

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)043

Question Serial No.

0964

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

- a. According to the Department, the target of “inspecting vehicles carrying vegetables at Man Kam To Food Control Office” is deleted as it is not a good reflection of the performance measures involved in regulating vegetable import. Please explain why it cannot be used as a performance measure.
- b. Please advise on whether a new performance target will be set for the service. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? How can the Department assure the public that the vegetables conveyed by the vehicles are fit for consumption if a performance target is not available?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The import control of vegetables from the Mainland is through an administrative arrangement. Vehicles carrying vegetables into Hong Kong are not required by law to stop at Man Kam To Food Control Office (MKTFCO) of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) for inspection. The target of “inspecting vehicles carrying vegetables at Man Kam To Food Control Office (% of vehicles)” was intended to mean that for those vehicles carrying vegetables that entered MKTFCO or directed to stop at the inspection platforms of the Customs and Excise Department, all were inspected for export certification documents. This target was, however, misinterpreted as to mean that each and every vehicle carrying vegetables that came through Man Kam To Border Control Point everyday was subjected to audit inspection. We therefore do not consider it a good reflection of our performance in regulating vegetable import.

The Department will monitor vegetables imported from the Mainland, by conducting audit inspection for export certification documents and random

sampling for pesticides from inbound vehicles at Man Kam To Border Control Point. This work will be reflected by the existing indicator on “vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office in 2008”.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 25.3.2008