



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
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Hong Kong  
(Attn: Miss Mary SO)  
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26 January 2010

Dear Miss SO,

**Meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
on 12 January 2010**

At the above meeting, the Undersecretary for Food and Health reported to the Panel its recent meeting with the vegetable trade on 17 December last year and the follow up work thereafter. The relevant information is now reproduced below.

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Customs and Excise Department met with two Legislative Councillors, namely, Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, as well as representatives of the vegetable trade on 17 December last year for exchange of views regarding issues of concern to the trade.

According to the vegetable trade representatives, they had met with the relevant Mainland authorities and furnished the Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (SZCIQ) with information on the issue of vegetables from non-registered farms being supplied to Hong Kong. To follow up on the

meeting on 17 December 2009, FHB met with the SZCIQ on 31 December 2009 and visited the Nanshan Centre for Processing and Distribution of Agricultural products to Hong Kong (南山供港農產品加工配送中心) (the Nanshan Centre) and Man Kam To Control Point on 8 January 2010 to observe on the spot the Mainland's supervisory measures on vegetables supplied to Hong Kong:

- (1) Implementation of the Administrative Measures on Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision for Vegetables Supplied to Hong Kong and Macao (the new Measures) with effect on 1 November 2009.
  - Under the new Measures, trucks carrying vegetables into Hong Kong from the Mainland are required to have, for each consignment of vegetables, a valid "export certificate" on which stated clearly the name and address of the relevant registered processing establishment, as well as the species and quantities of the vegetables, etc. The cartons or baskets for placing/packaging the vegetables on vehicles must be affixed with labels specifying the vegetable species and details of the processing establishments. Such labels are used solely for identification and sourcing tracing purpose.
  - Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities will check the export certificates of vegetable vehicles to verify the labels on the cartons or baskets and conduct random testing. If the vegetables only have labels but are not accompanied with a valid export certificate, or the information of both documents does not dovetail, they cannot pass the inspections of both the Mainland and Hong Kong authorities.
  - According to the information provided by SZCIQ, in 2009 more than 220 000 vegetable samples were taken by the Nanshan Centre for testing of pesticide residues (i.e. an average of 600 to 700 vegetables samples for testing per day). The satisfactory rate was over 99%, which tallied with the results of surveillance and random testing of pesticide residues in imported vegetables conducted by the Centre for Food Safety at Man Kam To over the same period.
  - The SZCIQ has introduced an electronic management system for various supervision work in relation to vegetables supplied to Hong Kong. For instance, the SZCIQ has installed video surveillance systems in 14 production and processing establishments which supply vegetables to Hong Kong in areas under its jurisdiction, and set up a real time video surveillance




centre at the Man Kam To Sub-bureau. Officers are deployed to the production and processing establishments to monitor the production procedures such as the purchase of raw materials, processing, testing, vehicle loading, and sealing of consignments. Through video surveillance and videotaping the operation of production and processing establishments, the inspection and quarantine authorities are able to monitor their operation more effectively for detection of any malpractice or illegal activities.

- (2) SZCIQ advised that in an effort to follow up on the information furnished by representatives of the vegetable trade concerning those vehicles suspected of involving in carrying vegetables from non-registered vegetable farms into Hong Kong, it has kept the eight vehicles in question under surveillance since mid-December last year and carried out 47 random inspections on them. However, no irregularities have been detected. SZCIQ also advised that the vegetable trade could contact them directly if they have any further information.
- (3) SZCIQ's daily supervision also covers the following areas of work which aim at strengthening the supervision and management over the production and processing establishments to eradicate any activities of mixing in vegetables not for supply to Hong Kong.
  - Random checks are conducted on establishments at the Nanshan Centre to verify the details on certification documents for supply of vegetables. Non-complying establishments found to have any irregularities (such as discrepancies between the information of the supply certification document and the reported supply quantity record, incomplete records of the certification documents for supply of vegetables) will be ordered to rectify the irregularities and sanctions will also be taken.
  - The Man Kam To Sub-bureau has deployed task forces to the Nanshan Centre to conduct random checks on processing establishments to verify the products and the details of the certificates.
  - The inspection and quarantine authorities conduct random checks on the accompanying documents of vegetable vehicles to Hong Kong at Man Kam To. Instead of checking only the labels on the vegetable packages, the authorities must ensure that the information on the "export certificate" tallies with that on the vegetable package before it can be released.

FHB, together with the relevant departments, will continue to maintain good communication with the vegetable trade and close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities, in monitoring the food safety of vegetables imported from the Mainland.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Gillian LAM)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.:

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