

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)067**

**(Question Serial No. 1837)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regards to the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints, please advise on the following:

1. Of the cases investigated by the Joint Offices in each of the past 3 years, how many involved complaints about water seepage in cold stores?
2. How many licensed cold stores were there in Hong Kong in the past 3 years?
3. Is it the case that only cold stores involving storage of food are required to apply for a licence under the existing policy? How does the Department monitor whether the storage of food comply with regulations and whether measures are in place to prevent inter-floor water seepage in such cold stores?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. The Joint Office set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department is responsible for investigation of reports on water seepage in buildings. It does not keep a breakdown of the number of complaints about water seepage in cold stores handled.
2. The information sought, broken down by year, is tabulated as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of licensed cold stores	66	75	88

3. Under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), a cold store licence must be obtained from FEHD for any warehouse in which articles of food are stored under refrigeration. In handling a cold store licence application, FEHD mainly takes into account food safety and hygiene, building safety and fire safety. It also conducts regular inspections after the issue of the licence to ensure that the operation of the cold store is in compliance

with the requirements. Moreover, FEHD has set out standard licensing requirements for cold store licences, including that the floor and wall surfaces of every cold storage room must be evenly surfaced with a hard non-absorbent material.

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