

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2162/16-17
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 3 July 2017, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung

Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung
Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim

Members absent : Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

Public Officers attending : The Administration

Dr HO Yuk-yin, JP
Controller, Centre for Food Safety
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Kenneth CHAN Siu-yum
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1

Attendance by invitation : Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong

Mr WU Cheuk-him
Deputy Spokesperson on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung
Chairman

Hong Kong Fishermen's Association

Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun
Chairman

Hong Kong Fisheries Development Association

Mr CHUI King-hang
Representative

Democratic Party

Mr Leo CHU
Community Officer

The Rice Merchants' Association of Hong Kong Limited

Ms LAM Bo-chun
Committee Member

The Hong Kong Food Council

Dr Leslie WONG Pak-yuen
Vice Chairman

Hong Kong Chamber of Seafood Merchants Limited

Mr LING Man-sum
Vice Chairman

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

Staff in attendance : Ms Wendy LO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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- I. Proposed amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V)**
(Consultation document entitled "Proposed Amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations", LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1567/16-17(01) and CB(2)1766/16-17(01))

Presentation of views by deputations

The Chairman reminded the deputations attending the meeting that

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they were not covered by the protection and immunity provided under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382) when addressing the Panel. At the invitation of the Chairman, eight deputations presented their views. A summary of the deputations' views is in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to deputations' views

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Controller, Centre for Food Safety ("Controller/CFS") highlighted the salient features of the Administration's proposals to amend the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) ("the Regulations"), as detailed in the consultation document, and gave the following response to deputations' views:

- (a) the Administration had taken into account the principle of the Codex Alimentarius Commission ("Codex") that contaminant levels in food should be "as low as reasonably achievable", in proposing maximum levels ("MLs") for metallic contaminants in individual food/food groups;
- (b) according to the results of the routine food surveillance programme conducted in the past and additional baseline studies of CFS, in general, less than 5% of the test results for levels of metallic contamination were found exceeding the proposed MLs. This proportion was in line with the normal approach adopted by Codex in setting food safety standards. Meanwhile, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") had also conducted tests (including levels of metallic contamination) on local farmed fish. According to the information and data of these tests, local farmed fish could generally comply with the proposed MLs. Overall speaking, the proposed MLs were not likely to affect the food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) during the three-month public consultation period, the Administration would organize consultation forums to collect views from the trade on the proposed MLs. Information on the studies about the levels of metallic contamination in food available in local market and the Administration's assessment of the impact of the proposed MLs on food supply in Hong Kong would be made available to the public. The Administration would also consult the trade on the implementation details;
- (d) in proposing the revision of ML for cadmium in polished rice from the existing standard of 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg, the Administration had considered the results of scientific studies.

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According to the report of the first Hong Kong total diet study on metallic contaminants, the dietary exposure to cadmium of average and high consumers of the local population were 8.3 µg/kg body weight/month and 19 µg/kg body weight/month which respectively accounted for 33% and 75% of the provisional tolerable monthly intake of 25 µg/kg body weight established by the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Food Additives in 2010. On this basis, the general population was unlikely to experience major undesirable health effects of cadmium. From 2012 up to present, CFS had taken more than 400 rice samples for testing of metallic contamination under its food surveillance programme. The test results of 99% of rice samples were satisfactory, with only four rice samples (two imported from Japan, one from Thailand and one from the Mainland) exceeded the existing standard of 0.1 mg/kg for cadmium. The levels of cadmium found in 64% of rice samples were even below the limit of detection for cadmium in general food (i.e. 0.02 mg/kg);

- (e) it should be noted that in addition to the proposed revision to ML for cadmium in polished rice, the Administration had proposed to amend the standards for other metallic contaminants including arsenic, lead and mercury. Rice products failing to meet the relevant standards would not be allowed to enter the local market; and
- (f) to harmonize the food standards of Hong Kong with international food standards, the Administration proposed to adopt MLs for metallic contaminants in various food/food groups recommended by Codex and incorporate them into the Regulations unless there were strong scientific justifications to adopt a different standard. Keeping the Regulations abreast of the Codex standards would safeguard food safety, bring Hong Kong's regulatory practices in alignment with international standards and prevent possible trade barriers and disputes.

Proposed regulatory standards for metallic contaminants

3. The Chairman said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party supported the Administration's proposals to amend the Regulations to enhance and update the Regulations with a view to aligning with the Codex principle and modern international regulatory trends of specifying metallic contamination standards for individual food/food groups of significant dietary exposure. She hoped that the Administration would expedite the legislative amendment exercise for the early implementation of the revised standards on metallic contamination.

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4. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed support for the adoption of more stringent MLs for metallic contaminants in food, in order to better safeguard public health. Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok welcomed the Administration's proposed amendments to the Regulations. Ir Dr LO however considered that scientific justifications should be provided if standards more stringent than Codex were to be adopted.

5. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party in general were supportive of the proposed adoption of Codex's latest standards on metallic contamination and considered that sufficient evidence and justifications should be provided for adoption of standards different from Codex's. He and Mr SHIU Ka-fai hoped that the Administration could, when setting MLs for food, strike a reasonable balance between safeguarding public health and avoiding undue regulation; and that it would fully consult the trade before finalizing the legislative proposals and tabling the relevant Amendment Regulations to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for consideration.

6. In response to Dr Pierre CHAN's enquiry, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1 advised that the new standards on metallic contamination in food would be effected by way of subsidiary legislation. The Administration would take into account the views received during the public consultation exercise before finalizing the legislative proposals and introducing the Amendment Regulations into LegCo for scrutiny under the negative vetting procedure.

Proposed maximum levels for cadmium in polished rice and leafy vegetables

7. The Chairman, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern about the proposed revision to ML for cadmium in polished rice, which in their views suggested a relaxation of standards that might be dangerous or prejudicial to public health. Noting that the adoption, in the past, of a more stringent standard (i.e. 0.1 mg/kg) did not have any adverse impact on the supply of rice in Hong Kong, they considered it more appropriate to retain the existing ML for cadmium in polished rice for better protection of public health. The Chairman said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party objected to the proposed revision to ML for cadmium in polished rice, worrying that rice products which failed to comply with the existing standard under the Regulations would be able to enter the local market in the future, thereby compromising food safety and protection for public health. Dr CHEUNG raised similar concern.

8. Mr Steven HO and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared the view that Hong Kong should adopt a more stringent standard for cadmium in polished rice, taking into account local food consumption pattern and the dietary habit of the Hong Kong population.

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9. Controller/CFS made the following response:
- (a) Codex had established an ML of 0.4 mg/kg for cadmium in polished rice. Having regard to the dietary habit of the Hong Kong population and the relevant standards adopted by various jurisdictions for cadmium in polished rice, a proposed ML for cadmium in polished rice at 0.2 mg/kg, which was more stringent than Codex, was considered justified to protect public health in Hong Kong;
 - (b) under the relevant requirements of the World Health Organization, member countries had to provide strong scientific justifications for adopting a standard different from the one recommended by Codex, even though the standard proposed had been adopted in the local market for decades. According to the Codex principles for establishing MLs in food, MLs should be set in such a way that the consumers were adequately protected. At the same time, other legitimate factors (e.g. promotion of fair practices in food trade) needed to be considered. Besides, MLs should be based on scientific principles leading to standards which were designed to assure the quality and safety of food, so that there was no unjustified barrier to international trade. Should the Hong Kong Government continue to adopt 0.1 mg/kg as ML for cadmium in polished rice without strong scientific justifications, it might face the challenges from those countries supplying rice to Hong Kong. The local trade had also expressed concern that the existing standard for cadmium in polished rice was too stringent; and
 - (c) as mentioned earlier, in addition to the proposed revision to ML for cadmium in polished rice, the Administration had proposed to amend the standards for other metallic contaminants including arsenic, lead and mercury. Rice products failing to meet the relevant standards would not be allowed to enter the local market. The Administration had informed the World Trade Organization of the proposed regulatory standards for metallic contaminants in food, including the proposed revisions to MLs for different metallic contaminants in polished rice.

10. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung asked whether the existing ML for cadmium in polished rice under the Regulations (i.e. 0.1 mg/kg) was based on scientific justifications. Controller/CFS responded that the existing standard was established in 1980s having regard to the local circumstances, the Codex standard and the standards adopted by other countries/places prevailing at that time. In response to Mr LEUNG's follow-up enquiry, Controller/CFS explained that the standard adopted by Codex in 1980s applied to cereals

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including polished rice. The existing Codex ML of 0.4 mg/kg for cadmium specifically targeting polished rice was established some 10 years ago.

11. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was concerned about the impact of the proposed revision to ML for cadmium in polished rice (from 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg) on human health. Controller/CFS responded that according to total diet studies conducted by CFS, Hong Kong people's dietary exposure to cadmium was low and rice was not recognized as the main source of cadmium intake for exposed people. Hence, the general population was unlikely to experience major undesirable health effects of cadmium.

12. Mr SHIU Ka-fai considered the existing ML for cadmium in polished rice too stringent. He said that the trade was supportive of the proposed revision from 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg. The Chairman sought deputations' view on whether the supply of rice would be affected if the Hong Kong Government continued to adopt 0.1 mg/kg as ML for cadmium in polished rice. Ms LAM Bo-chun from the Rice Merchants' Association of Hong Kong Limited responded that although rice importers did not have difficulties in sourcing supplies of polished rice for import into Hong Kong in the past few decades, they might have fewer choices in the future if the Hong Kong's standard for cadmium in polished rice was not revised to align with those adopted by major rice exporting countries. To her understanding, Mainland rice (except pearl rice) could hardly meet the existing standard of 0.1 mg/kg. The situation would be more or less the same even if the standard was revised to 0.2 mg/kg.

13. Dr Pierre CHAN enquired about the major countries supplying rice to Hong Kong and their respective standards for cadmium in polished rice. Controller/CFS responded that rice was mainly imported from Thailand, Vietnam and the Mainland; and rice imported from the Mainland accounted for about 10% of the total rice import of Hong Kong. For cadmium in polished rice, the Mainland and Vietnam had adopted an ML of 0.2 mg/kg and 0.4 mg/kg respectively, while Thailand did not set any ML for polished rice. Dr CHAN was concerned that rice products which failed to comply with the existing standard would be able to enter the local market if the standard was relaxed. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Controller/CFS said that as rice was not considered as high risk food, rice importers were not required to provide documents certifying that the products did not contain excessive metallic contaminants before they were imported into Hong Kong.

14. The Chairman enquired about the rationale for revising ML for cadmium in leafy vegetables from 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg. Controller/CFS responded that as risk assessments conducted by CFS in the past had indicated that revision of the standard would not pose higher health risk, the Administration considered it appropriate to bring ML for cadmium in leafy vegetables in line with the corresponding Codex standard. The Chairman,

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however, said that according to surveys conducted by the Democratic Party, some Mainland vegetables were found to have contained excessive levels of metallic contaminants such as cadmium and lead. She advised that Members belonging to the Democratic Party were opposed to the proposed relaxation of ML for cadmium in leafy vegetables from 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg.

Proposed maximum levels for methylmercury in fish

15. Mr SHIU Ka-fai enquired about the rationale for adopting an ML of 0.5 mg/kg for methylmercury in fish (including predatory fish such as large tuna) to replace the existing ML of 0.5 mg/kg for total mercury in fish, which was more stringent than the standard of 1 mg/kg for predatory fish adopted by Codex and other countries such as the United States of America. Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Mr Steven HO raised similar enquiries.

16. Controller/CFS responded that there was no relevant Codex ML for total mercury in fish, but Codex had established guideline levels ("GLs") for methylmercury in fish (other than predatory fish) and predatory fish at 0.5 mg/kg and 1 mg/kg respectively. As fish had been known as the major dietary source of methylmercury which was more toxic than inorganic mercury, the Administration considered it inappropriate, from a local public health perspective, to strictly follow the relevant Codex GL which was less stringent than the existing ML for mercury in predatory fish in Hong Kong. As such, an ML of 0.5 mg/kg for methylmercury in fish, including predatory fish, was proposed. Even though the above proposed ML when applied to predatory fish was more stringent than the Codex GL of 1 mg/kg for methylmercury in predatory fish, the Administration expected that the proposed ML would have minimal impact on the supply of fish to Hong Kong, and at the same time would not compromise local food safety.

17. Controller/CFS further said that according to the report of the first Hong Kong total diet study on metallic contaminants, about 11% of women of childbearing age had dietary exposure to methylmercury exceeding the relevant health-based guidance value even though the average population was not at risk. Methylmercury exposure during pregnancy was therefore of a public health concern due to potential health risks to the foetus.

18. The Chairman noted with concern that the proposed MLs for mercury in fish and aquatic animals were respectively expressed in methylmercury and total mercury. In her view, to afford better protection to public health, the Administration should consider setting MLs for both methylmercury and total mercury in food, covering fish and aquatic animals. Controller/CFS responded that while methylmercury was the major form of mercury in fish, different forms of mercury were found in other food items including aquatic animals. The Administration considered it appropriate to follow the Codex standards when setting MLs expressed in methylmercury for fish and total mercury for other types of food.

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Proposed maximum levels for lead in food

19. The Chairman expressed concern that compared with the substantial revision made to MLs for lead in fruits and some types of vegetables (from 6 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg), only a slight adjustment from 6 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg was proposed for the standards for lead in tea leaves and dried chrysanthemum. In response, Controller/CFS said that having reviewed the latest Codex standards, the Administration proposed to adopt all Codex standards for lead in food except for individual food where there was no relevant Codex ML. The Administration had made reference to the standards adopted by the Mainland, in proposing the revised standard of 5 mg/kg for lead in tea leaves and dried chrysanthemum. At the Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the relevant standards adopted by various jurisdictions for lead in tea leaves and dried chrysanthemum.

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Implications on food supply

20. Mr Steven HO considered it necessary for the Administration to explain to the fisheries industry details of the proposed regulatory standards for various metallic contaminants and to fully consult the industry before finalizing the legislative proposals. He said that members of the fisheries industry were gravely concerned about the impact of the proposed MLs for metallic contaminants on the supply of fish in Hong Kong. In Mr HO's view, the Administration should advise the fishermen whether and how the implementation of the new standards would affect their daily operations and consider providing assistance to fishermen to facilitate their compliance with the new requirements. Controller/CFS responded that the Administration would provide information on its assessment on the potential impact of the proposed MLs for metallic contamination on the supply of individual food/food groups, including local fish supply, to facilitate discussion on the legislative proposals with the industry.

21. Mr Jeremy TAM asked whether the Administration had assessed the impact of the proposed MLs for metallic contaminants on the food supply in Hong Kong and if yes, details of its assessment. Controller/CFS responded that according to the results of the routine food surveillance programme conducted in the past and additional baseline studies of CFS, in general, less than 5% of the test results for levels of metallic contamination were found exceeding the proposed MLs. This proportion was in line with the normal approach adopted by Codex in setting food safety standards. As advised earlier, AFCD had also conducted tests, including levels of metallic contamination, on local farmed fish. According to the tests, local farmed fish could generally comply with the proposed MLs. Overall speaking, the proposed MLs were not likely to affect the food supply in Hong Kong. Mr Steven HO requested the Administration to provide a written response in this respect.

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(*Post-meeting note:* The Chinese and English versions of the Administration's response were issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2046/16-17 and CB(2)2064/16-17 respectively on 30 August and 11 September 2017.)

22. Dr Leslie WONG from the Hong Kong Food Council enquired about the reasons for tightening the standards for certain metallic contaminants in vegetables. Controller/CFS replied that to better protect public health, relevant Codex standards on metallic contaminants for vegetables were adopted. While most of the standards for metallic contaminants in vegetables would be tightened, the standard for cadmium in leafy vegetables was proposed to be revised from 0.1 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg. Controller/CFS further said that past test results showed that only a few vegetable samples imported from the Mainland contained metallic contaminants exceeding the statutory limits. The Administration believed that the proposed amendments would have minimal impact on the supply of vegetables in Hong Kong.

Food surveillance and testing capability

23. Given the substantive updates proposed to be made to the Regulations in respect of the types and standards of metallic contaminants in food, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed concern as to whether there were adequate laboratory testing facilities in Hong Kong for testing of metallic contaminants. Mr SHIU Ka-fai opined that the Administration should give a reasonable grace period for the Amendment Regulations to come into effect, so that the trade and the private testing and laboratory sector would have time to get prepared for the updated standards.

24. Controller/CFS responded that CFS had discussed with the local private testing and laboratory sector its capacity on testing metallic contaminants in food as proposed in the amendments to the Regulations. The local private testing and laboratory sector's initial feedback was that it would be capable of providing testing services for the metallic contaminants as proposed, provided that the sector was given sufficient time in advance to gear up for making available such testing services. The Administration would consider giving a reasonable grace period for the relevant Amendment Regulations to come into effect, so that the trade and the private testing and laboratory sector would have reasonable time to get prepared for the updated standards.

25. Dr Leslie WONG from the Hong Kong Food Council asked how the levels of metallic contamination in cooked food and processed/compounded food would be assessed. Controller/CFS responded that the proposed MLs were set for regulating the levels of metallic contamination in individual food/food groups before they were cooked or processed/preserved for further use. It was assumed that processed food products made of food ingredients

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which did not contain excessive metallic contaminants would not pose risk to human health. CFS would regularly take food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing of metallic contaminants to safeguard public health.

26. Mr LING Man-sum of Hong Kong Chamber of Seafood Merchants Limited expressed concern about the long lead time CFS required for conducting and completing the food surveillance tests on samples of live/fresh seafood. To avoid serious financial loss to the trade, he suggested the Administration inspect the health certificates issued by exporting countries for live/fresh seafood imported into Hong Kong to ascertain food safety. Controller/CFS said that the Administration noted the suggestion.

27. The Chairman suggested the Administration also review the regulation over heavy metal in Chinese herbal medicines. Controller/CFS responded that the issue fell under the purview of the Health Branch of the Food and Health Bureau. He would relay the Chairman's suggestion to the Health Branch.

II. Any other business

28. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:46 pm.

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Special meeting on Monday, 3 July 2017, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Item I - Proposed amendments to the Food Adulteration
(Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132 V)

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
1.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration's proposal to review the regulatory control over metallic contamination in food to better protect public health and promote harmonization between local and international standards was generally supported. ● The Administration should strike a balance between safeguarding public health and avoiding undue regulation when specifying the maximum levels ("MLs") on metallic contaminants for individual food/food groups to ensure that there would not be any adverse impact on the supply of food in Hong Kong after the implementation of the new standards. ● The Administration should consider providing assistance to the trade to facilitate compliance with the new requirements and stepping up public education on the new/ revised MLs.
2.	Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should explain to the fisheries industry details of the proposed regulatory standards for metallic contaminants and the Administration's assessment of the potential impact of the proposed MLs for metallic contamination on the supply of individual food/food groups, including fish, in Hong Kong. ● The Administration should discuss with the trade whether and how the implementation of the proposed MLs would affect the daily operations of fishermen and should fully consult the industry before finalizing the legislative proposals.
3.	Hong Kong Fishermen's Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should take into account the dietary practices of Hong Kong people and local circumstances when deciding whether the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on metallic contamination should be adopted in Hong Kong. ● The Administration should give a grace period for the new/ revised MLs to come into effect, so that the industry would have time to get prepared for the implementation of the amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V).

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should consider providing assistance to the industry to facilitate compliance with the new requirements and stepping up public education on the new/revised MLs.
4.	Hong Kong Fisheries Development Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should explain to the fisheries industry details of the proposed regulatory standards for various metallic contaminants and the Administration's assessment of the potential impact of the proposed MLs for metallic contamination on the supply of fish in Hong Kong. ● The Administration should discuss with the industry whether and how the implementation of the proposed MLs would affect the daily operations of fishermen and should fully consult the industry before finalizing the legislative proposals. ● The Administration should consider providing assistance to the industry to facilitate compliance with the new requirements and stepping up public education on the new/revised MLs.
5.	Democratic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LC Paper No. CB(2)1779/16-17(01)
6.	The Rice Merchants' Association of Hong Kong Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LC Paper No. CB(2)1793/16-17(01) <i>(joint submission with Hong Kong Rice Importers and Exporters Association and Hong Kong Rice Suppliers' Association which did not attend the meeting.)</i>
7.	The Hong Kong Food Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LC Paper No. CB(2)1793/16-17(02)
8.	Hong Kong Chamber of Seafood Merchants Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LC Paper No. CB(2)1793/16-17(03)