

Chinese Food Scandal: COA suspects 180,000kg of fish food was tainted

DOWN SOUTH: The COA deputy minister said the fish farms that were suspected of using melamine-tainted fish feed are scattered over the southern counties. **By Meggie Lu**

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- Hu Sing-hwa, COA deputy minister

Continuing its investigation into fish feed, the Council of Agriculture (COA) yesterday said it had preliminarily concluded that the 180,000kg of potentially tainted fish feed that had been sold to the market had reached seven fish farms, though the council was not ruling out the possibility that more fish farms have been affected. The investigation started on Wednesday after the COA found that 36,000kg of squid meal, which was imported from South Korea and was to be used as a fish food ingredient, was possibly contaminated with melamine. Yesterday, COA deputy minister Hu Sing-hwa said that while the possibly contaminated squid meal had been made into 21,000kg of fish feed, about 180,000kg of it had been sold. “Among the seven downstream fish farms that bought the feed, five had been sampled for lab analysis to investigate melamine contents,” Hu said. Hu said that the fish farms were scattered throughout southern Taiwan, but he declined to elaborate on the exact locations. The lab test results, Hu said, would be available within two days. “The COA’s tolerance level for melamine in fish feed is zero,” Hu said, adding that “in the future, imported squid meal must have certification saying that they do not contain melamine.” This story has been viewed 606 times.

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