



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



09 JUL 2019

FDA ADVISORY
No. **2019-188**

TO : THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT : UPDATES ON THE ISSUE FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CONSUMPTION OF "COSMIC CARABAO GIN"


In light of the developments on the investigation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with regards to the incident involving two (2) women who allegedly consumed 'Cosmic Carabao Gin', this Office shall order the seizure and/or confiscation of the product as the samples collected and subjected to FDA analysis were found positive for methanol.

Methanol is a widely available chemical that has many industrial applications and is also found in household products and fuel for aircraft. However, non-toxic trace amounts of methanol can also be naturally present in fruit juices. This is also a product of natural fermentation and is found in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic fermented beverages. Higher concentrations of methanol in alcoholic drinks can happen when methanol is deliberately added to alcoholic drinks. Signs and symptoms of methanol poisoning include headache, vomiting, abdominal pain, hyperventilation, and feeling of breathlessness. Blindness can also happen in severe cases.

The FDA hereby warns the public on the consumption of the implicated product as this is currently unregistered and has been confirmed to contain a high level of methanol. The FDA hereby reiterates its previous Advisories following the casualties due to the consumption of unregistered food products including alcoholic beverages that have not gone through this agency's registration and testing. Consumers must also exercise extreme caution in buying alcoholic drinks, especially those that do not have labels, poorly printed labels or with broken seals.

In the interest of public protection, the Field Regulatory Operations Office inspectors and Regulatory Enforcement Unit officers of FDA shall seize and/or confiscate all Cosmic Carabao Gin products available in the market. All Local Government Units and Law Enforcement Agencies are requested to ensure that this product is not sold or made available in their localities or areas of jurisdiction.

For more information and inquiries, please e-mail us at **info@fda.gov.ph**. To report continuous sale or distribution of the above unregistered food product, e-mail us via **report@fda.gov.ph**, or call us at the Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR) hotline **(02) 857-1900 locals 8112 or 8105**.


ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary for Health
Officer-in-Charge, Director General





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FDA ORDER
No. 2019-082

09 JUL 2019

TO : FOOD-DRUG REGULATION OFFICERS (FDROs) AND REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT UNIT (REU) OFFICERS OF THE FIELD REGULATORY OPERATIONS OFFICE (FROO)

SUBJECT : Conduct of Sealing of Raw Materials and Seizure of all Cosmic Carabao Gin in the Manufacturing Facility and Offered for Sale or Sold in the Market

Pursuant to the FDA Advisory No. 2019-181 and FDA Advisory No. 2019-188, copies attached, and in the interest of protecting public health and safety, the FDROs and REU officers of the FROO are hereby ordered to conduct sealing of all raw materials, including in-process distillates, and seizure of all unregistered Cosmic Carabao Gin in the manufacturing facility of Juan Brewing, Inc. and all those that are offered for sale or sold in the market. The assistance of the Philippine National Police, Local Government Unit concerned and other law enforcement agencies may be availed as required.


This directive is issued pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act (R.A) No. 9711, amending Section 11 of R.A. No. 3720 which provides that:

“the following acts and the causing thereof are hereby prohibited: (a) The manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, non-consumer use, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of any health product that is adulterated, unregistered or misbranded”;

Section 14 of the same states that the FDA Director-General shall exercise the power

“(4) To issue orders of seizures, to seize and hold in custody any article or articles of food, device, cosmetics, household hazardous substances and health products that is adulterated, counterfeited, misbranded or unregistered, or drug, in-vitro diagnostic reagent, biologicals, and vaccine that is adulterated or misbranded, when introduced into domestic commerce pending the authorized hearing under Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, Executive Order No. 175 (1987), and Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumers Act of the Philippines;”

For immediate action.


ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary for Health
Officer-in-Charge, Director General

