

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)069

(Question Serial No. 1971)

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:

On facilitating the development of Hong Kong's food industry and the export of food products manufactured in Hong Kong to the Mainland, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (i) Regarding the work of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) in participating in the formulation and local promotion of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Standards, what were (i) the costs, (ii) the manpower required and (iii) the number of activities held in relation to the GBA Standards in each of the past 3 years?
- (ii) Since the launch of the GBA Standards, how many briefing sessions has the Centre for Food Safety conducted to facilitate the food manufacturing and import/export trades' understanding of the standards?
- (iii) How many GBA Standards have been fully adopted by the food manufacturing and import/export trades so far? What are the costs involved for taking forward the adoption of each GBA Standard?
- (iv) Will EEB set up a timetable to inform the public of the progress in taking forward the adoption of the GBA Standards for local food manufacturing and import/export and develop easy-to-understand publicity tools to let the public know how they will benefit? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- (i), (ii) & (iv) In April 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding on jointly promoting the development of standards in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) was signed in Shenzhen by representatives of the governments of the three places with a view to strengthening the development of GBA Standards, which cover various fields including transportation, mechanical and electrical products, and medical care. Regarding the setting of GBA Standards for food products, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has joined the Task Force on Greater Bay Area Standards for Food Products, which comprises official representatives of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, to provide

information on the relevant standards and detailed requirements under Hong Kong's legislation during the vetting process. GBA Standards for food products are non-compulsory standards published by the Standardization Research Center for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area upon consensus among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. They are developed under the principle of adopting the most stringent standards among the three places.

Regarding the promotion work of GBA Standards, CFS has launched a thematic webpage on "Greater Bay Area Food Standards" to disseminate the relevant information and promote GBA Standards. Through trade consultation forums, CFS also encourages the food trade to actively participate in the formulation and application of GBA Food Standards. Moreover, CFS publishes electronic news (e-news) to update the trade on GBA Standards.

The first batch of GBA Standards were promulgated in April 2023. As at March 2026, CFS has provided information on GBA Standards in 6 issues of e-news and 3 trade consultation forums. In addition, CFS has started promoting GBA Standards on social media platforms (such as Facebook and Instagram) to facilitate access to the relevant information by the trade and the public.

Moreover, the Environment and Ecology Bureau will step up efforts to promote "Food from Hong Kong" as a brand and Hong Kong's role as a food hub, and make use of the aforementioned materials to publicise GBA Standards in the coming year.

As CFS officers involved in work related to GBA Standards are also tasked with other duties, we do not keep a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure required for this area of work.

- (iii) CFS encourages the trade to participate in the development and adoption of GBA Standards having regard to market situation and needs, with a view to enhancing their business development in the GBA. Given the non-compulsory nature of GBA Standards, the food trade may make appropriate plans to suit their business development needs and decide for itself whether to adopt the relevant GBA standards. CFS does not maintain statistics on the adoption of GBA Standards for food manufacturing and import/export products.

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