

PRESS RELEASE

Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain : no Chinese milk in Belgium

22 September 2008

Following the melamine contamination of milk in China, the Federal Agency confirms that no evidence of Chinese milk has been found in Belgium and in Europe and that the import of Chinese dairy products into the EU is forbidden. The Food Agency wishes to emphasize that the Belgian milk sector is subject to stringent checks conducted by both the dairy sector and the Food Agency.

Moreover, all imports of foodstuffs from third countries (and particularly, from China) are submitted to severe documentary and physical checks in the 6 border inspection posts. In addition, Belgium will, as from now, conduct checks on the origin of dairy products in Asian businesses established on the Belgian territory, following the request made on 19 September 2008 by the European Union.

It should also be noted that in Belgium, the quality and health control of milk is achieved by means of inspections of dairy cattle, milk, transport and final products. These inspections are based on the quality system of the dairy sector and on the Food Agency system. In 2007 e.g., the Food Agency performed 2 253 control missions involving 2 131 producers. The results of these controls were very satisfactory.

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