

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)207****(Question Serial No. 1300)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

(a) as per the table below, the registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables from the Mainland to Hong Kong over the past 5 years, with information on their serial numbers, regulatory authorities, production bases (farm names and addresses in Chinese and English, registration numbers, vegetable species grown and farm size (in Chinese acres)) and corresponding registered entities (names and addresses in Chinese and English, and hygiene registration codes/registration numbers); if such information is not available, the reason(s).

(Year)

Serial number	Regulatory authority	Production base							Corresponding registered entity				
		Farm name in Chinese	Farm name in English	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Registration number	Vegetable species grown	Farm size (in Chinese acres)	Chinese name	English name	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Hygiene registration code/ registration number

(b) as per the table below, the farms or enterprises removed from the list of registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong over the past 5 years due to non-compliance with regulatory standards, with information on their serial numbers, regulatory authorities, production bases (farm names and addresses in Chinese and English, registration numbers, vegetable species grown and farm size (in Chinese acres)) and

corresponding registered entities (names and addresses in Chinese and English, and hygiene registration codes/registration numbers); if such information is not available, the reason(s).

(Year)

Date of removal from registered farm list	Serial number	Regulatory authority	Production base							Corresponding registered entity				
			Farm name in Chinese	Farm name in English	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Registration number	Vegetable species grown	Farm size (in Chinese acres)	Chinese name	English name	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Hygiene registration code/ registration number

(c) further to the question above, the reason(s) for the removal of the above farms or enterprises from the list of registered farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong, and whether a notification mechanism on the removal is in place among the Department, the Central Government and the local governments of places where these farms are located; if yes, the details.

(d) whether the Department keeps a record of newly registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong and their corresponding registered entities in each of the past 5 years; if yes, please list the farms in the following table, with information on their serial numbers, regulatory authorities, production bases (farm names and addresses in Chinese and English, registration numbers, vegetable species grown and farm size (in Chinese acres)) and corresponding registered entities (names and addresses in Chinese and English, and hygiene registration codes/registration numbers); if such information is not available, the reason(s).

(Year)

Date of removal from registered farm list	Serial number	Regulatory authority	Production base							Corresponding registered entity				
			Farm name in Chinese	Farm name in English	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Registration number	Vegetable species grown	Farm size (in Chinese acres)	Chinese name	English name	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Hygiene registration code/ registration number

(e) whether the Department has a mechanism in place for the selection and determination of vegetable farms to be included in the list of registered farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong; if not, the reason(s).

(f) further to the question above, whether a notification mechanism on the addition of vegetable farms and their corresponding registered entities is in place among the Department, the Central Government and the local governments of places where registered farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong are located; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

(g) as per the table below, the manpower and expenditure allocated to the handling of registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong over the past 5 years.

Year	Manpower	Expenditure
2013		
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 509)

Reply:

(a) to (f) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has in place mechanisms in safeguarding the safety of vegetables (though not regarded as high-risk foods) on sale in the local market to ensure their compliance with the legal standards and fitness for human consumption.

As the Mainland is the major supplier of vegetables to Hong Kong, the Government and the Mainland authorities have established administrative arrangements under which vegetables supplied to Hong Kong must come from registered vegetable farms and production and processing establishments under the supervision of the relevant Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. CFS has all along closely liaised with the Mainland authorities to arrange regular visits and audit inspections to the Mainland vegetable farms and processing plants to ensure their compliance with our requirements.

The list of registered vegetable farms and processing plants eligible for supplying vegetables to Hong Kong is maintained by the Mainland authorities and posted onto their website. CFS makes reference to the list in performing its gate-keeping function.

CFS has in place a food surveillance programme under which food samples are collected at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing to safeguard food safety.

(g) There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for handling import of vegetables into Hong Kong. The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team in CFS led by an agricultural officer. The officers in the team are also tasked with other duties. CFS does not have separate

breakdown categorically on the resources used for conducting inspection of those types of farms in the Mainland.

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