

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)092

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

1046

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Under this programme, the estimated number of vehicles carrying vegetables to be inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office in 2009 is 28 000, representing a decrease of 467 over the actual number in 2008. Please advise on the reasons for the decrease and the measures to be taken to ensure that the work of food surveillance will not be affected despite the decrease.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The planned number of vegetable vehicles to be inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office is the same in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (i.e. 28 000 vehicles). To address public concern about possible food smuggling in late 2008, more inspections were conducted and the total number of inspections was therefore increased to 28 467. The estimate of 28 000 vegetable vehicles to be inspected in 2009 is appropriate for an average year.

The Centre for Food Safety and the Customs and Excise Department will as appropriate step up inspections on inbound food-carrying vehicles at the border checkpoints, including vegetables trucks at Man Kam To Control Point, to ensure food safety.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009