

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)375****(Question Serial No. 5231)**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:

Please set out the number of laboratory testings conducted by the Centre for Food Safety on antibiotic residues in foods of animal origin over the past 5 years. Are the data available to the public?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 625)Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has put in place an ongoing monitoring mechanism in local slaughterhouses to detect the presence of residues of veterinary drugs (including antibiotics) in animals to be slaughtered to ensure that the meat and offal of these animals are safe for human consumption and compliant with the local statutory requirements. It also collects food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing under the Food Surveillance Programme to safeguard food safety.

The number of samples of food of animal origin tested for antibiotic residues under the Food Surveillance Programme in 2013 – 2017 is tabulated below -

Year	Number of samples of food of animal origin tested	Number of unsatisfactory samples	Satisfactory rate
2013	2 427	2	99.9%
2014	2 673	0	100%
2015	2 910	1	99.9%
2016	2 792	2	99.9%
2017	2 894	4	99.9%

CFS had announced the unsatisfactory test results and conducted follow-up actions accordingly with regard to the above cases.

As a standing practice, CFS issues the Food Safety Report each month to make known to the public routine surveillance results of the previous month. If the test results indicate that the food concerned will pose significant threats to public health or is of public concern, CFS will issue a press release as soon as the test result is available, explain the risks involved and give relevant health advice.

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