

**Director of Audit's Report No. 57, Chapters 3 and 4
6 December 2011**

**Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Speaking Note**

- As SFH has mentioned, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been actively taking follow-up actions against the suspected non-compliant cases referred to in the Director of Audit's Report. Now, I would like to brief Members on the latest results of our follow-up actions :
- As stated in paragraph 2.7 of the Report, 350 suspected non-compliant food products were found in small retail outlets. As the Audit Commission could only provide information for 59 of them, the CFS can only handle these cases. Among them, 6 have been confirmed to be non-compliant, 6 confirmed to be compliant and 47 were no longer found for sale in the outlets. We will continue to check the availability of these products in the market in our future inspections.
- The CFS has taken follow-up actions on the 42 samples which were considered to be unsatisfactory after Audit's independent laboratory testing, as stated in paragraph 2.10 of the Report. We have collected 40 samples from these outlets and sent them to the Government Laboratory (GL) for testing. The results showed that 18 were satisfactory and we are seeking clarification from food traders on the discrepancies in testing results for 22 samples. In other words, the analysis results of the GL showed that non-compliant rate should be about 34% instead of 60% as mentioned in paragraph 2.10. Although this is still higher than the CFS's non-compliant rate of 7.8%, we believe the reason is, as we have pointed out earlier, due to the enforcement strategy in the first year of the nutrition labelling scheme.
- For the 17 suspected non-compliant cases on nutrition claims stated in paragraph 3.12, the CFS' investigation found that 3 were compliant, the labels in 6 cases were rectified, 1 was no longer for sale and 1 still under investigation. The CFS has sent warning letters to the relevant traders requiring them to revise the labels in respect of the 6 problematic products within 60 days.