

China orders recall of Glaxo drug

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China Saturday ordered British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline to recall an antibiotic used to treat infections in children which was found to be tainted with a plasticiser.

Traces of diisodecyl [phthalate](#) (DIDP), which is used to make plastics more flexible, were found in Glaxo's amoxicillin and clavulanate potassium suspension, which is sold under the tradename Augmentin, the State [Food and Drug Administration](#) said on its website.

[Glaxo](#) was ordered to immediately stop selling the antibiotic and recall those which had already entered the market.

Hong Kong last week ordered a recall of Augmentin after tests revealed the antibiotic syrup produced by Glaxo's French factory contained an unsafe level of DIDP.

The drugmaker is the latest company to become embroiled in a scare over plasticisers, with Hong Kong banning several Taiwanese drinks in recent weeks after tests showed they were tainted with excessive amounts of another plasticiser.

Taiwan has issued a major recall of products, including nearly half a million bottles of [sports drinks](#) and fruit juice, over fears they contained the chemical used in plastics.

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