

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)11

(Question Serial No. S0084)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In respect of the provision “the place from where the food was imported” under Section 22(1)(c) of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap 612), please advise whether the term “the place” refers to a country, a city or a prefecture; and how actions can be taken against the five categories of food from the five prefectures of Japan if only the country of origin is required to be stated in the importer’s declaration.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No.)

Reply:

Under Section 22(1) of Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612), a person who, in the course of business, imports food must record the information about the acquisition of the food. The required information includes the place from where the food was imported as stated in Section 22(1)(c) of Cap. 612. The information enables traceability of the imported food.

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) requires importers of Japanese food to provide relevant import documents such as invoice, airway bill/bill of lading, packing list and health certificate, whichever applicable, showing the prefectures of Japan from where the food comes. CFS will also check the labels on the packing against the documents. Particular attention is paid to food items imported from the five prefectures of Japan subject to import control under the Food Safety Order issued in March 2011.

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