

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 14 October 2019)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Certification system for organic food	11 December 2018	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of inspections (including regular and spot checks) conducted by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre ("HKORC") on the 140 food production units that had been certified under HKORC's certification system, and the follow-up actions taken by the Administration or HKORC in case of any non-compliance with HKORC's certification standards and requirements was found;</p> <p>(b) the number of operations carried out by the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") against the sale of counterfeit organic food/false claim of organic produce over the past few years, and the number of prosecutions instituted against contraventions of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362);</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider tasking the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD")</p>	<p>The Administration's response was set out in Annex A to LC Paper No. CB(2)1942/18-19(01) issued to members on 26 September 2019.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>or the Centre for Food Safety, instead of HKORC and C&ED, to conduct inspections on certified production units and retailers of organic food products for ensuring compliance with relevant certification standards and labelling requirements in relation to the production and sale of organic food; and</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration would consider putting in place a mechanism for monitoring and reporting cases of selling fake organic food or labelling of certification marks on unauthenticated food.</p>	
<p>2. Issues relating to the proposed arrangements for re-allocation of vacant hawker pitches</p>	<p>28 January 2019</p>	<p>Members noted that the Administration would brief and consult the seven District Councils with fixed pitches to be re-allocated and relevant stakeholders on the proposed arrangements for re-allocation of suitable/vacant hawker pitches before finalizing the allocation mechanism with an aim to taking forward the re-allocation in the third quarter of 2019. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel before the end of the 2018-2019 legislative session the outcome of the consultation and the finalized arrangements for re-allocating the vacant pitches.</p>	<p>The Administration's response was set out in its paper entitled "Re-allocation of fixed hawker pitches and issues relating to bazaars" (LC Paper No. CB(2)1786/18-19(01)) issued to members on 12 July 2019.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
3. Initiatives on the reduction of salt and sugar in food	12 March 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) enforcement actions taken over the past few years against false claims of "low salt", "no salt", "low sugar" and "no sugar" on the packaging labels (including nutrition labels or the specific display labels used under the voluntary "Salt/Sugar" Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products) of prepackaged food products for breach of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W); and</p> <p>(b) the resources deployed by government departments and the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food for promoting territory-wide salt and sugar reduction over the past few years.</p>	<p>The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1789/18-19 on 11 July 2019.</p>
4. Food safety of online food sale	12 March 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of food samples taken for chemical and microbiological tests from food premises/food factories which supplied food to ultimate consumers through online platforms over the past</p>	<p>The Administration's response was set out in Annex B to LC Paper No. CB(2)1942/18-19(01) issued to members on 26 September 2019.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>few years, and the actions taken in those cases with food tested to have contained pesticide residue or metallic contamination exceeding the relevant statutory standards; and</p> <p>(b) the numbers of (i) inspections/ investigations (including decoy operations) conducted over the past few years to the place of business of 395 online food sale platforms which had obtained permits for sale of restricted food online and to the food premises/food factories supplying food for purchase online; (ii) checks against food suppliers on whether the food purchased online was stored at a safe and proper temperature during the transportation/delivery process to customers; and (iii) the enforcement actions taken against cases involving breaches of the food safety laws.</p>	
5. Use of fish feed	2 April 2019	<p>When discussing the proposal to strengthen the management of licensed marine fish farms, the Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the differences between using trash fish and dry pellet feed in fish farming in</p>	<p>The Chinese and English versions of the Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)1641/18-19(01)) were issued to members on 11 and 28 June 2019</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>respect of cost, nutritional content, hygiene, availability, effectiveness in fish culturing and impact on the environment and ecology (backed up with scientific and technical information where available); and</p> <p>(b) types of dry pellet feed available in the local market.</p>	<p>respectively.</p>
<p>6. Handling illegal importation of cats and dogs</p>	<p>16 April 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding animal euthanasia, the total expenditure incurred by AFCD over the past three years and the percentage share of the expenditure on euthanizing illegally imported cats or dogs; and</p> <p>(b) in three months' time, the outcome of AFCD's review of the procedures and arrangements for handling special cases of illegal animal importation.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>7. Proposed creation of two directorate posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for planning and implementation of municipal facility projects</p>	<p>14 May 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following supplementary information:</p> <p>(a) given that a five-year supernumerary directorate Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") post (designated as Assistant Director (Market Special Duties) ("AD(MSD)")) upon creation and proposed to be retitled as Assistant Director (Market Review) ("AD(MR)")) under the current exercise) was already created in January 2018 to take forward a fundamental review and oversee the implementation of various measures for improving the facilities and management of public markets, the justification for creating a permanent AOSGC post (to be designated as Assistant Director (Market Development) ("AD(MD)")) to take forward measures on market modernization and development of new public markets;</p> <p>(b) the major differences in job duties of AD(MR) and AD(MD) and the proposed delineation of work and responsibilities between the two posts, as well as the performance indicators to be adopted for</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>evaluating the performance of the two post holders;</p> <p>(c) the work progress of the dedicated team led by the existing AD(MSD) in respect of taking forward the review of the facilities as well as management of public markets and the implementation of enhancement measures for revitalizing and modernizing the operation and management of markets (including the progress of the improvement works at the six representative markets selected by the consultant for detailed study and specific improvement recommendations);</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration would consider members' suggestion to create the AD(MD) post on a supernumerary basis (say, for three or five years) and examine the need for extending the post or converting it into permanent basis before the expiry of the initial period taking into account the work progress of the tasks concerned; and</p> <p>(e) a written response to the questions raised in Hon SHIU Ka-chun's letter dated</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		14 May 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1440/18-19(01)).	
8. Food safety management and import control of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS")	11 June 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of inspection visits conducted by CFS in the past five years to registered farms on the Mainland supplying live poultry, food animals, aquatic products as well as agricultural products to Hong Kong ("registered farms") (including the percentage of farms visited against the total number of registered farms approved by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China ("GACC") for supplying food to Hong Kong in each of those years), the names and locations of the farms concerned, the items and issues looked into by CFS in the inspection visits and the main findings of the visits;</p> <p>(b) whether CFS would consider publicizing on its website the information as referred to in subsection (a) above for public inspection; and</p>	The Administration's response was set out in Annex C to LC Paper No. CB(2)1942/18-19(01) issued to members on 26 September 2019.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		(c) whether CFS would, for the trade's reference, consider making available on its website a list of registered farms as approved by GACC; and if yes, whether specific timeline would be set for updating the list whenever CFS was informed of any changes to the list.	
9. Food Surveillance Programme and food safety of food groups of concern	11 June 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the existing regulatory control over raw fish and raw aquatic products (including sashimi products) and the number of inspections/tests conducted by CFS in recent years on raw fish and raw aquatic products to ensure that good aquaculture practices and/or freezing treatment had been adopted by manufacturers and importers in handling the food concerned;</p> <p>(b) details of the new testing methods and parameters to be adopted in assessing the risk of parasitic infection (e.g. presence of parasites and worm eggs) in sashimi products and raw seafood;</p> <p>(c) the number of samples of chilled meat and poultry meat collected for testing under</p>	The Administration's response was set out in Annex D to LC Paper No. CB(2)1942/18-19(01) issued to members on 26 September 2019.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>the Food Surveillance Programme in the past few years and the testing parameters adopted for these chilled products;</p> <p>(d) the existing requirements imposed on food manufacturers/suppliers to ensure the food safety of cooked food products purchased online during the process of delivering the food products to customers; and</p> <p>(e) details of the testing results of the two samples of cereals and cereal products which were found unsatisfactory under the 2018 Food Surveillance Programme, and the testing results of rice products in respect of the level of cadmium since the passage of the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2018.</p>	
<p>10. Financial commitment for culling of pigs and follow-up work due to African Swine Fever</p>	<p>11 June 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the estimated number of practitioners involved in the supply chain of live pigs in Hong Kong (including the respective number of pig farmers, slaughterhouse operators, livestock agents, buyers, workers in pig farms/slaughterhouses/</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		meat transportation companies as well as meat stall owners/operators).	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 October 2019