

本函檔號 Our ref.: HWF(F) 5/5/2
來函檔號 Your ref.:

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16 July 2004

Mrs Constance LI
Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Fax : 2509 0775)

Dear Mrs Li,

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Follow-up actions arising from
the meeting on 27 April 2004**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 27 April 2004, a Member asked if there was any import control or hygiene requirements imposed on fertile eggs. I am pleased to provide the requested information.

There is currently no legislative control over the importation of fertile eggs into Hong Kong. However, an administrative system is in place to control the importation of fertile eggs for hatching purpose if used by local licensed farms. With effect from 27 May 2004, all licensed chickens farms are only permitted to obtain local day-old chicks from hatcheries that are recognized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). AFCD will only recognize a hatchery if it has, amongst other things, fulfilled the following conditions –

- (a) Fertile eggs, if sourced locally, may only be sourced from licensed chicken farms. For imported fertile eggs, health certification accompanying the eggs must be kept on the hatching farm and be available for inspection for 30 days after delivery; and
- (b) An accurate, up-to-date record of origin of eggs, egg movement, introduction of eggs to incubators, culling of dead eggs, number of hatching birds, total hatchability, fertile egg hatchability, culling of day old chicks, sale record of day old chicks must be kept for at least 12 months. These records must be made available to AFCD at any time on request.

As present, there is no specific legislation governing the importation of table eggs. As fertile eggs are usually more expensive than table eggs, it is unlikely that the traders would sell fertile eggs as table eggs. From the food safety angle, we are not aware of any study highlighting the risk of consuming fertile eggs.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Vivian Ko)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. DFEH (Attn. : Dr Thomas CHUNG)
DAFC (Attn. : Mr C W LAI)

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