

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)264**

**(Question Serial No. 5183)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (-) Not specified  
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the meal break arrangements for workers employed by the outsourced service contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department? Are these workers entitled to meal breaks and paid meal breaks? Does the Department provide meal-taking facilities for the non-skilled outsourced workers? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1659)

Reply:

According to the terms in the service contracts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, there is a meal break of 1 hour for non-skilled workers engaged by the contractors on any work shift of 8 hours or longer. If the non-skilled workers are on a work shift of less than 8 hours, they will be allowed to take refreshments at workplace at an appropriate time during working hours, given that the services are properly provided. Whether the non-skilled workers are entitled to paid meal breaks depends on the mutual agreement between the contractors and the non-skilled workers.

When providing public cleansing services, the non-skilled workers engaged by the contractors may have their meals in the attendant rooms, roll call points or other appropriate places where circumstances permit.

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