

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)186

(Question Serial No. 2279)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Has the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) stepped up sampling of frozen foods or goods from places badly hit by the pandemic (e.g. the United States, Brazil and India) for COVID-19 testing in 2020-21? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)? Will the Department conduct COVID-19 testing on frozen foods or goods imported from places hard hit by the pandemic in 2021-22? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been collecting samples of various types of frozen foods (and their packaging) at the import level for COVID-19 testing since mid-2020. As at late March 2021, over 6 000 relevant samples of food (mainly meat and seafood) imported from 50 places were collected for testing. The results were all negative. The CFS will continue to take samples of frozen foods (and their packaging) imported from different places for testing and closely monitor the risk of virus transmission via imported frozen foods.

- End -