

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)225**

**(Question Serial No. 1416)**

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:

Apart from the standards, guidelines and regulatory work pertaining to metallic contaminants and harmful substances, what other local food safety standards, guidelines and regulatory arrangements will be reviewed and updated in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)

Reply:

Ensuring that our food safety regime is backed up by the requisite food safety legislation and the provisions in the food safety legislation are adequate and effective is one of the major functions of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB). In this regard, FHB has been working closely with the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in monitoring the international developments and initiatives relating to safeguarding food safety, and timely updating our food safety standards and regulatory arrangements.

We completed a 3-month public consultation exercise on the proposed amendments to the maximum levels of metallic contaminants in food in September 2017. We consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on our amendment proposals in January 2018. We will introduce the amendment regulation (involving amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V)) to the Legislative Council in 2018.

We are also working on legislative proposals to revise the current regulatory regime of harmful substances in food, mycotoxins in particular, and plan to carry out a public consultation exercise on this matter in due course.

Also, FHB and CFS will continue to monitor international developments and initiatives relating to safeguarding food safety and identify priority areas which warrant review.

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