

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)408

(Question Serial No. 6148)

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 following information, with a breakdown by year:

- (1) the number of samples tested for heavy metals in food in the past 5 years, the border points from which the food products sampled were imported into Hong Kong, the types of food concerned, their places of origin, the test results and the exceedances found (if any);
- (2) the number of samples tested for bacteria in food in the past 5 years, the border points from which the food products sampled were imported into Hong Kong, the types of food concerned, their places of origin, the test results and the exceedances found (if any); and
- (3) the number of samples tested for radiation levels in food in the past 5 years, the border points from which the food products sampled were imported into Hong Kong, the types of food concerned, their places of origin, the test results and the exceedances found (if any).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels along a risk-based approach under its Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) to safeguard food safety. CFS does not have breakdown on the numbers of locally produced and imported food samples, and the numbers of samples of food imported via various boundary control points.

- (1) The numbers of food samples tested for metallic contaminants under the FSP in the past 5 years by food group are as follows -

Food group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Vegetables, fruits and products	1 620	1 980	1 620	1 690	3 040	9 950
Meat, poultry and products	30	40	50	150	120	390
Aquatic products	1 340	1 090	1 090	1 190	1 110	5 820
Cereals, grains and products	430	1 040	1 180	1 190	1 240	5 080
Others	830	830	770	780	780	3 990
Total	4 250	4 980	4 710	5 000	6 290	25 230

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

The testing results of all, except 73, of the aforementioned food samples were satisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory samples, 43 were aquatic products, 25 were vegetables, fruits and related products, and 5 were cereals, grains and related products.

(2) The numbers of food samples taken for microbiological testing under the FSP in the past 5 years by food group are as follows -

Food group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Vegetables, fruits and products	310	1 100	1 060	1 200	530	4 200
Meat, poultry and products	1 380	1 460	1 390	1 590	1 460	7 280
Aquatic products	2 540	1 930	1 780	1 870	1 790	9 910
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	5 090	5 220	6 680	6 820	7 310	31 120
Cereals, grains and products	180	140	150	170	120	760
Others	5 410	4 200	4 470	5 500	5 880	25 460
Total	14 910	14 050	15 530	17 150	17 090	78 730

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

The testing results of all, except 159, of the aforementioned food samples were satisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory samples, 93 were milk, milk products and frozen confections, 22 were aquatic products, 13 were vegetables, fruits and related products, 8 were meat, poultry and related products, and 23 were other food products.

(3) CFS conducts radiation checking on every consignment of food products imported from Japan making use of the hand-held survey meters and collects food samples on a risk-based approach for laboratory testing of radiation levels. Also, CFS collects food samples imported from other economies for radiation testing on a risk-based approach. The testing results of all samples taken over the past 5 years were satisfactory. Breakdown of the samples by food group is as follows -

Food group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Vegetables, fruits and products	6 731	10 816	13 301	16 647	17 582	65 077
Meat, poultry and products	2 467	2 207	2 138	2 461	2 814	12 087
Aquatic products	11 614	12 318	12 342	13 450	15 759	65 483

Milk, milk products and frozen confections	858	1 033	1 035	1 091	938	4 955
Others (including drinks, cereal, grain and products and snacks)	42 680	51 340	50 468	55 708	61 495	261 691
Total	64 350	77 714	79 284	89 357	98 588	409 293

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