

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)208

(Question Serial No. 1301)

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:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) as per the table below, the number of inspections of Mainland registered vegetable farms conducted by the Department in each of 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).

Date of inspection	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) the number of inspections of registered entities and enterprises of Mainland registered vegetable farms conducted by the Department in each of the past 5 years. Please list the registered entities in the following table, with information on their names and addresses in Chinese and English, their hygiene registration codes/registration numbers and their corresponding vegetable farms and production bases on the Mainland (farm names and addresses in Chinese and English, registration numbers, vegetable species grown and farm size (in Chinese acres)).

Date of inspection	Chinese name of registered entity	English name of registered entity	Address in Chinese	Address in English	Hygiene registration code/ registration number

- (c) as per the table below, the manpower and expenditure involved in inspecting i) Mainland registered vegetable farms and ii) their corresponding registered entities and enterprises over the past 5 years.

Year	Inspection of Mainland vegetable farms		Inspection of registered entities	
	Manpower	Expenditure	Manpower	Expenditure
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				

- (d) as per the table below, the number of inspections of overseas vegetable farms, orchards and their corresponding food processing plants conducted by the Department, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 5 years.

Year	Inspection of overseas vegetable farms and orchards		Inspection of registered entities	
	Manpower	Expenditure	Manpower	Expenditure
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				

- (e) the existing mechanism for conducting inspections at Mainland vegetable farms and their corresponding registered entities, the work flow and the inspection criteria. Please also advise whether vegetable samples will be brought back for testing in Hong Kong, and set out the average costs of such inspections and tests.
- (f) the existing mechanism for conducting inspections at overseas vegetable farms, orchards and their corresponding processing plants, the work flow and the inspection criteria. Please also advise whether food samples will be brought back for testing in Hong Kong, and set out the average costs of such inspections and tests.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 510)

Reply:

(a) Information on the number of inspections of Mainland registered vegetable farms in the last 5 years is given below -

Province / City	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Guangdong	9	12	5	4	8
Gansu				2	
Hubei				2	
Jiangsu			2		
Jiangxi	4				
Ningxia	3				6
Shandong		2			
Shanghai			3		
Tianjin				1	
Xiamen			3		
Yunnan		3			
Zhejiang					4
Total	16	17	13	9	18

(b) The number of inspections conducted to registered entities and enterprises of Mainland registered vegetable farms (i.e. registered vegetable processing plants) in the last 5 years is given below -

Province / City	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Guangdong		1	3	2	
Shenzhen			1	3	3
Tianjin				1	
Total	0	1	4	6	3

(c) There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for inspections to the Mainland registered vegetable farms and vegetable processing plants. The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team in the Centre for Food Safety (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 these types of farms in the Mainland.

(d) There was no inspection of overseas vegetable farms, orchards and their corresponding processing plants in the past 5 years.

(e) & (f) CFS adopts a risk-based approach in planning inspections of Mainland and overseas vegetable farms and corresponding processing plants. In general, factors to be considered include the import volume, previous testing results and related food incidents which will be monitored according to existing mechanisms. Inspection arrangements are

subject to discussion with and agreement of relevant authorities of the exporting countries/places. Samples are not collected during inspection of farms. 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.

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