

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)003

(Question Serial No. S074)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It was stated in the reply that “cleansing workers will wear protective gear such as face masks, gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, face shields or goggles, coveralls and caps/hats as appropriate.”

In this connection, please provide supplementary information on the following:

1. Does “as appropriate” mean it necessary as purported by the workers or at the discretion of the management?
2. What criteria does the management base on to determine the circumstances under which protective gear such as face masks, gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, face shields or goggles, coveralls and caps/hats is to be worn by workers as appropriate?
3. Is the protective gear such as face masks, gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, face shields or goggles, coveralls and caps/hats disposable or reusable? Is every worker provided with a full set of gear?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department attaches great importance to the safety as well as occupational safety and health arrangements of staff (including in-house cleansing workers and those employed by outsourced contractors). The Department and contractors conduct risk assessments based on working environment settings, take appropriate precautionary measures, and provide cleansing workers with adequate and suitable personal protective equipment (PPE). Cleansing workers will use different PPE for different working environment settings as appropriate, e.g. face masks and gloves for routine street sweeping; face masks, gloves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, goggles or face shields, etc. for routine street washing. For street washing in the vicinity of the buildings with confirmed cases by cleansing workers under the instructions of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, face masks, gloves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, goggles or face shields, coveralls, caps/hats, etc. will be used. Generally speaking,

the PPE used by cleansing workers in performing routine cleansing duties, including gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, goggles and face shields, is reusable.

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