

Compliance Rate for Environmental Agents in 2011 Improved Over Previous Year

On 6 March 2012, the EPA published the results of its 2011 inspection and testing of environmental agents being sold in Taiwan. Of the 31,390 items inspected, 364 were found to have substandard labeling. This was a noncompliance rate of 1.16%, a slight improvement on the 2010 rate of 1.34%. Sampling of active ingredients in 160 samples showed that four were substandard, a noncompliance rate of 3.75%, which was better than the 2010 rate of 4.8%.

The four substandard products were Dr. Ant (上狠蟻博士), Ant-99 (螞蟥99, 2 products), and MANGICAP (免警蟑殺蟑堡), which were all found to contain active ingredients in quantities beyond the maximum limit. The manufacturers of the above four products have been fined NT\$60,000~300,000. It is the second year running that Ant-99 has been listed.

Environmental agents are commonly employed in homes to prevent insect infestation. To prevent the sale of dubious products the EPA supervises the yearly label inspections and ingredients testing of environmental agents by local government environmental protection bureaus. The inspections are carried out at random, and retailers, grocery stores, pharmacists, wholesalers, discount stores, flower markets, and vendors in traditional wet markets are all targeted.

The EPA has also been paying special attention to the illegal advertising of environmental agents online in recent years. In 2011, environmental agencies examined 12,306 online advertisements, of which 11 were found to be illegal cases. The violators were fined NT\$20,000~60,000.

The EPA has published the results of its inspection and other related information on its Web site. Members of the public wishing to check on the proper licensing of environmental agents can do so through the EPA's Environmental Agent Permit Query System at http://mdc.epa.gov.tw/MDC/search/search_License.aspx.

The EPA has also set up its Environmental Agents Safe Use Web site (<http://mdc.epa.gov.tw/EVagents/EVSecurity/EVIndex.aspx>) which teaches people how to recognize common household pests, how to use environmental agents safely, and some principles to follow when buying environmental agents. The above Web site also has a special section for children that shows them how to recognize common household pests and some easy ways to prevent them from breeding. The EPA welcomes children and their parents to

make full use of the Web site.

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