

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 9 July 2004)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Policy on the issue of Food Factory (Meat Roasting) Licence	20 November 2002	The Administration to provide a paper to report the outcome of its consultation with the trade on the proposed policy on the issue of Food Factory (Meat Roasting) Licence.	A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response. Response awaited.
2. Team Clean's further report on measures to improve environmental hygiene in Hong Kong <i>(see also item 6)</i>	15 August 2003	The Administration to provide the following information - (a) <i>effects on public health</i> : how far the protection rendered to the public against avian influenza would be further enhanced by banning live poultry trade at retail level; (b) <i>economic costs</i> : a comparison between the costs devoted to the surveillance and control of the disease and the total economic return generated by the live poultry trade; and	A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response. Response awaited.

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		(c) <i>social costs</i> : an assessment on the social costs incurred by imposing such a ban, e.g. considering the number of people losing their jobs and the chance of their getting new employment.	
3. Discovery of Vibrio Cholerae in retail fish stalls and the quality of fish tank water	16 September 2003	The Administration to provide the findings of FEHD's investigation into the presence of Vibrio Cholerae in PARKnSHOP's Pok Fu Lam Shop upon completion of the investigation.	A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response. Response awaited.
4. Regulatory control of "private kitchens"	18 December 2003	The Administration to provide information on - (a) operation of "private kitchens" in small houses in the New Territories; (b) differences in fitting-out requirements between the traditional restaurants and "private kitchens"; and (c) licensing requirements of the private clubs as compared with those for the "private kitchens".	A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response. Response awaited.

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<p>5. Measures against avian influenza (AI)</p>	<p>10 March 2004</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a progress report on the proposed interim measures outlined in its paper issued for the Panel meeting on 25 February 2004 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) import of live, chilled and frozen poultry; (b) development of local hatchery operation; and (c) review of existing regulatory framework for local poultry farming. <p>The Administration was also requested to provide the criteria and the timetable for implementation, as well as the scientific basis in support of its proposals.</p>	<p>Regarding (a), the Administration provided further information at the Panel meetings on 2 and 15 April 2004 [LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 1930/03-04(01) & CB(2) 2051/03-04(01)], and also in its letters to Panel Chairman on 23 & 29 April 2004 [LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 2147 & 2201/03-04].</p> <p>A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response to the outstanding issues.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p>
<p>6. Consultation paper on "Prevention of avian influenza : Consultation on long term direction to minimise the risk of human infection"</p>	<p>2 April 2004</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the estimated number of persons currently engaged in the transportation and sale of poultry, and the number that can switch to the new trades if the proposed approaches of 	<p>The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)3022/03-04 on 5 July 2004.</p>

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		<p>"cold chain" or "freshly slaughtered poultry" were adopted;</p> <p>(b) the estimated gross product value of the poultry trade and the Government expenses to prevent/control AI; and</p> <p>(c) scientific basis for increasing the number of rest days in retail markets.</p>	
7. Resumption of importation of live chickens	27 April 2004	<p>The Administration to -</p> <p>(a) provide a paper on the health rules and importation control measures for fertile eggs; and</p> <p>(b) look into whether there was a market manipulation problem in the live chicken market.</p>	<p>A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p>
8. Control of live fish wholesalers and fish tank water quality	27 April 2004	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a report on the recent ciguatera poisoning incidents.</p>	<p>The subject will be discussed at the Panel meeting on 13 July 2004.</p>
9. Chemical residues in food animals and food	25 May 2004	<p>The Administration to provide information on -</p> <p>(a) the inspection and sampling test</p>	<p>A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response.</p>

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		mechanism for chilled fish, the amount tested last year and test results; and (b) the outcome and penalties imposed in the nine prosecuted cases as set out in paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper.	Response awaited.
10. Monitoring of chemical levels in mung bean vermicelli and other food products	25 May 2004	The Administration to provide findings of the survey on the chemical level and packaging of food products imported from the Mainland without local agents.	The Administration undertook to provide the findings when they were available.
11. Study on H7 and H9 virus	4 June 2004	The Administration to provide information on the study on H7 and H9 virus found at the poultry markets.	A letter dated 3 July 2004 was issued to remind the Administration to provide a response. Response awaited.