



Statement from the International Dairy Federation regarding melamine adulteration of milk

IDF CONFIRMS FOOD SAFETY COMMITMENT TO DELIVER QUALITY MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

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The International Dairy Federation (IDF) today reiterated its commitment and support to deliver customers with safe and wholesome milk and dairy products. Dairy foods have a unique nutrient package providing a broad range of essential vitamins, minerals and good quality protein.

IDF, as the first source of reliable scientific information, and provider of guidance and advice on key issues impacting on the global dairy sector, has expressed its concern about recent problems of milk adulteration with melamine experienced these last days.

IDF has immediately started the review of existing procedures and evaluation of analytical tools that could be implemented under these circumstances. Today, the IDF/ISO Methods Standards Steering Group met in Brussels to look for ways to set up a "fast track" procedure in order to develop an internationally accepted method as soon as possible and provide assistance in the context of the current situation. "Our role is to develop screening and confirmatory methods using the know-how of our experts to ensure knowledge sharing needed by a modern dairy industry. We are willing to provide technical support to ensure full safety of the supply chain. The issue that we now face is regional and does not jeopardize the overall safety and the quality of the global milk supply. This situation enforces our belief that food safety management is critical throughout the dairy chain", commented Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

IDF collaborates with key organizations to join efforts and work together to promote the importance of food safety management. Through formal liaisons, IDF is actively involved in the standardization work of the Codex Alimentarius, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

"IDF provides assistance to its membership and to the whole dairy sector using its network of leading international IDF experts. This knowledge and expertise is used to develop science-based solutions to local challenges and problems", added Christian Robert.

Note:

- The International Dairy Federation is the pre-eminent source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the dairy chain.
- IDF is represented in 53 countries and membership is growing: IDF accounts for approximately **82%** of the world's milk production at present.
- IDF aims to identify, elaborate and disseminate best practice at international level in order to guide the dairy sector and to harmonise members' work on a variety of issues along the dairy production chain including animal health and welfare, protection of the environment, nutrition, food safety and hygiene and food standards.
- In 2007, IDF released thirteen guiding principles as a consensus view of the worldwide dairy sector on how to apply traceability / product tracing in the dairy production chain. **IDF Guiding Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing**, an IDF publication is available free of charge from the IDF Internet homepage: <http://www.fil-idf.org/>
- IDF also published a Bulletin on "**Hygiene and Food Safety of Dairy Products and Food Standards for International**

- In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), IDF organized an **International Symposium on Revolution in Food Safety Management**, in Nusa Dua, Bali/Indonesia, 13-15 February 2008. The event aimed at improving food safety and dairy development worldwide by providing practical guidance for the implementation of new concepts and tools of a risk-based approach in the dairy production chain.