

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

FHB(FE)124

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Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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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 :

The number of vehicles carrying vegetables to be inspected at Man Kam To will decrease in 2009-10. In this connection, what is the estimated number of samples to be taken for testing? How is it compared to the number in the previous year (i.e. 2008-09)? What are the plans in 2009-10 to ensure vegetables imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

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.

For 2009, the estimated number of vegetable samples to be taken at the Man Kam To Food Control Office for analysis of pesticide residues is 13 000, which is about the same as 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009