



Solutions



Genetic Identification



Forensics



Environmental



Petroleum/Industrial



Food Safety

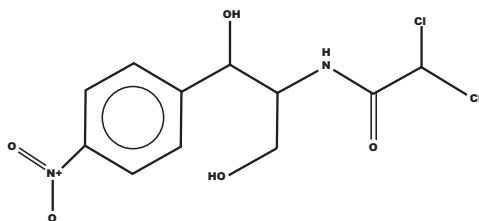


Value Added Services

Chloramphenicol in Honey

a potential health risk

Chloramphenicol is a broad spectrum antibiotic, and a potential carcinogen, that is banned from use in food producing animals, including honey bees, in Canada, the United States, the European Union and other countries.



Chloramphenicol (Molecular weight: 323.1)

In April and May 2002, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) detected chloramphenicol contamination in samples of honey imported from China. As a result, Health Canada has completed a health risk assessment. Based on the levels of chloramphenicol found in honey tested by the CFIA laboratory and Maxxam Analytics, Health Canada has determined that consumption of chloramphenicol contaminated honey may pose human health risks associated with the development of a potentially life-threatening blood disorder called *aplastic anaemia*.

Consequently, CFIA has issued several health hazard alerts since April 18, 2002 warning Canadians not to consume Chinese honey.

Honey available in Canada could be a blend of products from China and other sources. CFIA is recommending removal from Canada of all imported Chinese honey which has not been rigorously tested to show that chloramphenicol is absent. All future honey shipments from China and other Pacific Rim countries will be detained pending the outcome of laboratory tests for chloramphenicol and other adulterants.

Importers of honey from all other countries may be required to provide evidence that shipments do not contain Chinese honey. These shipments may also be tested for chloramphenicol and other adulterants.

How could this Occur?

Chemical residue control systems, including product approvals, regulations, and enforcement regimes, are not the same in all countries. In January 2002, concern regarding “serious deficiencies of the Chinese residue control system and problems related to the use of banned substances in the veterinary field” lead the European Union to issue a suspension of

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imports of all products of animal origin from China.¹ On May 8, the suspension was lifted for certain products (gelatine, certain fish products caught and packaged at sea) subject to continued monitoring and testing.

Publications in other jurisdictions have reported detection of chloramphenicol and other drug residues in food products from Southeast Asia.

¹: *European Union press release, Brussels, January 25, 2002;*
(IP/02/143);
<http://europa.eu.int>

Where has Chloramphenicol been found?

Testing programs conducted in the United Kingdom² and elsewhere in Europe³ have detected chloramphenicol residues in honey, shrimp and prawns, fish fillets, and sausage casings from China. Chloramphenicol has also been detected in shrimps and prawns from Vietnam and Indonesia, and in shrimps from Myanmar. Residues of other banned drugs, nitrofurans, have been detected in shrimps and prawns from Southeast Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh).

²: <http://www.food.gov.uk>

³: <http://europa.eu.int>

How can Maxxam help?

Maxxam Analytics is a leader in analysis to ensure food safety. Maxxam is recognized by CFIA as capable of testing for chloramphenicol residues in honey.

Maxxam's research team has developed reliable, sensitive methods for detecting chloramphenicol in various meat tissues, urine, seafood and honey. Our methodology utilizes either LC/MS/MS or GC/MS with NICI detection. These technologies allow Maxxam to achieve the sensitivity necessary to satisfy CFIA requirements for enforcing a zero tolerance of chloramphenicol in food products.

Maxxam helps leading food companies implement and manage proactive food safety monitoring programs designed to mitigate risk and to protect consumers as well as corporate and brand reputations.

For any information regarding analysis of food for chloramphenicol, other veterinary drugs, pesticides residues or other food safety assistance, please contact Maxxam at:

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