

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)113

(Question Serial No. 2545)

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:

1. The average number of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office is 100 per day. Please advise on the daily average number of vehicles carrying vegetables through this inspection checkpoint, the criteria for selecting vehicles for random inspections, and the number of "gate-crashing" vehicles (i.e. vehicles not accepting inspection as instructed) in 2015 and 2016.
2. Please provide information on the manpower, as well as the actual, revised and estimated expenditure, for each of the inspection checkpoints (i.e. checkpoints for food imported by land, air and sea, including Kwai Chung Customhouse) for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Asked by: Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

1. In 2015, the average daily number of vegetable vehicles passing through Man Kam To Border Control Point and arriving at Hong Kong was 265 according to the Road Cargo System records of the Customs and Excise Department. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) inspected about 93 vegetable vehicles on average every day at Man Kam To Food Control Office (MKTFCO) in 2015. CFS conducted the food surveillance work by using a risk-based approach, taking into account past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analyses etc. From 2015 to 2016 (up to end February), 14 vegetable vehicles did not enter MKTFCO for inspection in spite of the CFS' instructions. Prosecution had been taken out against the drivers of these vegetable vehicles. CFS has also stepped up surveillance against these recalcitrant cases.
2. The manpower deployed for inspecting food imported by land, air and sea (including the food control checkpoint at the Kwai Chung Customhouse) was 78, 56 and 68 respectively for 2014-15, and 78, 54 and 71 respectively for 2015-16. The estimated manpower for 2016-17 is 84, 58 and 79 respectively. The actual, revised and

estimated expenditures incurred in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 for food import and export control were \$147.0 million, \$152.6 million and \$152.2 million respectively. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditures incurred for individual inspection facilities.

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