



# Product Safety Bulletin

## **DO YOU SUPPLY THIS PRODUCT?**

### ***BANNED: MINI JELLY CUPS WITH KONJAC***

An eighteen-month temporary ban on mini-cup jellies containing konjac was recently announced, following a substantial number of deaths and near deaths overseas and in Australia. The ban came into effect on 21 August 2002. Other countries, including England, the US, Canada and the EU, have also banned the product.

The banned mini-cup jellies contain a food additive called konjac, also known as glucomannan, konjonac, konnyaku, yam flour and taro powder, that is used to bind the product. They are packaged in small, plastic cups and have a height or width of up to 45mm.

Mini-cup jellies containing konjac can be a serious choking problem and can result in death, particularly to young children and the elderly. There have been at least 15 reported deaths worldwide, including a death and a near death in Australia, both were very young children. The mouth-sized jellies are commonly sucked out of the individual cups and, because of their slippery nature, can easily lodge in the throat, effectively becoming a plug and restricting the air supply.

If you have any of these jellies containing konjac, they must not be sold but must be taken off the shelf immediately and destroyed. On no account can they be re-sold.

There are other mini-cup jellies available that do not contain konjac. These are not subject to the ban and can continue to be sold.

Penalties under the Act can be severe on suppliers, including importers and retailers, and the courts can impose fines up to \$1.1 million for corporations and \$220,000 for individuals.

Inquiries: ACCC Infocentre - 1300 302 502  
e-mail: [infocentre@acc.gov.au](mailto:infocentre@acc.gov.au)  
website: <http://www.accc.gov.au>