



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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5 August 2013

Clerk to Legislative Council
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Jove CHAN)
(Fax: 2869 6794)

Dear Mr Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up matters in relation to food surveillance**

Regarding the follow-up matters in relation to food surveillance raised by the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene at its meeting on 12 March 2013, our reply is set out below.

(1) Whether any follow-up actions have been taken by the Centre for Food Safety in response to the recent media reports on fluorescent pork

At present, all live pigs, and chilled and frozen pork supplied to Hong Kong from the Mainland must come from farms and processing plants registered with the inspection and quarantine authorities of the Mainland and are subject to stringent monitoring by the Mainland authorities. They have to pass inspection and must be accompanied with valid health certificates issued by the relevant inspection and quarantine

authorities before delivery to Hong Kong. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducts ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on all imported live pigs to ensure that they are wholesome and fit for human consumption before delivery to the markets for sale. Under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations (Cap. 132AK), all imported meat must be accompanied with health certificates issued by competent authorities of the exporting countries. In addition, an import licence from the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene is required for importing meat.

On the other hand, under the risk-based Food Surveillance Programme of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS), samples of food items (including pork and related products) are taken at import, wholesale and retail levels for testing to ensure that they comply with the legislative requirements in Hong Kong and are fit for human consumption. The sampling work is under regular review, taking into account factors such as past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analysis.

Subsequent to the media reports about fluorescent pork in February, no sale of such pork in the local markets has been detected by CFS. CFS also tested 98 and 122 samples of pork in February and March this year respectively and the results were all satisfactory.

CFS will continue its surveillance and inspection on imported pork to ensure food safety.

(2) Surveillance work carried out by CFS in response to recent media reports on the problem of mislabelled fish in the United States and Europe in which cheaper types of fish were substituted for more expensive species

CFS is responsible for ensuring that food for sale in Hong Kong is fit for human consumption. CFS carries out regulatory and enforcement work in accordance with provisions under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislations. On the other hand, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) is responsible for enforcing the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362)

and its eight pieces of subsidiary legislations which aim at protecting consumers by prohibiting false trade descriptions, false, misleading or incomplete information and misrepresentations in respect of goods provided in the course of trade.

If in the course of its work (such as food surveillance, handling of complaints and food incidents etc.), CFS comes across cases involving false trade descriptions, it will refer them to the C&ED for follow-up.

CFS has not received any complaint relating to the recent problem of mislabelled fish in the United States and Europe. It will continue to keep a close watch of the situation through the current monitoring mechanism on overseas food incidents. If there is any indication that food safety in Hong Kong is compromised, CFS will take follow-up actions accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeff Leung', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Jeff LEUNG)

for Secretary for Food and Health