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SAFE calls for consumers to follow recommendations on cereulide crisis

SAFE Food Advocacy Europe takes note of the joint rapid outbreak assessment (ROA) on cereulide contamination in infant formula and calls for European consumers to follow its recommendations, avoiding the recalled products to be given to infants or young children. The joint ROA has been issued by EFSA and the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

All products should be returned to the point of sale and consumers are advised to follow the instructions and guidance issued by national food safety authorities.

SAFE's Deputy Director Luigi Tozzi said: "We call on consumers to follow this joint assessment of EFSA and the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, an important piece of advice along with the guidance from national authorities. The recalled infant formula must not be fed to infants and young children and consumers should return it immediately to the point of sale."

The joint rapid outbreak assessment reminds that it is important to be vigilant for symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea in infants and young children, regardless of the underlying cause. The general recommendation is to seek professional medical advice if infants or young children develop persistent or severe gastrointestinal symptoms.

This episode of cereulide contamination is believed to have originated from arachidonic acid oil supplied by a producer in China, affecting several brands. The contamination triggered recalls of infant formula in 60 countries globally, including 7 European countries, following cases of mild gastrointestinal symptoms in young infants and hospitalisations due to dehydration.