

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)313

(Question Serial No. 4569)

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.: 150)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels having regard to the risk-based principle under its Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) to safeguard food safety. CFS does not have the breakdown figures of food samples by place of origin and boundary control point of food import.

- (1) The number of food samples tested for metallic contaminants under the FSP in the past 5 years by food group (rounded to the nearest ten) is as follows:

Food group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Vegetables, fruits and related products	1 980	1 620	1 690	3 040	3 240	11 580
Meat, poultry and related products	40	50	150	120	320	660
Aquatic products and related products	1 090	1 090	1 190	1 110	1 430	5 910
Cereals and cereal products	1 040	1 180	1 190	1 240	1 160	5 810
Others	830	770	780	780	810	3 950
Total	4 980	4 710	5 000	6 290	6 970	27 930

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

The testing results of all, except 93, of the aforementioned food samples were satisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory samples, 54 were aquatics products and related products, 33 were vegetables, fruits and related products, and 6 were cereals and cereal products.

(2) The number of food samples taken for microbiological testing under the FSP in the past 5 years (rounded to the nearest ten), with a breakdown by food group, is as follows:

Food group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Vegetables, fruits and related products	1 100	1 060	1 200	530	510	4 380
Meat, poultry and related products	1 460	1 390	1 590	1 460	1 440	7 310
Aquatic products and related products	1 930	1 780	1 870	1 790	1 800	9 140
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	5 220	6 680	6 820	7 310	6 930	32 960
Cereals and cereal products	140	150	170	120	70	630
Others	4 200	4 470	5 500	5 880	6 110	26 200
Total	14 050	15 530	17 150	17 090	16 840	80 620

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

The testing results of all, except 135, of the aforementioned food samples were satisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory samples, 88 were milk, milk products and frozen confections, 12 were vegetables, fruits and related products, 10 were meat, poultry and related products, 3 were aquatic products and related products, and 22 were other food products.

(3) CFS conducts radiation checking on every consignment of food products imported from Japan with the use of hand-held survey meters and adopts a risk-based principle in collecting food samples for laboratory testing of radiation levels. Samples are also taken

from food products imported from other economies for radiation testing under a risk-based approach. The number of such food samples, with a breakdown by food group, is as follows:

Food group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Vegetables, fruits and related products	10 816	13 301	16 647	17 582	16 872	75 218
Meat, poultry and related products	2 207	2 138	2 461	2 814	3 220	12 840
Aquatic products and related products	12 318	12 342	13 450	15 759	14 474	68 343
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	1 033	1 035	1 091	938	1 130	5 227
Others (including drinks, cereals and cereal products and snacks)	51 340	50 468	55 708	61 495	65 864	284 875
Total	77 714	79 284	89 357	98 588	101 560	446 503

The testing results of all samples taken from food products imported from Japan and other economies over the past 5 years were satisfactory.

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