

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

FHB(FE)093

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

1047

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 number of food samples to be taken for testing in 2009 is 65 000, representing a decrease of 1 726 over the actual number in 2008. Please advise on the reasons for the decrease and the effect on food safety surveillance.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The number of food samples to be tested under the food surveillance programme in 2008 had been planned to be 65 000. Due to the melamine incident in late 2008, more tests were conducted and a total of 66 726 samples were tested in the event. The estimate of 65 000 samples for 2009 is appropriate for an average year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009