



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局

Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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[Translation]

12 March 2021

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Connie HO)

Dear Ms HO,

Public Works Subcommittee Meeting on 24 February 2021
LC Paper No. PWSC(2020-21)33
35NM – Modernisation of Aberdeen Market cum Cooked Food Centre
Supplementary Information

Regarding the follow-up items arising from the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee on 24 February 2021 in relation to the above works project, our response is set out below.

Anti-rodent measures

The design of the overhaul project for Aberdeen Market has incorporated the guidelines on rodent-proofing design in new buildings formulated by the Buildings Department in 2019 and the principles on anti-rodent measures in building structure

formulated by the Pest Control Advisory Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). They include:

- (i) vertical pipes will be spaced at least 100 mm apart and at least 100 mm from wall so as to make it difficult for rodents to climb;
- (ii) ventilation grids and other similar openings will be proofed with steel wire mesh;
- (iii) opening of the grating covering a surface channel will be less than 6 mm in width;
- (iv) doors will be protected at the bottom by fitting a metal “kicking plate” on the outside;
- (v) no voids between the sides, back or bottom of built-in furniture and the adjacent walls or floors, and
- (vi) external walls of flower bed will be higher than 1 metre to prevent rodents from entering.

In addition, a separate enclosed storage room with air-conditioning will be provided in the overhauled Aberdeen Market for temporary storage of pig carcasses delivered to the market in the early morning, so as to prevent rodent problem caused by improper storage, and enhance food safety. The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has also specified in the construction contract for the overhaul of Aberdeen Market that the contractor concerned shall carry out anti-rodent work before the commencement and after the completion of the overhaul works to prevent rodent infestation. The Pest Control Advisory Section of FEHD will also conduct detailed on-site inspections before the commencement of the overhaul works and the reopening of the market, and make recommendations on further improvement as appropriate.

FEHD has been committed to strengthening the anti-rodent work in public markets, which includes the appropriate application of innovative technologies to enhance the effectiveness of the relevant work. FEHD is working with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to launch a pilot scheme in Yeung Uk Road Market in Tsuen Wan to deploy wireless motion sensors, rodent traps, bait boxes, etc. through the application of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, so as to step up the monitoring of rodent prevention and control work in markets, and carry out focused improvements and follow-up work. Specifically, FEHD will install wireless motion sensors at strategic locations in markets to assist market management staff in monitoring the areas and the extent of rodent activities, thereby formulating targeted rodent prevention and control strategies. The data collected by the sensors can also be used to continuously monitor the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work. EMSD will also work with FEHD to introduce new types of rodent traps and bait boxes for testing. These devices, which either have

built-in sensors or can be equipped with wireless sensors, can remotely notify the market management staff once rodents are caught or the bait is depleted, thus ensuring timely treatment and bait refilling. We will review the effectiveness of the pilot scheme in a timely manner and actively explore the application of the new technology in other public markets including the overhauled Aberdeen Market.

Modernised facilities and new elements

Apart from adopting modern design and layout (e.g. non-reflective glass curtain wall of the façade to bring in natural light, employment of consultant for the design of external wall of building, re-planning of stalls, widening of passageways and provision of more public space, etc.), the overhaul works of Aberdeen Market will also provide a baby care room, a breast-feeding room, a room for temporary storage of pig carcass, and upgrade the barrier-free facilities (including installation of accessible lifts, accessible toilets and braille maps).

Moreover, in order to enhance the effectiveness of daily market operation and provide the public with better shopping experience, we will provide the following facilities in the overhauled market:

- (i) Government Wi-Fi service and message display screen for dissemination of government information and messages about food safety and environmental hygiene;
- (ii) new hand-washing facilities and a water dispenser;
- (iii) installation of the ultraviolet (UV-C) equipment to the fumes extracting system in the cooked food centre so that greasy fumes can be decomposed more effectively to reduce the adverse effect to the surrounding environment;
- (iv) creation of space for placing food waste recycling bins; and
- (v) a room designated for the recycling of discarded foam boxes and making reference to the practice of the Fish Marketing Organisation in Aberdeen to process discarded foam boxes by cold compaction.

In addition, appropriate measures to reduce the risk of virus transmission in the market have also been incorporated in the hardware design of the market. These include installing antibacterial door handles on washroom doors, adopting the contactless lift button technology in the newly-built passenger lifts, using water scrubbers to treat fumes generated from the live poultry stall and cooked food stalls before discharge, adopting independent market air-conditioning systems which are separated from the air intake and outlet grilles on other floors of the municipal services building where facilities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department are located, as well as maintaining negative pressure in washrooms and the live poultry

stall so that air must flow from the market area towards the washrooms and live poultry stall before discharge to the outdoor area. FEHD and ArchSD will continue to integrate other modern and new design elements into the market as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

(Gilford LAW)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Clerk to the Finance Committee
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Miss LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz)
Director of Architectural Services
(Attn: Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex)