

3 minute talk to SCVWB, Feb. 14, 2017

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Arlene Goetze, No Toxins for Children. [photowrite67@yahoo.com](mailto:photowrite67@yahoo.com)

I know your supplier of hydrofluosilicic acid is Brenntag Pacific in Richmond. I've asked you 3 times for the original source of this fluoride but no answer.

Brenntag is part of the Bay Area Chemical Consortium, which buys fluoride for 60 groups around the Bay at 20% lower cost than an individual. BACC then deals with another middleman who buys from sources in China and sells back through the BACC.

Three years ago your staff said you will not buy fluoride from China.

**Is it true your fluoride now is from China?**

Your handout is **Why are Chinese products born to be bad??**

- \* Baby milk did kidney damage and sickened 300,000 babies. 11 countries stopped dealing with China.
- \* E-cigarettes...300 million sold to US with lead, zinc, heavy metals and more. US still allows them here.
- \* Pet food killed 3600 pets and caused 500 cases of kidney failure

Which of these 4 steps tests the fluoride before you put it in water? Do you only test afterwards.? All drugs tell consumers its risks. Why won't you?

So far your fluoride has cost me \$1000. Your website last year listed 3 county labs for lead testing during the Flint crisis. Two said they did not. DataLabs promised me amounts for 10 vials of San Jose water... I paid \$300 and got no amounts. They then said their equipment didn't measure some amounts. You recommend unqualified labs. Sunnyvale can't recommend any.

I paid \$700 for Reverse Osmosis filters for a daughter. You want her to still use 20% less water but most filters waste 3 times what they filter. How else can she escape fluoride? How can the poor in San Jose afford or avoid your toxic waste?

Someone in Chapel Hill last week pushed a wrong button and fluoride caused 1.2 million gallon spill and pipe breakage. All restaurants, schools, homes were told not to drink or even use the water for 24-48 hrs with 5 mg fluoride in it. That's just one cup of black tea. (usdafluorideinfood) Now they discuss stopping fluoride.

**Handout: Poorly Made in China, Why are Chinese products born to be bad?**



# Poorly Made in China

[key concept: **quality fade**] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poorly\\_Made\\_in\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poorly_Made_in_China)

Poorly Made in China: An Insider's Account of the Tactics Behind China's Production Game is a book by Paul Midler, which chronicles his years spent working with American businessmen whose companies' products are manufactured in China.[1] **Poorly Made in China alleges the practice of quality fade**—the deliberate and secret effort of Chinese manufacturers to widen profit margins through the reduction of quality inputs.

Best Book 2009 (The Economist)  
Great Finance Book of 2009 (Forbes)

Best Book for Business Owners (Inc.)  
Best of 2009 Business Book (Library Journal)

## Chinese manufacturing –Poorly made Why so many Chinese products are born to be bad

The Economist May 14th 2009 | From the print edition [**The Economist Best Book 2009: Poorly Made in China**] <http://www.economist.com/node/13642306>

THE recent scandals about poisoned baby milk, contaminated pet food and dangerous toys from China have raised questions about manufacturing standards in the country that has become factory to the world. In China's defence, it was probably inevitable that as production grew so would the problems associated with it, at least in the short term. Similarly, it could be argued that China is going through the same quality cycle that occurred during Japan's post-war development or America's manufacturing boom in the late 19th century—but in an environment with infinitely more scrutiny.

A response to both these observations can be found in “Poorly Made in China” by Paul Midler, a fluent Chinese speaker who in 2001 moved to China to work as a consultant to the growing numbers of Western companies now replacing factories in Europe and America with subcontracting relationships in the emerging industrial zone surrounding Guangzhou. It was the perfect period to arrive. The normal problems of starting a business, such as getting clients or providing a value proposition, do not hinder Mr Midler, who had the benefit of being in the right place at the right time.

Not only did he quickly, and seemingly effortlessly, find customers, they were delighted with what they found in China. Factories will do anything to please. **Prices are famously low and production cycles short. His clients returned from their initial trips to China stunned by how quickly factories became proficient and puzzled by how much could be done so well, so fast, so cheaply. They were right to wonder.**

Most of Mr Midler's work is coping with what he calls “**quality fade**” as the Chinese factories transform what were, in fact, profitless contracts into lucrative relationships. The production cycle he sees is the opposite of the theoretical model of continuous improvement. **After**

**resolving teething problems and making products that match specifications, innovation inside the factory turns to cutting costs, often in ways that range from unsavoury to dangerous. Packaging is cheapened, chemical formulations altered, sanitary standards curtailed, and on and on, in a series of continual product debasements.**

In a further effort to create a margin, clients from countries with strong intellectual-property protection and innovative products are given favourable pricing on manufacturing, but only because the factory can then directly sell knock-offs to buyers in other countries where patents and trademarks are ignored. It is, Mr Midler says, a kind of factory arbitrage.

The first line of defence against compromised products are the factory's clients, the importers. The moment they begin suspecting a Chinese manufacturing “partner” and want to discover what might be unfolding is the moment they become particularly eager to find people in China like Mr Midler. That suggests they want information. But, as Mr Midler discovers, they are finicky about what is found. When suspicions turn out to be reality, all too often they become unhappy—miserable about resolving something costly and disruptive, yet terrified about being complicit in peddling a dangerous product. This is particularly true if the problems could go undetected by customers. Better, to some extent, not to know.

**Aware of these dynamics, Western retailers increasingly use outside testing laboratories for Chinese products. But this too, Mr Midler writes, is more form than function, since the tests are by their very nature more limited than the ways to circumvent them. The process resembles the hunt for performance enhancements used by athletes, where a few get caught but the cleverer ones stay ahead by using products not yet on the prohibited list.**

It would be unfair, of course, to see all Chinese companies in this light. A few are gaining international recognition for quality, but in contrast, say, to Japan or America, this recognition comes at a cost to the firms themselves because it is accompanied by unpopular scrutiny and compliance. This odd situation became apparent when Mr Midler witnessed large, modern Chinese factories outsourcing work to smaller, grittier, facilities even though this meant forgoing the production benefits from economies of scale.

The tiny outfits were in a much better position to skirt environmental controls and safety standards for products and workers. The obvious way to clean up this mess—and to know whether it is really as pervasive as this book suggests—is through broader disclosure, but by whom? The Chinese press is sometimes revealing but typically controlled, as are foreign reporters. Many production problems are well-known within local manufacturing circles, Mr Midler says, but collusion is rampant and there are no rewards in China for whistleblowing. Most of the people in Mr Midler's position would not dream of disclosing what they see and many testing laboratories protect their reputation by hiding, rather than revealing, what they test. As a result, if Mr Midler's perceptions are true, the primary source of discovery will come in the worst possible way —by consumers who buy Chinese products, only to discover their flaws themselves.

# China's E-Cigarette Boom Lacks Oversight for Safety

By DAVID BARBOZA / The New York Times / DEC. 13, 2014 [excerpts] <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/14/business/international/chinas-e-cigarette-boom-lacks-oversight-for-safety-.html>

This year, Chinese manufacturers are expected to ship more than 300 million e-cigarettes to the United States and Europe, where they will reach the shelves of Walmart, 7-Eleven stores, gas station outlets and so-called vaping shops.

The devices have become increasingly popular, particularly among young adults, and yet hundreds of e-cigarette manufacturers in China operate with little oversight. Experts say flawed or sloppy manufacturing could account for some of the heavy metals, carcinogens and other dangerous compounds, such as lead, tin and zinc, that have been detected in some e-cigarettes.

One study found e-cigarette vapor that contained hazardous nickel and chromium at four times the level they appear in traditional cigarette smoke; another found that half the e-cigarettes sampled malfunctioned and some released vapor tainted with silicon fibers.

## 2008 Chinese milk scandal

[excerpts] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008\\_Chinese\\_milk\\_scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Chinese_milk_scandal)

The 2008 Chinese milk scandal was a food safety incident in China. The scandal involved milk and infant formula along with other food materials being adulterated with melamine.

China reported an estimated 300,000 victims in total.[1] Six infants died from kidney stones and other kidney damage with an estimated 54,000 babies being hospitalized.[2][3] The chemical gives the appearance of higher protein content when added to milk, leading to protein deficiency in the formula. In a separate incident four years prior, watered-down milk had resulted in 12 infant deaths from malnutrition.[4]

The issue raised concerns about food safety and political corruption in China, and damaged the reputation of China's food exports. At least 11 countries stopped all imports of Chinese dairy products.

## 2007 pet food recalls

[excerpts] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007\\_pet\\_food\\_recalls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_pet_food_recalls)

The 2007 pet food recalls comprise the contamination and wide recall of many brands of cat and dog foods beginning in March 2007, and the ensuing developments involving the human food supply. The recalls in North America, Europe, and South Africa came in response to reports of renal failure in pets. Initially, the recalls were associated with the consumption of mostly wet pet foods made with wheat gluten from a single Chinese company. After more than three weeks of complaints from consumers, the recall began voluntarily with the Canadian company Menu Foods on 16 March 2007, when a company test showed sickness and death in

some of the test animals. Soon after, there were numerous media reports of animal deaths as a result of kidney failure. In the following weeks, several other companies who received the contaminated wheat gluten also voluntarily recalled dozens of pet food brands. One month after the initial recall, contaminated rice protein from a different source in China was also identified as being associated with kidney failure in pets in the United States, while contaminated corn gluten was associated with kidney failure with pets in South Africa. **As a result of investigating the 2007 pet food recalls, a broader Chinese protein export contamination investigation unfolded, raising concerns about the safety of the human food supply.**

By the end of March, veterinary organizations reported more than 100 pet deaths amongst nearly 500 cases of kidney failure,[1] with one online database self-reporting as many as 3,600 deaths as of 11 April. [Including major brands] ...Nestlé Purina PetCare: All sizes and varieties of Alpo "Prime Cuts in Gravy"[23] ,Del Monte: More than a dozen brands of dry, or jerky-type, cat and dog snacks and/or morsels[24], ...Kirkland Signature: Super Premium Canned Food, item # 38436, best-by dates of "Aug. 21 08" to "15 April of 09"[36]

...Despite the presence of the industrial chemical in both the food and in the animals, the FDA has made it clear they are still in the middle of an extensive investigation, and "not yet fully certain that melamine is the causative agent." [5] **In late October 2008, similar adulteration with melamine was discovered in eggs and possibly other food. The source was traced to melamine being added to animal feed, despite a ban imposed in June 2007 following the scandal over pet food ingredients exported to the United States.**[9]

## **Protein adulteration in China**

[excerpts] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein\\_adulteration\\_in\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein_adulteration_in_China)

In the People's Republic of China, the adulteration and contamination of several food and feed ingredients with inexpensive melamine and other compounds, such as cyanuric acid, ammeline and ammelide, are common practice. These adulterants can be used to inflate the apparent protein content of products, so that inexpensive ingredients can pass for more expensive, concentrated proteins.[1] Melamine by itself has not been thought to be very toxic to animals or humans except possibly in very high concentrations, but the combination of melamine and cyanuric acid has been implicated in kidney failure. Reports that cyanuric acid may be an independently and potentially widely used adulterant in China have heightened concerns for both animal and human health.[2] In September 2008, Sanlu Group had to recall baby formula because it was contaminated with melamine. Around 294,000 babies in China became ill after drinking the milk; at least six babies died.[10]

**See websites for more information on each subject.**

Condensed by Arlene Goetze, Educational Services, No Toxins for Children  
[photowrite67@yahoo.com](mailto:photowrite67@yahoo.com).

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