

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

FHB(FE)131

Question Serial No.

1970

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

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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 this connection, 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 food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2013-14;
- (b) the number of enquiries received relating to the food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements since the requirements came into force; and
- (c) the number of inspections conducted, and the number and nature of non-compliance cases detected since the food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements came into force.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The estimated manpower provision for inspection and enforcement of the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2013-14 is 13, while that for promoting the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2013-14 cannot be separately identified. The expenditure of these activities will be absorbed within existing resources for safeguarding food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.
- (b) Since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has received, as at 31 December 2012, 2 319 enquiries on nutrition labelling and 1 036 enquiries on general food labelling.
- (c) Since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, CFS has checked, as at 31 December 2012, 24 056 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products, with 246 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 246 cases is as follows –

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2012
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	81
Inappropriate nutrition label format	10
Inappropriate nutrient claim	25
Inappropriate language	18
Involved more than one type of irregularity	15
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	97
Total	246

During the same period, CFS had checked 130 474 labels of prepackaged food products for general food labelling requirements, with 209 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 209 cases is as follows -

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2012
Blank label	10
Beyond expiry date	4
Improper indication of durability	13
Ingredient not properly listed	59
Incomplete manufacturer/packer's name and address	25
Food name and list of ingredients not marked in both English and Chinese where both languages	38

are used on the label	
Involved more than one type of the above mentioned irregularities	60
Total	209

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013