

Red Bull drinks sold here are safe

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry has given an assurance that the Red Bull drinks in the local market are safe for consumption.

It said energy drinks sold locally were not imported from Austria and contained neither alcohol nor cocaine.

The ministry's Food Safety and Quality Division director, Nooraini Mohd Othman, said the government had since 2001, enforced the ban on the import of Red Bull products from Austria, as they were found to contain caffeine levels that did not meet the standards stipulated under the Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985.

She said the Red Bull drinks sold locally were imported from Thailand and packed in Malaysia.

"It is an offence under Sec-

tion 13 of the Food Act if cocaine is found in food items," she said.

Nooraini said the ministry was always on the look out for products that posed health risks.

She said enforcement was being carried out around the clock at the country's entry points.

On Monday, Red Bull said its energy drink distributed in the country does not contain any drug or alcohol.

The company said the drink was issued with a halal certificate when its distribution started in Malaysia in 1993.

Several countries recently banned the Red Bull and Red Bull Cola drink from Austria which come in a blue and silver coloured can.

These two versions of the drink are not sold in Malaysia.