

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)114

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

2183

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:

Regarding the introduction of an amendment regulation on nutrition labelling for pre-packaged food in 2008-09, please advise on the following:

- a) the progress, the estimated date of submission to the Legislative Council, the list of nutrients to be covered in the amendment regulation, the exemption arrangement and the manpower involved;
- b) the measures to be taken to prevent food suppliers from using the cost of implementing nutrition labelling as an excuse for increasing the price.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Amendment Regulation on Nutrition Labelling Scheme for prepackaged food is planned to be tabled in the Legislative Council in April 2008. Under the proposed Scheme, nutrition labels should include information on energy, carbohydrate, protein, fat, saturated fat, sodium, sugars and trans fat. In addition, nutrition claims are regulated and the amount of any claimed nutrients should also be provided. We propose to exempt certain types of prepackaged food, including food products having practical difficulties in providing the required information, raw food, food with insignificant values of energy and core nutrients and food sold in small volume. We have also allowed flexibilities in the labelling format so as to reduce the need for re-labelling of food. These measures are aimed at minimizing the impact of the Scheme on the trade. There is, however, no plan to introduce direct measures to control price changes as a result of the Scheme. The resources for implementing the new legislation after the grace period will be worked out after the passage of the amendment regulation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

W H CHEUK

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

25.3.2008

