

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)177

(Question Serial No. 2384)

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 the 2017-18 financial year, does the Department have any strategies and measures for surveillance of licensed food premises and prosecution of those engaging in illegal sale of waste cooking oils (WCO) to unauthorised recyclers and edible oil manufactures, so as to prevent WCO from re-entering the food chain through improper recycling channels and being reused as cooking oil to harm public health? Please advise on the manpower and resources in this respect.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), has implemented administrative measures to regulate the recycling of waste cooking oils (WCO) generated from licensed food premises and cooked food centres. Specifically, EPD introduced an administrative scheme in February 2016 to register eligible local collectors/processors/exporters of WCO. FEHD has imposed an additional licensing condition by phases since July 2016 on food premises operating under a licence for a restaurant, factory canteen, food factory, bakery or under a tenancy for cooked food centres, requiring them to hand over any WCO produced during the cooking process on the premises to a collector, processor or exporter registered by EPD for disposal, and to keep relevant transaction records for at least 12 months. FEHD will conduct random checks to ensure that the licensees concerned comply with the aforementioned licensing condition.

To allow sufficient time for the trade to make necessary preparations, FEHD will implement the new licensing condition 15 months after the written notifications are issued to the licensees (i.e. starting from November 2017). Warnings will be issued to licensees in breach of the aforementioned licensing condition. FEHD will consider cancelling the licences of those licensees which have repeatedly breached the aforementioned licensing condition.

The manpower and resources due to the above administrative regulatory measure will be absorbed by FEHD from within its existing resources.

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