

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)346****(Question Serial No. 4814)**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:

- (a) Are fresh, frozen and chilled fish and meat supplied to Hong Kong sampled for chemical or microbiological tests by the Department? If yes, what types of tests are conducted?
- (b) Further to the above question, how many samples were taken in each of the past 5 years? What was the respective number of samples taken at the import, wholesale and retail levels?
- (c) Where are the tests conducted? How many samples can the laboratory handle each day? What is the time required for each test?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1059)Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department took a total of 33 450 samples of fish and meat products, including imported fresh, frozen or chilled fish and meat, at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing over the past 5 years along a risk-based approach under its Food Surveillance Programme. Breakdown of the numbers of samples taken at the respective levels by year is as follows –

	Calendar year					Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Import level	2 970	1 940	1 540	1 860	1 710	10 020
Wholesale level	90	90	140	90	130	540
Retail level	4 950	4 810	4 280	4 620	4 230	22 900
Total	8 010	6 850	5 950	6 570	6 070	33 450

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

The aforementioned food samples were sent to the Government Laboratory (GL) and the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Department of Health for comprehensive chemical analysis and microbiological testing respectively. The number of samples which they can handle each day and the time required for each test vary, depending on various factors including the complexity of the tests and the types of samples involved. GL and PHLSB strive their best to complete testing all types of samples within the shortest possible time.

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