

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 12 October 2015)

- | | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| 1. Enhancing the monitoring and surveillance of food trading and imports | November 2015 |

At the meeting on 9 June 2015, members agreed to Dr Hon Helena WONG's suggestion that the Panel should discuss the food safety surveillance mechanism for food products imported via marine channel at a future meeting. Members noted that Dr WONG had written a letter to the Panel Chairman in May 2015 expressing concern about the absence of food inspection checkpoint at the Kwai Chung Container Terminal to conduct checks on food products imported via marine channel, in particular those imported from Japan which might be contaminated by radiation (LC Paper No. CB(2)1432/14-15(01)).

Prof Hon Joseph LEE suggested, in his letter dated 18 September 2015, discussion of the regulation of online sale of food products and the relevant food safety legislation regulating such activities (LC Paper No. CB(2)2126/14-15(01)).

The Administration plans to brief the Panel in November 2015 on its efforts in enhancing the monitoring and surveillance of food trading and imports including the above two issues suggested by members.

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| 2. Promotion of green burial | November 2015 |
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When the Panel discussed the item "Provision of Columbarium and Garden of Remembrance at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun" at the meeting on 14 April 2015, members requested the Administration to provide information on its measures taken and/or to be taken to promote green burial.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in November 2015.

3. Updated proposal on the election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong

November 2015

The Administration briefed the Panel in April 2015 on the proposed legislation for the election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong. Noting that the veterinary profession was consulted in parallel on the proposed arrangements, members requested the Administration to keep the Panel informed of the outcome of the consultation before proceeding further.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel in November 2015 on the outcome of the consultation and the revised legislative proposal.

4. Supply chain of powdered formula

December 2015

The subject was last reported to the Panel on 9 December 2014. The Administration plans to update the Panel on its efforts in monitoring the supply of powdered formula.

5. Progress report on the implementation of the Hawker Assistance Scheme

December 2015

The Panel was last consulted on 5 February 2013 on the details of the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The Finance Committee approved in March 2013 the creation of a new commitment of \$230 million for launching the Scheme to provide financial assistance to some 4 300 hawkers in 43 hawker areas for expediting relocation of stalls or in-situ stall reconstruction to reduce fire risks. The Administration intends to

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

report progress to the Panel in December 2015.

6. Code of practice on pet trading

1st quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

When the Panel discussed the item "Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading" at the meeting on 8 July 2014, it was advised that the Administration was working on and refining the draft Code of Practice ("CoP") and additional conditions in consultation with the trade. The Administration undertook to consult the trade and the Panel when the draft CoP was ready.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 1st quarter of 2016.

7. Results of the public consultation exercise on regulation of edible fats and oils and recycling of "waste cooking oils"

1st quarter of 2016

The Panel discussed with the Administration on 14 July 2015 the legislative proposals on regulation of edible fats and oils and recycling of "waste cooking oils" as set out in the public consultation document issued by the Administration in July 2015, and held a special meeting on 6 October 2015 to receive views from deputations on the legislative proposals. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel once the consultation results were available. The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the consultation results in the 1st quarter of 2016.

8. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of heavy metals in food

1st quarter of 2016
(tentatively)

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

WONG expressed concern about the safety standards for heavy metals in food and urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation for regulating the presence of heavy metals in food. She hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

The Administration plans to launch a public consultation and to brief the Panel on the subject in the 1st quarter of 2016 tentatively.

9. Proposed legislation for implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong

2nd quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 11 March 2014, members were briefed on the Administration's proposal to introduce a control scheme for the trading of toothfish by way of a piece of legislation for the implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong. Members noted that the Administration would engage relevant stakeholders (including seafood traders and importers) and seek their views on the proposed control scheme.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2016.

10. Redevelopment of food safety laboratory of the Government Laboratory

2nd half of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a proposal to redevelop the food safety laboratory under the Government Laboratory to further enhance the testing capacity on food safety related analysis.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd half of 2016.

11. Wholesale market consultancy study

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultant to study the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyze the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel when the outcome of the consultancy study was ready.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in due course.

12. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat

To be confirmed

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation of cooked meat and considered that the subject should be followed up by the Panel. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members and the trade. Hon WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide the Panel with a policy paper on the subject in the 2014-2015 session.

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG hoped that the Administration would brief the Panel as early as possible on the progress of the review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

13. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item when ready.

14. Issuance of new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence

To be confirmed

Members noted a submission from a member of the public expressing concern about the progress of the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence tabled at the meeting on 11 March 2014. Hon WONG Kwok-hing suggested the Panel to follow up the subject at a future Panel meeting.

The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel to study and review hawker policy had commenced its work since April 2014. At the informal meeting on 23 October 2014, there was a suggestion that given that the subject of the Administration's policy on the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence falls within the Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee, the matter be referred to the Subcommittee for follow-up.

15. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety. It plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

regulatory framework in due course.

16. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.

At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted the research report on "Liquor licensing system in selected places" prepared by Research Office, Information Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel to discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and to invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views at a future meeting.

17. Safety of food for pet animals

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen suggested that the subject of the safety of food for pet animals be discussed at a future Panel meeting. Hon CHAN had written a letter to the Panel Chairman in late April 2014 expressing concern about the presence of harmful substances in pet food (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(01)). The Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in Hon CHAN's letter was issued to members on 5 May 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(02)).

In his letter dated 20 July 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1958/14-15(01)), Hon CHAN Hak-kan also suggested the discussion of the subject matter.

**Proposed timing
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18. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. He pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre by the Government for the chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would follow up the subject matter.

19. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 February 2010, in the light of the concerns raised by Hon WONG Yung-kan, the Panel Chairman suggested that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.

During the discussion of the implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO") at the meeting on 11 July 2012, Hon WONG Yung-kan expressed worry about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay. He urged the Administration to step up the regulatory measures for oyster culture, including the introduction of a licensing mechanism.

20. Implementation of regulation governing labelling of infant formula

To be confirmed

The following issues are referred by the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014 ("the Amendment Regulation") to this Panel for follow-up -

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (a) the results of the sampling tests on the fluoride content in infant formula to be conducted by the Centre for Food Safety upon implementation of the Amendment Regulation; and
- (b) the enforcement actions to be taken by the Administration against non-compliant cases relating to the nutritional composition and nutrition labelling requirements for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. (For details, please refer to paragraphs 22, 25 and 30 of the report of the Subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15).)

21. Outcome of the comprehensive review of the food-safety related penalties

To be confirmed

Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a comprehensive review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as FSO in 2015. The Administration also agreed to report the outcome of the study to the Panel (see details in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report of the Subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15).)

22. The import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 December 2014, members noted that a letter from Hon Claudia MO expressing her concern about the import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats and the Administration's response to her letter had been issued to members (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)408/14-15(01) and (02)). At

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

the request of Hon MO, members agreed that the subject be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

23. Proposed implementation of the new agricultural policy

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 13 January 2015, members were briefed on the Administration's consultation document entitled "The New Agricultural Policy: Sustainable Agricultural Development in Hong Kong".

Subsequently, the Panel received public views at the meeting on 9 June 2015 on the consultation document. Members were advised that the Administration was considering and would give due regard to the recommendations and feedback received during the public consultation exercise before finalizing the proposals.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the concrete proposals to implement the new agricultural policy at a future meeting.

24. Rental adjustment mechanism for public market stalls

To be confirmed

The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets formed under the Panel has completed its work. During the course of deliberations, the Subcommittee has made a number of recommendations for enhancing the operating environment and business competitiveness of public markets (please refer to paragraph 36 of the Subcommittee's report for details (LC Paper No. CB(2)2142/14-15(01)). In recommending that the Panel should follow up with the Administration the various issues raised therein, the Subcommittee has specifically requested the Administration to consult the Panel on its proposals, if any, for rental adjustment mechanism for public market

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stalls in the first quarter of 2017 at the latest (paragraph 31 of the report refers).

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Legislative Council Secretariat
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