



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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Clerk to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Richard WONG)
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Mr Wong,

**Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)**

When the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene discussed the captioned matter in its meeting held on 11 March 2014, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information. Our reply is set out below.

After the Food Safety Ordinance came into operation, the number of inspections on food importers, distributors and retailers whose business involved selling perishable food items and whether there had been any seizure of such food items

Between 1 February 2012 when the Food Safety Ordinance (FSO) came into full operation and 31 March 2014, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) inspected a total of 642 food premises whose business involved perishable food items (e.g. sashimi, sushi, oysters, aquatic products, meat, meat products, etc.), including 319 importers, 100 distributors and 223 retailers. All the premises inspected were registered as food importers or distributors under FSO and complied with the record keeping requirement. Also, CFS staff had not found any problem food which needed to be seized or disposed of.

The number of prosecution cases taken out by the Custom and Excise Department against persons bringing or importing food items without lodging the required import declaration in the past three years, with details on the food seized

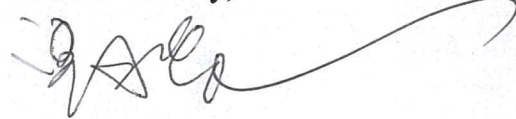
Between 2011 and 2013, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) initiated prosecutions against a total of 38 cases of contravening the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations (Cap. 60E) owing to failure to lodge import declarations within 14 days after importation of food items. No seizure of food items was involved.

Besides, according to the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60), all cargo which is imported or exported shall be recorded in a manifest. Failing to do so constitutes an offence. Between 2011 and 2013, C&ED initiated prosecution against a total of 17 cases involving import of unmanifested cargo containing food items. Food seized included aquatic products, meat and dried seafood etc. and amounted to about HK \$29.7 million.

In view of the increasing popularity of online purchase of food, the work (including inspections and follow-up actions) taken by CFS in respect of the monitoring of food safety of food sold online by food importers, distributors and retailers in the past three years

CFS has been monitoring the sale of food on the internet and gathering relevant information by browsing the concerned websites. Between 1 February 2012 when FSO came into full operation and 31 March 2014, CFS inspected 13 premises engaged in the sale of food on the internet, including six food importers, two food distributors and five food retailers. All the premises inspected were registered as food importers or distributors in accordance with FSO and complied with the record keeping requirement. CFS will continue to adopt a risk-based enforcement approach in conducting inspections at different food premises (including premises engaged in the sale of food on the internet) as scheduled. The priority and frequency of inspections will be determined according to factors like risk classification and mode of operation of the food premises.

Yours sincerely,



(Jeff LEUNG)

for Secretary for Food and Health