to help manufacturers and suppliers of FCM achieve compliance with markets around the globe. Our technical experts have extensive experience of testing materials and articles for many markets.

We offer the full range of FCM testing, including migration tests, along with expert advice on emerging regulations, compliance issues and documentation review. Our experience can ensure your products meet the appropriate territorial regulations for food contact materials and help pave the way for compliance.

Food Contact Materials (FCM) services from SGS ensure compliance with requirements for sale and distribution in global markets.

For more information, please contact our Customer Service team.

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