



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

26 November 2020

Ms Maisie Lam  
Clerk to Subcommittee  
Council Business Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

**Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to  
the Prevention and Control of Disease**

**Follow-up actions required of the Administration  
arising from the discussion at the meeting on 16 November 2020**

Thank you for your letter of 25 November 2020 seeking further information on issues discussed at the meeting on 24 November 2020. Our reply is set out below –

**(a) manpower deployed by law enforcement agencies regarding enforcement of  
Cap. 599F and Cap. 599G**

Pursuant to the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G), the Secretary for Food and Health and the Director of Health have appointed respectively a total of 31 and 41 ranks of public officers from various enforcement departments, including the Department of Health, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Lands Department, Home Affairs Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Housing Department, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Hong Kong Police Force as authorised officers. Please refer to the following website for the ranks of the authorized officers: <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/officer-599f.html> and <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/chi/officer-599g.html>.

As the inspection and enforcement work involved in relation to the regulations is part of the regular duties of the enforcement agents concerned, there is no breakdown for the manpower resources involved.

**(b) risk of import of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) virus through imported frozen commodities**

The Government has been closely monitoring the risk of spread of the COVID-19 virus through imported frozen food. According to the World Health Organization, there is currently no evidence indicating that humans can be infected by COVID-19 via food. Yet, in response to the successive detections of COVID-19 virus on imported frozen food or packaging in the Mainland, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has for the sake of prudence stepped up sampling of imported frozen food for virus testing. The test results so far have shown that all samples are negative.

The CFS and the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health also issued guidelines in early November to remind frozen food handlers of the potential infection risks and the preventive measures. The guidelines cover preventive measures in respect of personal hygiene, personal protective equipment, environmental hygiene and social distancing. Amongst which there are recommendations on preventive measures regarding cleaning and disinfection of working environments such as freezers and vehicles for transportation etc. and also food packaging surfaces.

As a preventive measure, and taking into account concerns of frozen food handlers about the risk of the COVID-19 virus, FEHD has arranged voluntary free COVID-19 testing services for staff of licensed cold stores. Over 2 600 sampling bottles had been distributed and some 1 300 staff have completed the tests thus far.

Yours sincerely,



(Sophia Hui)

for Secretary for Food and Health