

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**List of Concerns and Suggestions raised at the
Special meetings on 26 and 30 August 2005**

Malachite Green and Chemicals banned in Other Places

1. In as early as 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture in the Mainland added malachite green into its List of Veterinary Drugs and Other Chemicals Prohibited in Food Animals. Was the SAR Government aware of the List and had it been notified that malachite green had been listed as a prohibited drug? If so, why the SAR Government still has not listed malachite green as a prohibited drug in the past two years?
2. Apart from malachite green, are there any other prohibited drugs in the List that can still be used in Hong Kong? If so, please provide the names of these chemicals.

Monitoring and Sample Testing of Freshwater Fish Supply to Hong Kong by Hong Kong and the Mainland

3. The Administration should consider sample testing freshwater fish imported from the Mainland at the entry control points to ensure they are malachite green free, or implementing the “co-location” arrangement at the border. It is not necessary to take random samples at the wholesale and retail levels.
4. Apart from monitoring the safety of freshwater fish supply to Hong Kong at source, what mechanism is in place to ensure that the inspected freshwater fish are still safe during the importation and delivery processes?
5. The method and standard of testing malachite green adopted by Hong Kong and the Mainland should be consistent.
6. Will the Administration consider testing the water samples of fish farms designated for supplying freshwater fish to Hong Kong to ensure the non-existence of malachite green?
7. Will the Administration increase manpower and resources to strengthen the monitoring and sample testing of imported freshwater fish and food processing plants?
8. Will all freshwater fish imported from the Mainland be accompanied by health certificates to certify that they are free from malachite green?

Assistance provided to freshwater fish trade

9. The Administration should consider providing ex-gratia payments to the affected wholesalers and retailers of freshwater fish, granting them rent reduction /waiver and offering interest-free loans, so as to help the affected trade operators tide over the difficult times.
10. The Administration should provide assistance to enable early resumption of freshwater fish supply to Hong Kong. When will the trade be informed of the date for full resumption of freshwater fish supply to Hong Kong?
11. The Administration should enhance the communication with fish traders and notify them as soon as possible details of the regulatory mechanism.

Information of the registered fish farms in the Mainland designated for supplying freshwater fish to Hong Kong

12. The Administration should enhance the communication with the trade to inform them as soon as possible the list of registered fish farms, and provide them with information concerning the first batch of 18 registered fish farms in the Mainland designated for supplying freshwater fish to Hong Kong, which includes the address of the farms as well as the types and quantity of fish cultivated.
13. Regarding the 88 registered fish farms in the Mainland designated for supplying freshwater fish to Hong Kong, apart from supplying the four main “household fish”, do they also supply “miscellaneous fish”? Will there be a supply of “miscellaneous fish” in the near future and what is the quantity?
14. Can the 88 registered fish farms in the Mainland designated for supplying freshwater fish to Hong supply sufficient fish for our consumption? Will the Mainland authority increase the number of registered fish farms to avoid monopolization of supply by a few fish farms?
15. According to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, the Mainland can supply 100 tonnes of freshwater fish to Hong Kong, are these fish from the 88 registered fish farms? Through which channel can the supply be secured?
16. The Administration should inform the traders details of the operation, facilities and sample testing standards of the registered fish farms as soon as practicable.

Enforcement/Way forward

17. What specific measures/plans are in place to restore public confidence in consuming freshwater fish? The Administration should help the public differentiate between local and Mainland freshwater fish.
18. The Administration should immediately introduce a tracing system for aquatic products, under which importers, wholesalers and retailers are required to keep records of the sources and sales of each batch of aquatic products, so that rapid tracing of the origin of any problematic aquatic products is possible.
19. The Administration should make reference to the monitoring mechanism to prevent the spread of avian flu virus among chicken by revoking the licence of fish farms if malachite green is detected in their aquatic products.
20. After the gazettal of the prohibition of malachite green in food, what measures or actions will the Administration take if malachite green is still detected in freshwater fish samples from registered fish farms for supply to Hong Kong? Will the fish traders be prosecuted? Will the Mainland fish farms be punished?

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