

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

FHB(FE)094

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

Question Serial No.

0978

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) Of the 55 118 food labels checked by the Department in 2009 to ensure pre-packaged food for sale is properly labelled, how many accounted for the checking of nutrition labels on pre-packaged food and what did the rest account for?
- (b) Why is the number of food labels planned to be checked in 2010 reduces by 118 over the actual number in 2009 despite the implementation of the legislation on mandatory nutrition labelling of pre-packaged food in July 2010? Regarding the 55 000 food labels planned to be checked in 2010, has this number taken into account the additional checking arising from the implementation of the new legislation, or is the checking of nutrition labels to be covered by another mechanism? Does the Department need to redeploy resources for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

- (a) All the checks were made for ascertaining compliance with the existing food labelling requirements under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (i.e. labelling of ingredient list, expiry date, etc). Checking of nutrition labels will commence in July 2010 when the relevant legislation comes into effect.
- (b) Around 55 000 food labels will be checked for labelling requirements under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations in 2010, same as the figure for an average year. Among these, around 5 000 will be checked for compliance with nutrition labelling requirements. The work will be undertaken by existing staff and no additional resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15.3.2010