

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)295

(Question Serial No. 6308)

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:

Please advise on the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to monitor the compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance by cleansing service contractors. Please also advise whether regular or blitz inspections have been conducted or visits paid to workers; if yes, the respective numbers of regular inspections, blitz inspections and visits paid to workers in the past 5 years, as well as the ranks of staff who performed the duties.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1526)

Reply:

In the tender document for each cleansing service contract and the signed contract, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) specifies that the contractor shall provide necessary training on occupational safety, protective equipment and ancillary tools, and 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). It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. Staff of the Department carry out regular and surprise inspections to check the contractors' performance and ensure their compliance with the contract requirements. If the Department finds a suspected breach of the Ordinance by a contractor in a reported case on injury at work, the case will be referred to the Labour Department for investigation. Any breach of contractual obligations by the contractors may lead to the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as reduction in monthly payment of service charge. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the number of regular and surprise inspections conducted in this respect. The inspections are conducted by officers at the rank of Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector, Overseer, Senior Foreman, Foreman, Senior Hawker Control Officer or Assistant Hawker Control Officer.