

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)178**

**(Question Serial No. 2387)**

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:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" in the new financial year, it is mentioned that "measures to require recycling of waste cooking oils (WCO) produced by local licensed food premises" will continue to be implemented. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. details of the work;
2. the estimated number of food premises involved in WCO collection and recycling;
3. the estimated amount of WCO that will be collected for recycling in the said financial year and their disposal arrangements; and
4. the estimated amount of WCO that will be collected for resale to local and overseas recyclers for generation of biodiesel (B5).

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

1. 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 the 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.

2. As at 31 December 2016, FEHD has imposed the above additional licensing condition on about 21 550 licensed food premises. The operators are required to properly store any WCO abandoned from any cooking process on the premises (including grease trap waste, used cooking oil and unused oil abandoned) and hand it over to a collector/processor/exporter registered by the EPD for disposal.
- 3&4 Under EPD's administrative registration scheme to register local eligible WCO collectors, processors and exporters, registered parties should comply with the requirements stipulated in the Good Practice Guides issued by EPD, and only deliver WCO to a party registered with EPD for non-edible industrial uses, such as production of biodiesel and eco-soap, etc. According to the data provided by the parties registered with EPD, they may collect up to about 17 000 tonnes of used cooking oils and about 180 000 tonnes of grease trap waste from local restaurants in a year. While some of the WCO will be used to produce biodiesel locally, most of it will be exported, after initial treatment, to overseas waste oils recyclers as raw materials for producing biodiesel.

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