

Your ref.: CB2/PL/FE

Our ref.: FEHD CFS 1-55/10/15

27 July 2020

Ms Josephine SO
Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms SO,

Food Surveillance Programme

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 9 June 2020, some Members requested further information from the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department during the discussion of the Food Surveillance Programme. The requested supplementary information is set out below.

(a) Places of origin of unsatisfactory food samples

In 2019, the CFS collected about 4 900 online food samples for testing, with 7 samples found unsatisfactory with metallic contaminants, pesticide residues or veterinary drug residues in excess of the relevant standards. These included 5 samples of aquatic products from Singapore, New Zealand, Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom, 1 fruit sample from Australia and 1 honey sample from Thailand.

Since the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2018 came into operation in phases on 1 November 2019, 1 790 food samples have been tested for metallic contaminants against the revised standards as at May 2020. There were 13 unsatisfactory samples, including 9 samples of vegetables and fruits from the Mainland, the United States and Peru and 4 samples of aquatic products from Japan, the Philippines and Ireland.

(b) Aquatic products and related products


In 2019, a total of 6 101 samples of aquatic products and related products were tested by the CFS. A breakdown of the number of the samples taken, by food group and the level at which sampling was conducted, is listed below:

Food group \ Sampling level	Import and wholesale levels	Retail level	Total
Freshwater fish	139	275	414
Seawater fish (other than coral fish)	399	441	840
Coral fish	53	292	345
Brackish water fish	189	336	525
Fish products	25	258	283
Shrimp/prawn and related products	165	490	655
Crab and related products	202	143	345
Lobster and related products	82	55	137
Other crustaceans and related products	19	14	33
Univalves and related products	66	45	111
Bivalves and related products	570	1 153	1 723
Cephalopods and related products	25	87	112
Other molluscs/edible aquatic animals and related products	6	89	95
Sashimi (fish)	---	195	195
Sashimi (seafood other than fish)	3	110	113
Sushi (fish)	---	87	87
Sushi (seafood other than fish)	---	88	88
Total	1 943	4 158	6 101

(c) Vegetables

According to information from the Census and Statistics Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, about 98% of the vegetables available for sale in the local market are imported, and about 2% of the market share is taken up by local produce. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 23 677, 23 952 and 21 650 samples of vegetables and their products were taken for testing respectively. In each of the respective years, about 70% of the samples (i.e. 16 985, 16 974 and 15 167 samples) were collected at the import level and about 30% (i.e. 6 692, 6 978 and 6 483 samples) were collected at the wholesale and retail levels. The samples taken at the wholesale and retail levels covered vegetables and their products both imported and produced locally.

Yours sincerely,



(TSE Oi-yee)

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c.: Food and Health Bureau