

**For information**

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Control of Uncovered Roast Meat during Transportation**

**BACKGROUND**

The LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene discussed the paper on “Policy on the Issue of Food Factory (Meat Roasting) Licence” on 20 November 2002. At the meeting, Members expressed concern over the food hygiene risk associated with the transportation of uncovered roast meat. The Administration was requested to provide information on the relevant legislative control of and the enforcement actions taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) against such activities.

**LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

2. The storage and transportation of food is regulated by the following provisions of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.) (FBR) -

- (a) Section 11 requires food business operators to properly store their food to prevent exposure to dust, insects and vermin.
- (b) Section 12 prohibits the transportation of open food unless it is adequately protected by suitable materials from risk of contamination or deterioration.

Contravention of the above is an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. Repeated offenders will also be subject to an additional daily penalty of \$300.

**ENFORCEMENT**

3. At present, licensed food premises are subject to regular inspection by FEHD. FEHD also conducts surprise inspections and blitz

operations at retail outlets that sell roast meat to check that the roast meat is properly stored and delivered.

4. As far as the transportation of roast meat is concerned, FEHD observes that it is usually delivered from meat roasting factory to retail outlets by goods vehicles. The roast meat is unloaded from the vehicles onto trolleys or containers for transfer to roast meat shops. The meat is covered during the transfer process.

5. In 2000, 2001 and 2002, FEHD took 395, 493 and 317 enforcement actions respectively against roast meat shops and licensed restaurants for improper storage of roast meat. These actions were not related to the transportation of uncovered roast meat.

6. FEHD will be on the alert in taking enforcement action against exposure of roast meat during transportation.

#### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

7. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
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