

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)279

(Question Serial No. 6461)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to injury at work in respect of cleansing workers employed under cleansing service contracts, please advise on the number of reported cases received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in each of the past five years, body locations involved, as well as the reason(s) for the injuries. Please also provide details of the follow-up actions taken by the Department regarding the reported cases of injury at work. If no follow-up actions have been taken, please give reason(s). If figures relating to the reported cases have not been kept, please give reason(s) and advise whether the figures will be available in future.

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 292)

Reply:

The contracts signed between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its service contractors stipulate that in the event of any of the contractors' employees suffering from any injury or death in the course of or arising out of the contract (whether or not a claim for compensation is involved), the contractor shall, within seven clear working days, give notice in writing of such injury or death to the Department. The contractors are also required to comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap 509) (the Ordinance). The number of reported cases received by the Department on injury at work of cleansing workers employed under the cleansing service contracts in the past five years is given below –

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (up to 29.2.2016)
No. of reported cases on injury at work	69	78	53	89	89

The injuries sustained by cleansing workers at work in the reported cases were mainly sprains, strains, bruises, cuts and wounds in different parts of the body. Unintended collisions (with, for instance, a bicycle or a hand cart), slips, trips or falls on same level and lifting were common causes of injuries. If the Department suspects a breach of the Ordinance in a reported case, the case will be referred to the Labour Department (LD) for investigation. If it is confirmed that the contractor has committed an offence under the Ordinance, LD will take appropriate action including instituting prosecution against the contractor. The Department will also take action in accordance with the contract terms, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as withholding/deducting monthly payment of service charge.

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