

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

FHB(FE)100

Question Serial No.

1268

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:

Under this programme, the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau to prepare legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs. In this connection, please advise on the timetable and details of the work, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

At present, the import of meat and poultry is regulated under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations (Cap.132AK) and the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap.60). Under Cap. 132AK, no person shall import meat or poultry without an official health certificate which certifies that the meat or poultry concerned is fit for human consumption, or otherwise a prior written permission from a health officer of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will be required. In addition, an import licence is required for importing meat or poultry under Cap. 60.

The Administration intends to extend the current import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs in view of the avian influenza health threat posed by eggs from infected poultry. To achieve this policy objective, we are preparing the proposed Food Safety (Importation) Regulation, the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2012 and other consequential amendments (the proposed Regulations), and will table them in the Legislative Council when ready. To allow sufficient time for traders to prepare for the new requirements under the proposed Regulations, it is proposed that a six-month grace period should be allowed. Apart from providing expert advice and support to the drafting of the proposed Regulations, the Department is also preparing an implementation plan and liaising with overseas regulatory authorities and local trade on the proposed new regulatory arrangement. If the proposed Regulations are enacted, the Department will arrange sufficient publicity on the proposed Regulations prior to their commencement. The workload is absorbed by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement LEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 1.3.2012