

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)338

(Question Serial No. 3783)

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 set out in tabular form the average time lapse between the arrival of imported fruits and vegetables at a control point and the delivery of their samples to the Government Laboratory by the Centre for Food Safety. Please also advise on the average time required for the Government Laboratory to conduct a sample test and obtain a test result, with a breakdown by food type and test type.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 81)

Reply:

To safeguard food safety, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) adopts a risk-based strategy under its Food Surveillance Programme for testing of foods at the import, wholesale and retail levels. As far as imported fruit and vegetable are concerned, they are sampled by CFS upon arrival at the control points, and sent direct to the Man Kam To Food Laboratory of CFS or the Government Laboratory (GL) for testing based on risk assessment.

The time required for food testing depends on a number of factors including the sampling plan, the number and type of samples involved as well as the number and complexity of the testing parameters covered. The actual testing time is therefore diverse. CFS and GL will strive their best to complete testing of all types of samples within the shortest possible time.

- End -