

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 7 April 2017)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. Annual report on the Food Surveillance Programme of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS")</p>	<p>11 March 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the maximum permitted concentrations for heavy metals and other harmful substances in food according to the respective standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the European Union, the Mainland, the United States and Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>
	<p>14 February 2017</p>	<p>In the context of receiving the Administration's briefing on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2016 and the major surveillance results for the period, the Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) the major places/countries to which food products (including and in particular agricultural, aquatic and fishery products) from Fukushima of Japan were exported since the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident occurred in 2011;</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>(b) details of the manpower resources involved in CFS's conducting tests on radiation levels of food products imported from Japan at the import, wholesale and retail levels;</p> <p>(c) regarding the sampling of food sold/ available online for chemical and microbiological tests, the criteria adopted by CFS in determining the types of food samples to be collected, as well as the frequency and number of samples taken for testing; and</p> <p>(d) the follow-up actions taken by CFS in response to the 152 unsatisfactory food samples detected under the Food Surveillance Programme for 2016, including the number of successful prosecutions taken out by the Administration and the offence(s) involved.</p>	
<p>2. Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and provision of public markets in new</p>	<p>Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to:</p> <p>(a) collect views of stall operators in markets without air-conditioning facilities on whether to take forward</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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development areas		<p>the retrofitting of air conditioning facilities in their respective markets and provide the Panel with the results (including the percentage of tenants who are in support of the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities) in the fourth quarter of 2015; and</p> <p>(b) provide the Panel with information on the outcomes of the consultation with the tenants and the Market Management Consultative Committees of the relevant markets (and other markets, if any) on the improvement proposals for six selected markets and the finalized improvement plans.</p>	
	24 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on (a) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s progress in taking forward the installation of air-conditioning in the 10 public markets which had obtained overwhelming support from tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems and (b) the timetable for completing the installation work in each of the 10 markets. The Administration was also requested to</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		provide detailed information on other suitable sites identified/proposed for development of new public markets (including the number and respective location of the sites) that were purported to serve the residents living in new development areas, such as Tin Shui Wai, and the considerations behind respective proposals.	
	14 March 2017	The Administration undertook to provide information on the measures taken by FEHD to improve the facilities and operating environment of public markets and the resources involved.	Response from the Administration awaited.
3. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals	Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) the results of the review of the definition of "cruelty to animals" and "animal" respectively under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374); and</p> <p>(b) the overall test results as well as the outcome of the study on commercial</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		pet food products available in Hong Kong.	
4. Issues concerning the Private Columbaria Bill to be re-introduced	8 November 2016	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) measures to be taken by the Administration to cope with the shortfall of supply of temporary storage spaces (around 30 000 spaces) for the displaced ashes arising from the cessation of operation of some private columbaria after the enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill;</p> <p>(b) measures to be adopted for increasing the supply of niches in the coming few years to meet the strong public demand; and</p> <p>(c) whether any initiatives would be taken by the Administration to facilitate the provision of medium-priced niches in the market (e.g. by waiving land premium for private columbaria and setting a cap on the price of the niches to be sold by these columbaria.)</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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5. Environmental hygiene issues in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market	13 December 2016	During the discussion on issues relating to the relocation of the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to the new Tung Chau Street cloth market, the Administration was requested to provide information on how it would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of the Tung Chau Street Market.	Response from the Administration awaited.
6. Issues relating to the incidents of hairy crabs detected with dioxins	19 December 2016	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) in respect of food safety incidents occurred in the past three to five years, (i) the amount of compensation or ex-gratia payment that had been made to the affected parties, such as food retailers and suppliers, by the Administration in each of the cases and the reasons for granting the compensation/ex-gratia payment; (ii) whether the Administration had applied any formula for calculating the amount of compensation/ex-gratia payment paid to the affected parties and if</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>yes, the details;</p> <p>(b) given that Hong Kong and the Mainland adopted different standards for testing of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls in hairy crabs, whether the Administration would (i) take any specific measures to ensure that hairy crabs imported into Hong Kong from the Mainland were fit for human consumption; and (ii) consider conducting joint testing with the Mainland authorities before the hairy crabs were imported into Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(c) the timetable for reviewing the Administration's policies and drawing up measures to enhance the monitoring and regulatory arrangements on hairy crabs, with a view to ensuring that the import into and sale of hairy crabs in Hong Kong in the next season would not be affected by similar incidents.</p>	

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7. Measures on prevention and control of mosquitos and biting midges	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) other than the mosquito prevention and control measures already in place, whether any new and more effective measures would be adopted/considered in the Government's anti-mosquito work; and</p> <p>(b) details of the studies on the surveillance of biting midges infestation in Hong Kong conducted by experts and the measures taken/to be taken by the Administration to address the problem of biting midges in various districts of the territory.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.
8. Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding the service contract tendering mechanism of FEHD, (i) the criteria adopted by the Administration in evaluating the tenders before letting out the cleansing service contracts and</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(ii) whether the Administration would consider the comments of District Councils and district personalities on the daily performance of the tenderers in considering awarding and renewing the service contracts;</p> <p>(b) FEHD's progress of fine-tuning the existing cleansing contract tendering system and its timetable for completing the exercise;</p> <p>(c) the expenditure incurred on the installation of Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at certain refuse dumping blackspots in the Central & Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long Districts, which was a pilot scheme implemented since end-2016;</p> <p>(d) given that the Administration would examine the effectiveness of the pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras upon its completion, the findings of the review once available;</p> <p>(e) a copy of the guidance notes and operational guidelines on the use and disclosure of the footage recorded by IP</p>	

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		<p>cameras to be drawn up by FEHD to ensure compliance with the provisions on the manner of collecting personal data under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486);</p> <p>(f) the measures formulated by the Administration for improving the cleanliness of shorelines, and details of the additional resources allocated for stepping up the frequencies of clearing marine refuse in the harbour waters and refuse on beaches; and</p> <p>(g) how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the inter-departmental working group, which was set up in November 2012, in reviewing and formulating strategies/ measures for improving the cleanliness of shorelines.</p>	
<p>9. Demerit Points System ("DPS") for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation ("OSA") for licensed premises</p>	<p>24 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) among all the food premises with licences suspended/cancelled in the</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>past five years due to the accumulation of demerit points under the extant DPS,</p> <p>(i) the number and percentage of suspension and cancellation cases involving contravention of food safety requirements and (ii) a breakdown of these cases by the nature of offences; and</p> <p>(b) regarding applications for setting up OSA for licensed food premises, (i) the respective number of applications approved and rejected by FEHD in the past two years; (ii) the average processing time (i.e. from the receipt of an OSA application to the granting of approval/deciding on rejection); (iii) the major reasons for the long processing time required for some applications; and (iv) the main reasons of rejection (with a breakdown by category and number of cases).</p>	
<p>10. Issues relating to the regulation of organic food production</p>	<p>14 March 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) details of the standards/guidelines</p>	<p>The Chinese version of the Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/16-17 on</p>

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		<p>established by the Hong Kong Organic Resources Centre ("HKORC") to ensure that the process adopted by organic farms complied with the certification standards of organic farming and production; and</p> <p>(b) the scope of work of HKORC in promoting organic food labelling, including details of its voluntary certification service provided to farmers, regular surveys conducted to monitor the use of organic certification labels in the market and consumer education on organic food.</p>	31 March 2017.
11. Rodent prevention and control measures	14 March 2017	The Administration was requested to provide information on how FEHD monitored the situation of rodent infestation in public markets and the targeted measures taken by FEHD to control the rodent problem in public markets.	Response from the Administration awaited.