

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0065)

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:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been conducting testing on imported Japanese food since the Japanese Government began discharging nuclear-contaminated water into the sea on 24 August 2023. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the average radiation levels, with a breakdown by type of food, of the radiological samples collected since the implementation of testing and their differences from the guideline levels of the Codex Alimentarius Commission?
- 2) With the increase in the quantity of imported Japanese food, in addition to increasing or redeploying manpower, what specific measures has CFS adopted to enhance testing efficiency through technology application, and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Chun, Jonathan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- 1) In view of the Japanese Government's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the sea since 24 August 2023, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, as of noon on 5 March 2026, conducted radiation testing on a total of 208 952 samples of imported Japanese food, including 133 348 samples of aquatic products and related products, seaweed and sea salt. The radiation test results of all samples were satisfactory, with levels below the guideline levels of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- 2) After stepping up radiation testing, the CFS has timely increased relevant testing equipment and flexibly deployed manpower since 2023. The CFS will continue to review the actual situation, deploy manpower suitably and make good use of technology, such as radiation hand-held survey meters and the Contamination Monitoring System, to meet operational needs. At present, the trade can also submit applications for import licence and import permission, and report the arrival of imported food consignment online at any time through the Food Trader Portal, thereby facilitating the clearance process. As for the expenditure, the CFS currently does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on the use technology to enhance the radiation testing of samples of imported Japanese food.

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