

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)073

(Question Serial No. 0783)

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 Environment and Ecology

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong, the total import and average import price of Mainland chilled pork, as well as the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

There were 11, 11 and 16 Mainland processing plants approved by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively.

According to the figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department, about 8 142 tonnes, 18 713 tonnes and 10 505 tonnes of Mainland chilled pork were imported into Hong Kong in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. The average import prices of Mainland chilled pork were \$22.3, \$20.2 and \$22.1 per catty in the respective years.

In 2021 and 2022, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department was not able to conduct inspections to Mainland processing plants supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong. Questionnaire surveys were conducted instead on 5 and 6 processing plants in the respective years. Since 2023, the normal travel of persons between Hong Kong and the Mainland has resumed in phases. Having discussed with the Mainland authorities, CFS adopted a mixed approach by conducting questionnaire surveys or on-site inspections on a total of 7 Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2023.

- End -