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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOY SAUSAGES NOT SO HEALTHY

The potential human carcinogen 3-MCPD, which was the subject of a recent soy sauce scare, has been found in soy sausages sold in New Zealand.

3-MCPD is a potential human carcinogen that can be created during the manufacture of soy sauce and hydrolysed vegetable protein (HVP). The New Zealand Ministry of Health and other health agencies worldwide have acted to withdraw several soy sauces from sale because of the presence of 3-MCPD.

There is no New Zealand food safety standard for 3-MCPD, but the European Commission limit for 3-MCPD in soy sauces is 0.020 mg/kg. This is based on a Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) day derived by the European Commission Scientific Committee on Food. Tests at the Australian Government Analytical Laboratory have found that Sanitarium Soy Healthy Sausages contain more than 20 times the safe level for soy sauces. Lesser amounts of 3-MCPD were detected in other products.

In a statement issued today, Soy Online Service said that the tests showed that consumption of just one sausage by a 10 kg child could result in exposure above the safe level. Auckland toxicologist Dr Mike Fitzpatrick said that eating the sausages could expose people to dangerously high levels of 3-MCPD, and that the risk was likely to be particularly high for children.

Soy Online Service has called on the New Zealand Ministry of Health for an immediate recall of Sanitarium Soy Healthy Sausages and has urged the Ministry to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the 3-MCPD levels in New Zealand foods that contain HVP.

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