

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

FHB(FE)012

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0056

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. At present, how much progress has been made by the Department in implementing the notification scheme for food importers and distributors? What is the number of food importers and distributors registered under the scheme, and how much in percentage terms does it account for the total number of food importers and distributors?
- b. Does the Department have any plan to expedite the implementation of the scheme? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The Pre-statutory Voluntary Registration Scheme (the Scheme) for Food Importers/Distributors has been extended to cover all categories of food in 2008-09. Up to 1 March 2010, around 2 200 importers and 2 800 distributors have registered under the Scheme, representing 43% and 22% of the estimated total number of importers and distributors respectively.

To enhance participation in the Scheme, the Department has deployed a designated team to reach out to traders. The full-year cost for this measure is estimated to be \$0.31 million for 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15.3.2010 _____