

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

FHB(FE)134

Question Serial No.

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

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
 (4) Public and Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved for promotional activities, inspection and enforcement in respect of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2012-13;
- (b) the number of enquiries received relating to the Nutrition Labelling Scheme since its implementation; and
- (c) the number of inspections conducted, and the number and nature of non-compliant cases detected since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) All prepackaged foods in Hong Kong must comply with the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W). In terms of general food labelling, prepackaged foods are required to be legibly marked or labelled with the following information in either English or Chinese language or in both languages, viz, (i) name of food, (ii) list of ingredients including allergen declaration, (iii) “best before” or “use by” date, (iv) statement of special condition for storage or instructions for use, (v) name and address of manufacturer or packer and (vi) count, weight or volume. In terms of nutrition labelling requirements, the Nutrition Labelling Scheme requires all prepackaged foods to label the content of energy plus seven nutrients, viz, (i) protein, (ii) carbohydrates, (iii) total fat, (iv) saturated fat, (v) trans fat, (vi) sodium and (vii) sugars, as well as any nutrient for which a nutrition claim is made, and regulates nutrition claims.

The estimated manpower provision for inspection and enforcement of the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2012-13 is 12. The expenditures and manpower on inspection and enforcement of nutrition labelling requirements cannot be separately identified. The expenditure and manpower for promoting the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2012-13 will be absorbed within the existing resources for promotion of food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.

- (b) As at 17 February 2012, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had received 1 939 enquires related to the Nutrition Labelling Scheme since its commencement on 1 July 2010.

- (c) As at 17 February 2012, CFS had checked 18 921 prepackaged food products since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, with 180 found to be non-compliant. The overall compliance rate is 99.05%. A detailed breakdown of the 180 cases is as follows –

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 - 17.2.2012
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	68
Inappropriate nutrition label format	7
Inappropriate nutrient claim	18
Inappropriate language	17
Involved more than one type of irregularity	9
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	61
Total	180

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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