

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)152

(Question Serial No. 3531)

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:

With regard to food surveillance, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the financial provision and manpower for food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in 2018-19;
- (b) the total number of food samples taken for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) in 2017-18 (including routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance) and the satisfactory rates;
- (c) given that the CFS collects food samples under the FSP at the import, wholesale and retail levels, and food is imported into Hong Kong by land, air and sea, whether there are differences in the sampling tests and inspections conducted at different levels or in regard to different importation routes; and
- (d) the satisfactory rates of various food items, with a breakdown by food type, at the import, wholesale and retail levels, and whether the test results obtained at these levels are significantly different; if yes, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 72)

Reply:

- (a) The Food Import and Export Section and the Food Surveillance and Complaint Section of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for carrying out food surveillance work, including collection of food samples for testing at the import, wholesale and retail levels. With an estimated establishment of 398 staff members in 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the two Sections in 2018-19 is about \$264.9 million. Apart from food surveillance, both Sections are involved in other duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditures incurred by the two Sections on food surveillance.

- (b) The statistics on food surveillance are kept on a calendar year basis. In 2017, the number of food samples taken for testing under routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance programmes was 60 700, 4 900 and 1 400 respectively. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.8%.
- (c) CFS adopts a risk-based strategy to sample food items at the import, wholesale and retail levels. CFS regularly reviews the food surveillance programme, taking into account factors such as past food surveillance results, food incidents in Hong Kong and in other places, and relevant risk analyses. There is no difference in the sampling tests or inspections conducted for food samples taken at respective levels by different means of import.
- (d) In 2017, the overall satisfactory rates of the food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels are 99.87%, 99.96% and 99.80%, respectively. Details of satisfactory rates of different food groups at respective sampling levels are tabulated below -

Food Group	Satisfactory Rate			
	Import Level	Wholesale Level	Retail Level	Overall
Vegetables, fruits and related products	99.92%	100.00%	99.76%	99.89%
Meat, poultry and related products	100.00%	100.00%	99.96%	99.97%
Aquatic products and related products	99.72%	100.00%	99.54%	99.61%
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	99.80%	99.51%	99.68%	99.78%
Cereals and cereal products	100.00%	97.06%	99.88%	99.89%
Others	99.43%	100.00%	99.84%	99.81%
Overall	99.87%	99.96%	99.80%	99.84%

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