

Information Note

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Proposed Demerit Points System for Licensed Food Premises

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 6 April 2006, the Administration was asked to provide –

- (a) statistics on successful and unsuccessful prosecutions which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) made against licensed food premises and the penalty awarded in the successful cases in the past five years; and
- (b) information on the number of food poisoning cases in Asian countries and the United States of America (USA), and the extent of such problems as compared to Hong Kong.

2. The statistics on successful and unsuccessful prosecutions initiated by the FEHD against licensed food premises for offences relating to the Demerit Points System and the penalty awarded in the last five years (i.e. from 2006 to 2010) are at **Annex I**.

3. The statistics on food poisoning cases in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and the USA from 2006 to 2010 are at **Annex II**. We do not have the statistics on food poisoning cases in other Asian countries, such as Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. As the demographic characteristics, eating habits, licensing regime of food premises and notification system for food poisoning cases are different in different places, comparing the extent of food poisoning in Hong Kong with other countries would not be appropriate.

Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
April 2011

**Number of Prosecutions against Licensed Food Premises
for Offences relating to the Demerit Points System
(2006 to 2010)**

Contraventions	Results	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)	No. of successful prosecutions	0	0	2	8	1
	No. of unsuccessful prosecutions	0	0	0	0	0
	Range of fines	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$2,500 to \$5,000	\$100 to \$15,000	\$2,000
Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X)	No. of successful prosecutions	1 382	1 680	1 485	1 544	911
	No. of unsuccessful prosecutions	7	9	7	3	0
	Range of fines	\$100 to \$10,000	\$100 to \$11,000	\$100 to \$10,000	\$100 to \$20,000	\$100 to \$10,000
Frozen Confections Regulation (Cap. 132AC)	No. of successful prosecutions	2	1	1	0	0
	No. of unsuccessful prosecutions	0	0	0	0	0
	Range of fines	\$1,500 to \$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	Not applicable	Not applicable
Preservatives in Food Regulation (Cap.132BD)	No. of successful prosecutions	0	1	6	29	3
	No. of unsuccessful prosecutions	0	0	0	0	0
	Range of fines	Not applicable	\$10,000	\$1,000 to \$15,000	\$800 to \$20,000	\$2,000 to \$20,000

Remarks: Figure as at 31.12.2010

**Statistics on Food Poisoning Cases in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and the USA
(2006 to 2010)**

Year	Food Poisoning Cases	Hong Kong	Singapore	Japan	USA
2006	Total no. of cases	1 094	105	1 491	1 267
	No. of cases related to food premises	859	81	Not available	Not available
2007	Total no. of cases	621	129	1 289	1 098
	No. of cases related to food premises	507	101	Not available	Not available
2008	Total no. of cases	619	136	1 369	1 022
	No. of cases related to food premises	477	81	Not available	Not available
2009	Total no. of cases	407	211	1 048	Not available
	No. of cases related to food premises	343	128	Not available	Not available
2010	Total no. of cases	318	Not available	Not available	Not available
	No. of cases related to food premises	279	Not available	Not available	Not available

Note: Sources of statistical data -

Websites of the Centre for Health Protection in Hong Kong, the Ministry of Health in Singapore, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA, and the 45th issue of Food Safety Focus published by the Centre for Food Safety, Hong Kong.