

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 January 2015)

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| 1. Review on fees for slaughterhouse services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | February 2015 |
| Item proposed by the Administration. | |
| The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees for slaughterhouse services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in February 2015. | |
| 2. Review on fees for cemeteries and crematoria services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | February 2015 |
| Item proposed by the Administration. | |
| The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees for cemeteries and crematoria services provided by FEHD in February 2015. | |
| 3. Update on the latest development on the supply of public niches and regulation of private columbaria | February 2015 |
| At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN expressed the hope that the Administration would update the Panel on the latest progress of increasing the supply of public niches and measures on how to protect consumers' rights of those who had entered into transactions for the purchase of private columbarium niches before the enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill. | |

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The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in February 2015.	
4. Review on fees and charges for certain services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	March 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees and charges for certain services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservations Department in March 2015.	
5. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of safety of edible oil	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
When discussing the sub-standard lard incident at the special meeting on 25 September 2014, the Administration advised the Panel that it would seek to launch a public consultation on the legislative proposals regarding regulation of safety of edible oil in early 2015.	
6. Reduction of sugar and salt content in food	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration had provided an information paper on reduction of salt (sodium) and sugar content in food to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1118/12-13(01) on 10 May 2013. Members noted that the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") had established two working groups on reducing sodium in food and reducing sugars in pre-packaged beverages to discuss the respective subject matters.	

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The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in the 1 st quarter of 2015.	
7. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2014	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2014 in the 1 st quarter of 2015.	
8. Proposed legislation for the election of elected members to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong	2 nd quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
When the Panel was briefed on the legislative proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) at its meeting on 8 April 2014, members urged the Administration to ensure that the election of six newly added veterinary surgeon members of the Veterinary Surgeon Board of Hong Kong ("VSB") would be conducted in a fair and open manner. Members noted that relevant details and procedures of the election of these new VSB members would be specified in a set of election regulation to be prescribed by the Secretary for Food and Health, which would be in the form of subsidiary legislation subject to scrutiny by the Legislative Council ("LegCo").	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the legislative proposals in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
9. Code of practice on pet trading	2 nd quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

When the Panel discussed the item "Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading" at the meeting on 8 July 2014, it was advised that the Administration was working on and refining the draft Code of Practice ("CoP") and additional conditions in consultation with the trade. The Administration undertook to consult the trade and the Panel when the draft CoP was ready.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

10. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat

2nd quarter of 2015

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation of cooked meat and considered that the subject should be followed up by the Panel. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of LegCo Members and the trade. Hon WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide the Panel with a policy paper on the subject in the 2014-2015 session.

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG hoped that the Administration would brief the Panel as early as possible on the progress of the review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat.

The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

11. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of heavy metals in food

2nd quarter of 2015

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concern about the safety standards for heavy metals in food and urged the Administration

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<p>to review the relevant legislation for regulating the presence of heavy metals in food. She hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
12. Implementation of the trawl ban	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>An information paper provided by the Administration on the progress made in the disbursement of ex-gratia allowance to trawler owners affected by the trawl ban and the arrangements relating to the hearings on the appeal cases was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)644/13-14(01) on 9 January 2014.</p> <p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the latest progress on the implementation of the trawl ban in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
13. Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>The Administration proposes to update members on the implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO") in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
14. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>When discussing the subject of the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme at the Panel meeting on 13 May 2014, members expressed grave concern about the slow progress made by food traders in providing legible food labels. Members urged the Administration</p>	

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to set out a timetable requiring all traders to mandatorily follow the Trade Guidelines on Preparation of Legible Food Label issued by CFS and introducing the necessary legislative amendments.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
15. Proposed permanent food safety laboratory	2 nd quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a proposal to establish a permanent food safety laboratory under the Government Laboratory to further enhance the testing capacity on food safety related analysis.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
16. Provision of columbarium and garden of remembrance at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun	2 nd quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the provision of columbarium and garden of remembrance at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
17. Enforcement against illegal outside seating accommodation by restaurants	July 2015
At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members agreed that the Panel would invite deputations to give views on the subject when it was discussed at future meetings.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel in July 2015.	

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18. Wholesale market consultancy study	July 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultant to study the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyze the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel when the outcome of the consultancy study was ready.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in July 2015.	
19. Proposed legislation for implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong	July 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
At the meeting on 11 March 2014, members were briefed on the Administration's proposal to introduce a control scheme for the trading of toothfish by way of a piece of legislation for the implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong. Members noted that the Administration would engage relevant stakeholders (including seafood traders and importers) and seek their views on the proposed control scheme.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in July 2015.	
20. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food	To be confirmed

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<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item when ready.</p>	
<p>21. Issuance of new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Members noted a submission from a member of the public expressing concern about the progress of the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence tabled at the meeting on 11 March 2014. Hon WONG Kwok-hing suggested the Panel to follow up the subject at a future Panel meeting.</p>	
<p>The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel to study and review hawker policy had commenced its work since April 2014. At the informal meeting on 23 October 2014, there was a suggestion that given that the subject of the Administration's policy on the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence falls within the Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee, the matter be referred to the Subcommittee for follow-up.</p>	
<p>22. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety. It plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework in due course.</p>	

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23. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted the research report on "Liquor licensing system in selected places" prepared by Research Office, Information Services Division of LegCo Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel to discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and to invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views at a future meeting.</p>	
24. Safety of food for pet animals	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen suggested that the subject of the safety of food for pet animals be discussed at a future Panel meeting. Hon CHAN had written a letter to the Panel Chairman in late April 2014 expressing concern about the presence of harmful substances in pet food (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(01)). The Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in Hon CHAN's letter was issued to members on 5 May 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(02)).</p>	
25. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. He</p>	

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<p>pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre by the Government for the chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would follow up the subject matter.</p>	
<p>26. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong</p>	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 9 February 2010, in the light of the concerns raised by Hon WONG Yung-kan, the Panel Chairman suggested that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>During the discussion of the implementation of FSO at the meeting on 11 July 2012, Hon WONG Yung-kan expressed worry about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay. He urged the Administration to step up the regulatory measures for oyster culture, including the introduction of a licensing mechanism.</p>	
<p>27. Implementation of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2014</p>	To be confirmed
<p>The following issues are referred by the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014 ("the Amendment Regulation") to this Panel for follow-up -</p>	
<p>(a) the results of the sampling tests on the fluoride content in infant formula to be conducted by CFS upon implementation of the Amendment Regulation; and</p>	
<p>(b) the enforcement actions to be taken by the</p>	

Subject

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Administration against non-compliant cases relating to the nutritional composition and nutrition labelling requirements for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. (For details, please refer to paragraphs 22, 25 and 30 of the report of the Subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15).)

28. Outcome of the comprehensive review of the food-safety related penalties

To be confirmed

Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a comprehensive review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as FSO in 2015. The Administration also agreed to report the outcome of the study to the Panel (see details in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report of the Subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15).)

29. The import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 December 2014, members noted that a letter from Hon Claudia MO expressing her concern about the import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats and the Administration's response to her letter had been issued to members (LC Paper Nos CB(2)408/14-15(01) and (02)). At the request of Hon Mo, members agreed that the subject be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.