



Media & Resource Centre

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ICCC: Nutricia Karicare baby formula products harmful

THE Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) is warning mothers to refrain from buying a particular baby formula product as it has the potential to be harmful to infants.

As a result the ICCC is also proposing an interim ban and a recall on that particular product. The product, Karicare, may have been contaminated by a certain toxic material that can cause botulism in infants.



Botulism is a severe, sometimes fatal food poisoning caused by eating food infected with the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, which produces botulin toxin.

The bacterium grows in food that has been improperly canned.

The Karicare infant formula, manufactured by Nutricia New Zealand has been recalled by the manufacturer and there has been a worldwide recall of the products from the shelves.

The line of baby formulas were all recalled as tests showed that some of the batches of the formula that were packed on a production line may have had residue of the potential contaminated raw material that may cause botulism.

After an inspection in the shops in Port Moresby, the ICCC found that a major pharmacy outlet is selling the products.

“This is a great concern for Papua New Guineans especially at this stage when many mothers are reliant on baby formulas to feed their children,” ICCC Commissioner Dr Billy Manoka said.

The ICCC will shortly issue an interim ban on the product and will notify the outlet selling the products to remove them from the shelves.

For more information on the recall and interim ban contact Dr Billy Manoka on 325 2144 or email bmanoka@iccc.gov.pg

Background

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) is responsible for administering the ICCC Act as well as a number of other laws. The ICCC Act is designed to enhance the welfare of the people of PNG by encouraging competition, fair trading and efficiency in business as well as preventing anti-competitive behaviour.

The ICCC has specific wide ranging powers in relation to consumer product safety. It takes its responsibility under those provisions seriously and will take immediate action when it becomes aware of a product that can affect the health or safety of consumers.

Its powers include:

- warning consumers of the possible danger of particular goods and conducting an assessment of the risks involved;
- recommending to the Minister to declare a standard that suppliers of the product must meet or for the provision of information in relation to such a product;
- issuing interim bans where the Commission is of the view that such goods are unsafe;
- issuing of permanent bans on unsafe goods; and
- requiring compulsory recall of products that are unsafe, or not compliant with a product or information standard.

The Act provides that the Commission will, on request, hold a conference with any supplier who may be adversely affected by its actions.

It has already banned small high powered magnets and dangerous toys like novelty cigarette lighters and yo-yo water balls. There are a number other products being considered for banning.

