

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SV-FHB(FE)002**

**(Question Serial No. SV013)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)031:

Please explain the measures taken by the Government to handle insect and rodent infestation in private/domestic premises, including but not limited to whether or not amendments to relevant provisions in the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) will be considered.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The cleaning, disinsectisation and rodent disinfection work in private/domestic premises are the responsibilities of the owners or occupiers of the related premises. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is mainly responsible for the environmental hygiene of public places and does not provide disinsectisation and rodent disinfection services in private/domestic premises in general. However, the Department will provide health advice and information on suitable pest control measures for owners or occupiers of private premises, estate management personnel, etc., where necessary.

According to section 47 (1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) (the Ordinance), where it appears to the Director of the Food and Environmental Hygiene (the Director) that any premises (including domestic premises) are infested with vermin, the Director may require the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned to destroy and remove the vermin. In addition, under the circumstances specified in the Ordinance (including emergencies) and within the specified time, the Department may invoke section 126 of the Ordinance to make application to the Magistrate's Court for entry into private premises. If it is confirmed that the premises are infested with vermin, the Department may take reasonable steps as required under section 47(4) of the Ordinance to destroy or remove the vermin in the premises for protection of public health. The cost of the work done may be recovered from the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned under section 130 of the Ordinance.

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