

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)369****(Question Serial No. 5167)**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:

How many unsatisfactory samples were detected each year since the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation came into effect in August 2014? Please provide information on the unsatisfactory samples on a yearly basis as per the tables below.

2014 (starting from August)

Food	Pesticide that exceeds the prescribed limit	Test results	Statutory maximum residue limit (MRL) / extraneous maximum residue limit (EMRL)	Test results higher than the statutory MRL / EMRL by (times)

2015

Food	Pesticide that exceeds the prescribed limit	Test results	Statutory MRL / EMRL	Test results higher than the statutory MRL / EMRL by (times)

2016

Food	Pesticide that exceeds the prescribed limit	Test results	Statutory MRL / EMRL	Test results higher than the statutory MRL / EMRL by (times)

2017

Food	Pesticide that exceeds the prescribed limit	Test results	Statutory MRL / EMRL	Test results higher than the statutory MRL / EMRL by (times)

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 561)

Reply:

From August 2014 to December 2017, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has taken 130 500 food samples for testing on pesticide residues. Among these samples, the test results of 204 samples were detected with pesticide residues exceeding the legal standards. The unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.2%. Breakdown by year is as below -

	2014 (since August 2014)	2015	2016	2017
Number of samples detected with pesticide residues exceeding the legal standards	39	93	45	27

As an established practice, CFS makes known to public the testing results of the unsatisfactory samples through press release which is also uploaded onto CFS' website.

Excessive pesticide residues in food may arise from the trade not observing Good Agricultural Practice, e.g. using excessive pesticides and/or not allowing sufficient time for pesticides to decompose before harvesting. The maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticide residues in food stipulated in the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap.132CM) are not food safety indicators. They are the maximum concentrations of pesticide residues to be permitted in a food commodity under Good Agricultural Practice when applying pesticides. Consumption of food with pesticide residues higher than the MRLs will not necessarily lead to any adverse health effects.

- End -