

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)442**

**(Question Serial No. 4241)**

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:

With regard to the operation of licensed slaughterhouses, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for conducting inspections and tests on live food animals at licensed slaughterhouses and providing meat inspection services at licensed slaughterhouses. In this connection, what is the manpower for carrying out the regular duties concerned? Please set out in tabular form the number of staff with a breakdown by post. In case of emergency, such as an outbreak of swine flu in pigs, what are the contingency plans?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is responsible for examining the health of live food animals and providing meat inspection services in the licensed slaughterhouses. The manpower involved in ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections is provided at Annex.

To ensure that meat supplied to the market is fit for human consumption, all imported and local food animals have to undergo stringent ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses. The Department implements contingency measures in case of an infectious disease outbreak, including isolation of infected animals for examination, culling and disposal of infected animals, and isolated slaughtering of uninfected animals for thorough examination before releasing to the market. Cleansing and disinfection work will be strengthened in the slaughterhouses to prevent spread of the disease.

- End -

**Staff establishment in Slaughterhouses for  
Examination of live food animals and meat inspection**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Establishment</b>
Veterinary Officer	9
Health Inspectorate	49
Field Officer	36
Field Assistant	30
Other supporting staff	15