

本函檔號 Our ref.:
來函檔號 Your ref.:

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31 July 2007

Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2
Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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Hong Kong
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss Tai,

Imported Mainland Chilled Food

Thank you for your letter of July 17 relaying the concern of Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki over media reports that some Mainland processing plants supplying chilled chicken to Hong Kong allegedly sourced chickens from non-registered farms and supplied them to Hong Kong as approved chilled chicken after processing. As requested, our response is set out below.

According to the agreement between the Hong Kong SAR Government and the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, all imported chilled chickens must come from farms and processing plants approved and regulated by the relevant Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) also conducts audit inspections to these Mainland registered farms and processing plants to ensure compliance with the agreed protocol on inspection and quarantine. If irregularities are detected, the CFS will reflect the situation to the corresponding inspection and quarantine authorities and request their assistance in ensuring rectification of the situation by the enterprises concerned. Between

January 2006 and late June 2007, the CFS had conducted a total of 18 inspections on the Mainland processing plants and corresponding farms supplying chilled chickens to Hong Kong.

Furthermore, all imported chilled chickens are at present regulated by the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations (Cap. 132AK). Application must be made with the FEHD for every consignment of chilled chickens and approval obtained before importation. All imports should be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the export health inspection and quarantine authorities. In addition to conducting inspections at the import level, the CFS also takes food samples for testing at wholesale and retail levels.

During the period between January 2006 and June this year, the CFS had taken a total of about 640 samples of chicken and related products (including 220 samples of imported Mainland chilled chicken) for chemical and microbiological testing. All test results were satisfactory.

The CFS was highly concerned about recent media reports on imported Mainland chilled chicken and contacted the relevant Mainland authorities to follow up. After a thorough investigation, the authorities had not identified any problem in the poultry product processing plants as alleged in the media reports.

We will continue to enhance liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities in conjunction with the CFS to ensure that imported chilled chickens are safe and fit for human consumption. The CFS will also continue cooperation with the Customs and Excise Department in combating the illegal import of poultry.

Yours sincerely

(Johnson TANG)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food