

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2611/08-09
(These minutes have been seen by
the Administration)

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 22 June 2009, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Member attending** : Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
- Member absent** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Items I & II
Prof Gabriel M LEUNG, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health
- Item I
Mr Francis HO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Mr WONG Kai-tat
Chief Engineer/Mainland South
Drainage Services Department

Ms CHU Lan-ying
Assistant Director (Operations)³
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Andrew TSANG
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)
Home Affairs Department

Mrs Angel CHOI MA On-ki
Departmental Secretary
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr FUNG Man-lok
Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections)
Social Welfare Department

Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor
Senior Country Park Officer (North-west) (Acting)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr FUNG Kwok-ming
General Manager/Services
Marine Department

Item II

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Food) 1

Dr Constance CHAN Hon-ye, JP
Controller, Centre for Food Safety
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr LEE Siu-yuen
Assistant Director (Food Surveillance & Control)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Philip HO Yuk-yin
Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and
Communication)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Attendance by invitation : Item II

Association of Green, Organic at Living

Ms Yolanda CHE
Chair, Regulatory Affairs Committee

SGS Hong Kong Ltd.

Miss Charine LAU Wai-yee
Senior Manager

Miss Kitty LAI Kit-ying
Assistant Technical Development Manager

Consumer Council

Ms Rosa WONG
Head, Research & Trade Practices Division

China Dragon Inspection and Certification (H.K.) Ltd.

Mr Andy KO
Deputy Managing Director & Technical Director

Mr PAK Siu-wa
Manager (Food & Cosmetic Consultancy)

Hong Kong Retail Management Association

Mr Charlie WOOD
Representative

Mr Thomas WOO
Representative

Hong Kong Suppliers Association Ltd.

Mr Albert TANG
Chairman

Ms Frenda WONG
Member

Hong Kong Nutrition Association

Mr Terry TING Ho-yan
President-elect

Mr Gordon CHEUNG Chi-leung
External Coordinator

Committee on Home-School Co-operation

Professor WONG Po-choi
Chairperson

The Hong Kong Health Food Association

Mr Perry SIT
Regulatory Committee Convener

Hong Kong Medical Association

Dr CHAN Yee-shing
Council Member

ALS Technichem (Hong Kong) Pty. Ltd.

Mr Richard FUNG Lim-chee
General Manager - Greater China

Hong Kong Dietitians Association

Ms LAU Pik-shan
Nutrition Promotion Officer

Ms CHAN Tze-man
Representative

Hong Kong Food Council

Miss CHEUK Fung-ting
Executive & CEO

Clerk in attendance : Miss Mary SO
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Staff in attendance : Miss Joanne FONG
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2)5

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I. Funding for enhanced measures to step up environmental hygiene to combat human swine influenza
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1940/08-09(01))

Under Secretary for Food and Health (USFH) briefed members on the proposal to provide additional funding of \$300 million for enhanced measures to step up environmental hygiene in the fight against human swine influenza (HSI), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

Discussion

Creation of new jobs

2. Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted that a number of initiatives lasting for about 12 months involving the Drainage Services Department (DSD), the Food and Environmental Health Department (FEHD), the Home Affairs Department (HAD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Marine Department (MD) would be launched to step up environmental hygiene improvement and related promotion work in the fight against HSI. In the light of this, Mr WONG asked about the number of jobs that could be created as a result of these initiatives.

3. Mr Vincent FANG said that it was unreasonable that no mention was made by the Administration in its paper about the number of jobs that could be created, when it could come up with \$300 million for launching various initiatives to step up environmental hygiene in the fight against HSI. The Chairman expressed a similar view.

4. USFH responded that whilst some of the additional works created as a result of the new initiatives would be taken up by existing civil service staff and staff hired by outsourced contractors, additional non-civil service staff and contract staff would need to be employed by the departments concerned and outsourced contractors respectively to take up other additional works created as a result of the new initiatives. USFH further said that although the new initiatives would undoubtedly create new jobs, the aim of these initiatives was to step up environmental hygiene improvement and related public education and

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publicity work in the fight against HSI. Nevertheless, USFH agreed to provide the estimated number of jobs that could be created to members as far as practicable, prior to submitting the funding proposal to the Finance Committee (FC) in early July 2009.

Enhanced measures to step up environmental hygiene

5. Mr WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide a timetable for cleaning up the environmental hygiene blackspots in different districts.

6. Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Operations)3 (AD/FEH(Operations)3) responded that of the 105 environmental hygiene blackspots identified in the territory, 15 had been cleared and restored to an acceptable hygiene condition. To eliminate the remaining 90 environmental hygiene blackspots, FEHD would engage contractors to step up and sustain cleansing and disinfection work at these target locations. The estimated cost was \$23 million and the estimated number of jobs to be created was 120. AD/FEH(Operations)3, however, pointed out that it might not be possible to provide a timetable for cleaning up the environmental hygiene blackspots, as the support of the community was vital to the success of the initiative. AD/FEH(Operations)3 further said that should FEHD be able to eliminate the 90 environmental hygiene blackspots in less than 12 months, the remaining resources would be deployed for use in other areas.

7. Mr WONG Yung-kan said that to demonstrate its determination to deal with environmental hygiene hazard, the Administration should work closely with District Councils (DCs) to clean up filthy private rear lanes and streets. Mr WONG further asked -

- (a) whether the aqua privies (APs) in Hong Kong would be converted into flushing toilets and provided with hand-washing facilities; and
- (b) what additional cleansing work would be carried out by MD to clean up marine refuse.

8. USFH responded that as reported to the Panel on 12 May 2009, the Administration would expedite the remaining phase 6 and phase 7 of the AP conversion programme for target completion in 2012-2013. Similar to previous phases, the scope of AP conversion works would cover basic refurbishment including installing toilets with a flushing system and improvement of hand-washing facilities.

9. As regards Mr WONG's second question, General Manager/Services, MD said that apart from stepping up cleansing service to cross-boundary ferry terminals, an additional special team would be set up to increase the frequency of scavenging refuse at littoral foreshore areas and step up cleansing at marine

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refuse collection points. It was estimated that a total of 42 new jobs would be created.

10. Mr Vincent FANG commented that he could not see the justification for the Administration to seek additional resources to clean up environmental hygiene blackspots, having regard to the fact that maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment for the public was one of the key responsibilities of FEHD and had been funded for under the annual allocation exercise. Mr FANG further asked the following questions -

- (a) whether there would be duplication in the public education and publicity work in the fight against HSI to be carried out by HAD and LCSD;
- (b) what was the reason for improving the cleanliness of the country park facilities when the transmission of HSI was through close human contact; and
- (c) what additional work would be carried out by AFCD to improve the environmental hygiene of wholesale food markets under its management.

11. Responding to Mr FANG's first question, Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2) (AD/HA(2)) advised that HAD would liaise with DCs and non-governmental organisations on organising promotional activities to uphold personal, home and environmental hygiene. HAD would also conduct territory-wide publicity, such as publicity through the media, to raise public awareness in this regard. Departmental Secretary, LCSD advised that LCSD would employ about 350 Health Ambassadors (HAs) to help step up environmental hygiene and related education and promotion work for major leisure and cultural venues in the fight against HSI. The HAs would promote precautionary measures against HSI and publicize personal health and hygiene. The HAs would also assist in monitoring the cleansing and disinfection work in various venues, with a view to further enhancing environmental hygiene in the major leisure and cultural venues.

12. Regarding Mr FANG's second question, Senior Country Park Officer (North-west) (Acting), AFCD made reference to the significant increase in the number of country park visitors during the SARS outbreak in 2003 to explain that enhanced cleansing would need to be carried out at country park hotspot facilities. In addition, the flushing toilet facilities would be upgraded to provide more automatic cleansing facilities and equipment. As to Mr FANG's third question, Senior Country Park Officer (North-west) (Acting), AFCD said that AFCD would enhance cleansing and disinfection services at the toilets, refuse collection points, drains, roads and lifts of the three wholesale food markets under its management.

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13. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the Administration's paper failed to provide information on how the proposed new initiatives for environmental hygiene improvement in the fight against HSI would be delivered. For instance, Enclosure 2 to the paper only mentioned that FEHD would enhance street washing services but did not say how such services would be enhanced, where such services would be deployed, and what and when these services aimed to achieve. To better facilitate members' consideration of the funding proposal, Mr KAM requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the scope, deliverables, performance targets and estimated cost breakdown of the initiatives in writing before seeking funding approval from FC. Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Mr Alan LEONG and the Chairman expressed support for Mr KAM's request. The Chairman further said that he could not see the justification for LCSD to hire 350 HAs to help step up environmental hygiene and related precautionary measures and public education, as all these could be more cost-effectively achieved through the playing of videos at all leisure and cultural venues under LCSD's management, if the aim of the proposed new initiative was not to create jobs.

Other issues

14. In response to Mr KAM Nai-wai's enquiry as to why the Administration had stopped to release the Community Cleanliness Index (CCI), AD/HA(2) explained that a review on the CCI Scheme in early 2008 revealed that it had achieved its intended objective of arousing community awareness of environmental hygiene during its implementation. Although continuing the Scheme was no longer necessary, the departments concerned would continue to monitor and follow up the hygiene problems in premises under their purview. Mr KAM questioned the appropriateness of discontinuing the CCI Scheme when there were still 90 environmental hygiene blackspots in Hong Kong. Mr KAM urged the Administration to reinstate the CCI Scheme. AD/HA(2) agreed to give the suggestion further thought.

15. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that some members of the public in the Yau Tsim Mong district had previously reported to FEHD about workers placing garbage bags outside garbage collection points, but to no avail. In response, USFH said that FEHD would follow this up.

16. In closing, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the proposed new initiatives for environmental hygiene improvement in the fight against HSI, the estimated number of jobs that would be created as a result of these initiatives, as well as a timetable for cleaning up the environmental hygiene blackspots, before seeking funding approval from FC in early July 2009. USFH agreed.

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(Post-meeting note: The Administration's responses were provided in LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2091/08-09(01) and CB(2)2162/08-09(01) dated 30 June 2009 and 7 July 2009 respectively.)

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II. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1917/08-09(01), CB(2)1940/08-09(02) and CB(2)1956/08-09(01) to (04))

17. USFH briefed members on the actions taken by the Administration in preparation for implementing the Nutrition Labelling Scheme, focusing on the measures for facilitating legal compliance by the food trade and the publicity and education campaign for the Scheme, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1917/08-09(01)). Controller, Centre for Food Safety (Controller, CFS) then gave a powerpoint presentation on the implementation of the Scheme, details of which were set out in the power point materials tabled at the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)2003/08-09).

Views of deputations

18. The Chairman next invited deputations to give views on the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme, summaries of which were set out in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response

19. USFH said that -

- (a) in order to assist the trade to adapt to the changes brought about by the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 (the Amendment Regulation), in particular on the accuracy of nutrient amounts, CFS had prepared the "Method Guidance Notes on Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claims" (Method Guidance Notes) in consultation with the trade and laboratory service providers. The Method Guidance Notes, which was published in June 2008, recommended, amongst other things, that laboratories performing nutrient analyses should use appropriate methods as given in the most recent edition of Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International, or if no AOAC official method was available or appropriate, by other reliable and appropriate analytical procedures such as those methods stated in the Manuals of Food Quality Control of Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nation, ISO methods, BS EN methods, or other national standard methods. Alternative methodology should only be used in the absence of AOAC Official Methods or national/internationally recognised standard methods. If alternative methods were developed and/or used, they should be accompanied by documentation that described in detail the analytical procedures and performance characteristics of the methods;

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- (b) a series of inter-laboratory comparison exercises had been conducted to see how best the laboratory service providers in Hong Kong could provide quality nutrient testing service. Findings of the two recent exercises revealed that variations only occurred in the analysis of total fat and sugars and their discrepancies were below 10%. To promote quality and consistency in testing, CFS had issued an advisory letter to seven local private laboratories that were capable of providing nutrient testing service in May 2009, to remind them to adopt the appropriate testing methods which were elaborated in the Method Guidance Notes;
- (c) the main reason why there were wide discrepancies in the results of nutrition tests conducted by two private laboratories for the same food samples, as mentioned by the Hong Kong Suppliers Association (HKSA) at the meeting, might be due to the fact that the laboratories concerned did not adopt the appropriate testing methods which were elaborated in the Method Guidance Notes or had done so but failed to faithfully adopt all the testing procedures in order to lower costs and/or shorten testing time;
- (d) there was no cause for concern about the capacity of the local laboratories to provide quality nutrient testing service. There were currently at least seven local laboratories that were capable of providing nutrient testing service, and CFS had been keeping close liaison with these laboratories, in order to keep in view the market situation. According to the latest feedback from these laboratories, their current workload for nutrient testing was below their maximum capacity and they were able to provide laboratory testing service for energy, the seven core nutrients, and some other nutrients, e.g. dietary fibre, cholesterol, vitamins. The laboratories also indicated that they would enhance their capacity or send testing requests to their Mainland/overseas partners should the demand for service increase;
- (e) to encourage more local accredited laboratories to explore providing quality nutrient testing service, CFS had co-organised with the Hong Kong Accreditation Service a special seminar on the nutrition labelling test methods in April 2009;
- (f) to raise the tolerance limits for compliance with the Amendment Regulation on nutrition labelling from $\pm 20\%$ to $\pm 30\%$, or even $\pm 50\%$, would undermine consumers' confidence on the nutrition information on food labels;
- (g) to allow food importers and manufacturers to re-apply for small volume exemption (SVE) for the same version of food product

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yearly, even if the exemption status of the food concerned had been revoked by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene because its annual sales volume in Hong Kong had exceeded the 30 000-unit limit, would be at variance with the SVE scheme, the content of which was thoroughly deliberated and agreed to by the Subcommittee formed by the House Committee of the Legislative Council to scrutinise the Amendment Regulation;

- (h) the Administration was committed to working with the trade to enable the public to make healthier food choices through the use of nutrition labels. In response to the trade's request to grant approval to all products eligible for SVE before the end of 2009 as certain major retailers indicated that they would not accept delivery of products that did not comply with the Nutrition Labelling Scheme from 1 January 2010, special arrangements to grant approval to all products eligible for SVE before the end of 2009, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper, had been made by CFS;
- (i) to better help traders to plan their business operation, traders would be notified when the sales volume of the food products which had been granted SVE had reached 70% of the 30 000 level (i.e. 21 000 units), and once the sales volume exceeded the limit, i.e. 30 000 units per year, all food items currently being put on the market would have to be labelled in accordance with the legal requirements within 30 days. (Sales volume referred to those at the manufacturer or importer level, i.e. no. of units that were sold to the retailers or distributors, and did not refer to those actually sold out by the retailers to the ultimate consumers); and
- (j) charging a fee of \$345 and \$335 per food product for the issue and renewal of permit under the SVE scheme respectively was made on the basis of full cost recovery.

20. Controller, CFS said that -

- (a) subject to the Panel's support, CFS was willing to consider giving more time to retailers, beyond the normal 14 days, to provide explanation as to why the information in the nutrition labels of the food products they offered for sale fell outside the tolerance limits and/or why the nutrition claims contained in the products concerned did not conform with the stipulated conditions for nutrition content claims, at the early commencement stage of the Amendment Regulation, before ordering them to take the food concerned off the shelves if their explanation was deemed unsatisfactory by CFS;

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- (b) although the Amendment Regulation did not cover infant formula, all information provided on food labels should be true and not misleading. The food name and ingredient list as well as instruction for use must be in the English language, the Chinese language or both languages; and
- (c) CFS attached great importance to the quality of nutrient testing service provided by private laboratories. In this connection, an experience sharing session on nutrient testing for local laboratories would shortly be held by the Government Laboratory (GL). Local laboratories encountering difficulties in analysing certain food matrices should get in touch with CFS as soon as possible to overcome the technical problems.

Controller, CFS further called upon HKSA to provide the necessary information, such as the testing methods used by the private laboratories, to CFS to find out the reasons for the wide discrepancies in test results.

Discussion

21. Mr Vincent FANG said that the trade was supportive of the provision of nutrition information on food labels, as evidenced by the fact that some 50%-60% of the prepackaged products for sale in Hong Kong already included energy and the seven core nutrients covered by the Amendment Regulation. Mr FANG, however, pointed out that the sheer volume of food products that needed to undergo nutrient testing, i.e. some 50 000, and the complexity of composition of certain food products had posed a challenge to the capacity and capability of local laboratories. Mr FANG remained unconvinced whether the Administration's effort in engaging laboratories in the Mainland would be effective in building up laboratory support, as it was questionable whether Mainland laboratories had the capability to perform the testing methods recommended by CFS in its Method Guidance Notes. To better facilitate the food trade and to minimise the impact on food choice, Mr FANG asked -

- (a) in determining whether the nutrition information on food labels complied with the Amendment Regulation, whether CFS would accept test results performed by overseas laboratories using internationally recognised nutrient testing methods;
- (b) whether consideration could be given to allowing those food products which had obtained exemption status under the SVE scheme to retain nutrition claims, if any, so as to assist consumers in making informed food choices and avoid making Hong Kong a laughing stock to the international community if the nutrition claims on these food products had to be blackened out;

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- (c) whether consideration could be given to allowing retailers to continue to sell those food products which were exempted from nutrition labelling under the SVE scheme after the sales volume of the food concerned had exceeded the 30 000-unit limit; and
- (d) whether consideration could be given to extending the commencement of the Amendment Regulation for six months so as to allow more time for the trade to comply with the Amendment Regulation. The commencement date of the Amendment Regulation on 1 July 2010 had triggered major retailers to not accept delivery of food products that did not comply with the Nutrition Labelling Scheme from 1 January 2010.

22. USFH and Controller, CFS responded as follows -

- (a) CFS could not accept test results performed by overseas laboratories using internationally recognised nutrient testing methods in determining whether the nutrition information on food labels complied with the Amendment Regulation, as all Hong Kong laws, including the Amendment Regulation, required the test results from GL for enforcement;
- (b) to allow those food products which had obtained exemption status under the SVE scheme to retain their nutrition claims was against the legislative intent of the Amendment Regulation and would undermine consumers' rights. To avoid blackening out the nutrition claims on food labels, the trade might wish to re-design the packaging of those food products which they wished to seek exemption under the SVE scheme;
- (c) the Administration was willing to give more time to retailers to sell the remaining stock of those food products which were exempted from nutrition labelling under the SVE scheme when the sales volume of the food concerned reported by the exemption grantee to CFS had exceeded the 30 000-unit limit at the early commencement stage of the Amendment Regulation, if this was supported by the Panel. To help traders keep track of the sales volume of the food products which had obtained exemption status under the SVE scheme, a computer system would be set up to alert CFS on notifying the exemption grantees and other stakeholders, such as the retailers, when the sales volume had reached 70% of the 30 000 level. Consideration was being made to notify traders when the sales volume had reached 90% of the 30 000 level; and
- (d) to extend the commencement of the Amendment Regulation because of the action taken by certain major retailers not to accept delivery of food products that did not comply with the Nutrition

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Labelling Scheme from 1 January 2010 was unreasonable. Nevertheless, CFS had agreed to make special arrangement to accommodate the trade's request for CFS to grant approval to all products eligible for SVE by the end of 2009. However, should the trade have difficulty in complying with nutrition labelling requirements by 1 January 2010, major retailers should consider rescinding their unilateral decision to not accepting delivery of food products that did not comply with the Nutrition Labelling Scheme from 1 January 2010.

23. In closing, the Chairman said that the Panel would continue to closely monitor the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.
24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:04 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 October 2009

立法會
Legislative Council

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Major views and suggestions expressed by deputations
on the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme at the special meeting on 22 June 2009**

Organisations [LC Paper No. of submission (if applicable)]	Views and/or suggestions
Association of Green, Organic at Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It expressed concern that the scheme would incur additional costs on the trade, and requested the Administration to (i) provide financial assistance to the small traders and social enterprises; (ii) keep the trade informed of the sales volume of the exempt products; and (iii) allow retailers to continue to sell the exempt products even though the 30 000-unit limit had been reached.
SGS Hong Kong Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It questioned whether the local laboratories had the capacity and capability to meet the trade's demand for complying with the nutrition labelling requirements by 1 July 2010. • It requested the Administration to provide more technical support to the local laboratories on nutrient testing.

Organisations [LC Paper No. of submission (if applicable)]	Views and/or suggestions
Consumer Council [CB(2)1956/08-09(02)] (<i>Chinese version only</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It expressed support to the commencement of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 (the Amendment Regulation). • It considered it vital for the Administration to step up surveillance on the compliance of the Amendment Regulation.
China Dragon Inspection and Certification (H.K.) Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As one of the local laboratory service providers, it stood ready to expand its services to meet trade's demand for nutrition testing service for compliance with the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.
Hong Kong Retail Management Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It expressed concern about the requirement for the trade to remove the nutrient claims on the food labels of prepackaged food products in order to be eligible for application of exemption under the Small Volume Exemption (SVE) scheme, and requested the Administration to widely promulgate such requirement in the community to remove doubts of the general public. • It requested the Administration to design a simple SVE application form, and to allow the trade to have sight of the form before implementation. • It expressed concern that consumers would have fewer food choices with the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme, as some traders found it not cost-effective for small sales volume food products to undergo nutrient testing.

Organisations [LC Paper No. of submission (if applicable)]	Views and/or suggestions
Hong Kong Suppliers Association Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It reported wide discrepancies of laboratory test results for the same food sample in a laboratory test, as set out in the letter of 11 May 2009 to the Panel Chairman. ● It requested the Administration to extend the two-year grace period for an additional year until 1 July 2011.
Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, The Chinese University of Hong Kong [CB(2)1956/08-09(01)] <i>(Written submission only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It expressed support for the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme which would help promote healthy eating in Hong Kong.
Hong Kong Nutrition Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It expressed support to the commencement of the Amendment Regulation, in light of the long-term benefit the Nutrition Labelling Scheme would bring to the community. ● It considered that the trade should proactively communicate the technical difficulties with the Administration, and seek assistance from it or by employment of the consultation service in the community. ● It reported positive feedback from its patients on the Scheme, as evident in their indication of interest in learning how to effectively use the nutrient labels in their diet.

Organisations [LC Paper No. of submission (if applicable)]	Views and/or suggestions
Committee on Home-School Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It affirmed the educational value of nutrition labelling to the public, and reported parents' support of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme. ● It considered that the promotion of healthy eating in the community through the Scheme would bring about reduction of medical expenditure in the long run.
The Hong Kong Health Food Association [CB(2)1956/08-09(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It requested the Administration to allow exemption grantees to re-apply exemption for the same version of the product even though the sales volume exceeded the 30 000-unit exemption limit in the first year. ● It urged the Administration to introduce a new legislation to regulate health food supplements.
Hong Kong Medical Association [CB(2)1956/08-09(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It expressed support to the commencement of the Amendment Regulation for food safety and health reasons. ● It urged the Administration to regulate sale of baby formula on the internet.
ALS Technichem (Hong Kong) Pty. Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It pointed out that the "Method Guidance Notes on Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claims" published by the Centre for Food Safety were not comprehensive enough to cover food with complicated composition. ● It suggested the setting up of a hotline to provide the trade with advice on further information on the testing methods for some special/indigenous food products in the market. ● It was questionable whether 14 days was sufficient for the laboratories to find out the cause of discrepancy in test results.

Organisations [LC Paper No. of submission (if applicable)]	Views and/or suggestions
Hong Kong Dietitians Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It expressed support to the commencement of the Amendment Regulation to better promote public health. ● It suggested establishing a local standard of nutrition labelling for Hong Kong, given the disparity in the labelling formats of food products imported from different countries.
Hong Kong Food Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It requested the Administration to postpone the commencement of the Amendment Regulation for six months to one year. ● The SVE application form should be designed in a simple format so as not to burden the trade further with additional administrative cost. ● It expressed concern that the scheme would incur additional costs on the trade, and requested the Administration to (i) provide financial assistance to the small traders and social enterprises; (ii) keep the trade informed of the sales volume of the exempt products; and (iii) allow retailers to continue to sell the exempt products even though the 30 000-unit limit had been reached. ● It requested the Administration to step up educating the public on the Nutrition Labelling Scheme to ensure achieving the desired effect of promoting public health.