

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

FHB(FE)147

Question Serial No.

1179

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 in preparing legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs in 2013-14. In this connection, please advise on the timetable and details of the work, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure to be 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 under Cap. 132AK to cover poultry eggs in view of the avian influenza threat posed by eggs from infected poultry. To allow sufficient time for traders to prepare for the new requirements, it is proposed that a six-month grace period should be allowed. We will table the relevant amendments in the Legislative Council in 2013. Apart from providing expert advice and support to the drafting of the proposed amendments, the Department has liaised with overseas regulatory authorities and local trade on the proposed amended regulatory arrangement. If the proposed amendments are passed, the Department will arrange sufficient publicity prior to their commencement. The additional workload will be absorbed by the Department.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013