

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)114

(Question Serial No. 1871)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Hong Kong legislation stipulates that prepackaged food must comply with the requirements on nutrition labelling. If it contains allergens, a declaration must be made to avoid posing danger to people with food allergies. Some overseas food purchased online, however, may not fully comply with the requirements of Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of cases in which prepackaged food products imported through cross-boundary online shopping failed to comply with the local requirements on nutrition labelling in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the method to ensure that prepackaged food products imported through cross-boundary online shopping are properly labelled for safe consumption by the public?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. Any person imports prepackaged food products imported (including those through online shopping) for sale in Hong Kong shall comply with the requirements under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) (the Regulations).

In the past 3 years, the number of labels of prepackaged food products for sale in Hong Kong checked by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, and the number of prosecutions for non-compliance with the requirements on nutrition labelling are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			
	2022	2023	2024	Total
Prepackaged food product labels checked	55 192	55 208	55 365	165 765
Prosecutions for non-compliance with the requirements on nutrition labelling	68	69	76	213

The Department does not keep statistics on prepackaged food products imported through online shopping.

CFS found that prepackaged food products non-compliant with Hong Kong's food labelling laws were sold at a collection point of an online platform in Hong Kong in 2024, and has instituted a prosecution for its contravention of the requirements under the Regulations. It will continue to keep in view the situation and step up action as appropriate.

2. CFS has been reminding the public and the trade through different channels, such as webpages, social media, press releases, Trade Consultation Forums and publicity leaflets distributed at border control points, etc., that prepackaged food products imported (including those through online shopping) for sale in Hong Kong shall comply with the relevant labelling requirements for safe consumption by the public.

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