Taiwan’s Plasticizer Food Scandal

Taiwan is facing its biggest food contamination crisis yet.

For around 30 years, manufacturers have been using a plasticizer called DEHP bis(2-ethylhexl)phthalate in place of more expensive ingredients like palm oil. This carcinogenic toxin was used as a filler to make items more opaque or richer in color and has contaminated at least 500 food/beverage products on the Taiwan market.

Taiwan’s FDA did not detect it before, apparently because it was not listed in toxins to test for until the scandal came to light in late May.

Children who consume beverages contaminated with DEHP are at risk the most. Males are more likely to suffer from feminization and shrinking of reproductive organs when they become adults, girls are facing the prospect of premature development of their sexual organs. Thyroid dysfunction and fertility problems threaten these children later in life.

On a positive note, this food crisis has prompted many in Taiwan to radically switch to healthier lifestyles and cut processed foods and beverages completely from their diets.

(Source: Health Freedoms)
We know that many chemicals are used in our daily life, such as our clothes, food, furniture... We seldom consider about the safety of them. We rarely think that the things we use or eat are bad to our health. However, I have heard some food scandals recently --- melamine in the dairy products, the malachite green in the fish and now, we heard the Plasticizer Food Scandal.

The DEHP, an organic compound, which is very useful if we use it to make plastic soft and pliable. It is harm to us and we may get into many problems to our body if we absorb it. Unfortunately, the conscienceless merchants replaced some ingredients like palm oil by a cheaper chemical, DEHP, in order to get a higher profit. It had been added into our food and beverages like, bubble tea, sports drink, strawberry jam... I have never thought that there would be any problem in those products. Are the products around us no longer safe? Why do the government still allow the manufacturers to use the toxic chemicals like DEHP?

The chemicals which scientists made are used to improve our living standards, it actually can reduce the cost of some products and make their quality better. However, it can be harmful if someone use it illegally for earning money. I think the government should strictly regulate the use of the chemicals in different production to make sure they are used in a proper way. Otherwise, it will jeopardize our public health make our society unstable.
bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate

Plasticizer ~ DEHP ~

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