



China's department of justice demands



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Money for whistleblowers reporting food safety violations

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The city of Chengdu Food and Drug Administration held a briefing to announce that a local woman who reported the unlicensed production of health food products would be receiving a reward amounting to 6 percent of the offender's fine, or 189,000 Chinese yuan (around \$30,000). This represents a change in state food safety supervision tactics.



After law enforcement officers investigated the report, Sichuan New Ocean Health Food Co., Ltd. was found to be continuing operations after its license had lapsed. The company is a biotechnology fishery selling fish-based healthcare supplement capsules.

With monitoring requirements constantly outpacing state resources, Chengdu's FDA has decided to outsource some of the burden to the people with stakes in the matter, namely private citizens. Whistleblowers reporting food safety violations and hazards are now entitled to 4 to 6 percent of the fines against offenders, with a reward maximum of 300,000 yuan (\$48,000).

In addition, the city has also launched a food and drug complaint operation to expand channels for complaints. This is in an effort to encourage people to participate in food and drug safety monitoring and to deter crime.

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