

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

**FHB(FE)110**

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

1716

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 :

In regard to the target of conducting inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong (no. of farms), the department's target is 35. However, the actual number of inspected farms in 2008 was 50; the department again estimates to conduct 50 inspections of these farms in 2009. Why is there a significant increase in the number of inspections? Will the department deploy additional provision and staff members for the inspections? If so, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK

Reply :

In 2008, the Department enhanced the number of farm inspections in the Mainland, with the provision of six more Field Officers. More inspections to farms in the Mainland were carried out in 2008 to enhance food safety, with a focus on control at source. Maintaining the same number of farm inspections in 2009 is considered appropriate. We will suitably enhance the number of farm inspections through re-deployment when the situation so warrants.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ W H CHEUK

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3.2009