

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)316****(Question Serial No. 4572)**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:

Please set out in tabular form the following information, with a breakdown by food type and place of origin, for the past 5 years:

- (1) the number of imported food samples tested;
- (2) the number of imported food samples which required a product recall, and the quantity of products recalled from the market; and
- (3) the shortest, longest and average time taken (in days) for conducting tests on samples of imported food involved in a product recall.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 153)Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing having regard to the risk-based principle under its Food Surveillance Programme to safeguard food safety. CFS does not keep separate figures on samples collected from locally produced food and imported food. The number of samples tested over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by food group, is as follows:

Food group	Number of samples				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Vegetables, fruits and related products	29 700	30 800	29 900	29 500	28 300
Meat, poultry and related products	6 300	5 300	6 300	5 700	6 100
Aquatic products and related products	5 800	5 600	5 900	5 500	6 100
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	7 900	9 500	9 800	10 000	10 000
Cereals and cereal products	2 900	3 200	3 500	3 400	3 400
Others	11 700	11 100	11 800	11 900	12 300
Total	64 300	65 500	67 100	66 000	66 200

Note: As the figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, they may not add up to the total indicated.

In the same period, there were 26 cases in which samples of imported food were found with unsatisfactory results which necessitated a product recall. The time taken for testing each of these samples varied and was about 12 days on average, depending on various factors including the complexity of the tests and the types of samples involved. The quantity of food products recalled from the market was determined by factors such as whether the implicated food could be stored, whether the food traders had sold all the food products, and whether consumers had returned the products to the food traders. Breakdowns of the samples concerned by food group and place of origin are as follows:

Food group	Number of product recalls (Place of origin [its number of cases in the relevant place of origin])				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Vegetables, fruits and related products	3 (Mainland [2]; South Africa/ Chile/ United States [1])	1 (Taiwan)	1 (Taiwan)	1 (Mainland)	3 (Mainland [2]; Thailand [1])
Aquatic products and related products	1 (New Zealand)	2 (Indian Ocean/ Vietnam [1]; Mainland [1])	2 (United Kingdom)	2 (Italy)	1 (Mainland)
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	2 (Australia; New Zealand)	-	-	-	-
Cereals and cereal products	1 (Japan)	-	1 (Mainland)	-	-
Others	-	-	3 (Australia; Indonesia; Netherlands)	1 (Egypt)	1 (Philippines)

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