

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)374**

**(Question Serial No. 5230)**

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:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) advises the trade to procure foods of animal origin from suppliers that follow good practices in the use of veterinary drugs. Does the CFS maintain a list of such suppliers for reference by the trade? If yes, what are the criteria for drawing up the list and the monitoring measures of the Government? What mechanism is in place to ensure that antibiotics are not misused at source by the suppliers?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 624)

Reply:

The trade is statutorily obliged to ensure that the food they procure and sell is fit for human consumption. All regulations set, and advice given to the trade, by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) are meant to facilitate compliance. Consistent with this approach, the CFS has issued a general advice that the trade should procure foods of animal origin from suppliers that follow good practices in the use of veterinary drugs.

The Government has been adopting the "from farm to table" strategy as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in safeguarding food safety and public health. Through establishing and enforcing a regulatory system and safety standards, complemented by proper monitoring, surveillance, testing, self-discipline and public education, the Government seeks to ensure the proper use of antibiotics in husbandry, as recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The Government has enacted the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation (Cap. 139N) and the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) to regulate the feeding of drugs and chemicals to food animals as well as the level of antibiotic residues in food, among other harmful substances. The CFS also collects meat samples for testing of antibiotics at import, wholesale and retail levels under its routine Food Surveillance Programme.

- End -