

Imported milk sample detected with total bacterial count exceeding legal limit

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 21) that a sample of bottled pasteurised milk imported from the United Kingdom was detected with total bacterial count exceeding the legal limit. The concerned batch of the product has not entered the market. The CFS is following up on the incident.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: English Whole Milk
Product brand: Marks & Spencer
Place of origin: United Kingdom
Importer: ALF Retail Hong Kong Limited
Packing: 1.136 litre per bottle
Use-by date: January 16, 2019

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS collected the abovementioned sample for testing at import level under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the total bacterial count of the sample was 75 000 per millilitre. According to the Milk Regulation (Cap 132 AQ), milk after heat treatment by means of pasteurisation should not contain more than 30 000 bacteria per millilitre.

"The CFS has informed the importer concerned of the irregularity. Investigation revealed that the affected batch of product is still stored in the importer's warehouse and has not entered the local market. The affected product has been marked and sealed by CFS. The CFS has temporarily suspended the permission to import for sale of the product concerned granted earlier to the importer. Other types of milk product of the same brand being sold in the market are not affected. "

The spokesman said that the total bacterial counts exceeding the legal limit indicated that the hygienic conditions were unsatisfactory, but did not mean it would lead to food poisoning.

The CFS has informed the British authorities of the incident, and will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action.

[HKETO, Brussels says Hong Kong can help Italian entrepreneurs to connect and excel in Asia \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) co-hosted a business seminar in Milan, Italy on January 17, as part of its continuing efforts to reach out to Italian entrepreneurs and promote Hong Kong as the gateway to Mainland China and the best place to tap business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) development.

Entitled "Hong Kong Engine of Asian Economy: Opportunities for Exports and Innovation for Italian Companies", the seminar was co-organised by HKETO, Brussels and Invest Hong Kong (IHK), with the support of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Italian Association of Foreign Trade.

The Deputy Representative of the HKETO, Brussels, Miss Fiona Chau, told Italian entrepreneurs that Hong Kong's unparalleled knowledge of the Mainland market and its deep economic connections with the Mainland, Asia and the rest of the world continue to make Hong Kong their best business partner.

Emphasising the Government's theme of "connect and excel", Miss Chau said that connecting with Hong Kong can help people and businesses succeed in Asia. She told the participants about Hong Kong's major investment in mega infrastructure projects including the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the airport's three-runway system, which aim to greatly enhance Hong Kong's connectivity with the Greater Bay Area, the Mainland and the world.

The seminar was followed by a cocktail reception co-hosted by the HKETO, Brussels and IHK in co-operation with Copernico, an Italian start-up development and acceleration platform. At the reception, Miss Chau highlighted that Hong Kong is well-known for its simple tax regime and low tax rate, with the latest reports by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the World Bank finding that Hong Kong has the most business-friendly tax system in the world. She added that Hong Kong continues to be a unique place to "connect and excel" in business and in life. Hong Kong welcomes talents from around the world to live, develop careers and contribute to Hong Kong society, she said.

Other speakers at the seminar and the cocktail reception included the Director-General of Investment Promotion of the IHK, Mr Stephen Phillips.

During her visit to Milan, Miss Chau also met with the President of the Lombardy Regional Government, Mr Attilio Fontana, and the regional Minister of Finance, Mr Davide Carlo Caparini, and updated them on the latest developments in Hong Kong. She also met with representatives of the Italian

Association of Industrial Design and researchers of the Italian think-tank, Italian Institute for International Political Studies.



[LegCo to debate motion on implementing the Toll Adjustment Proposal](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (January 23) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, Members will debate a motion on implementing the Toll Adjustment Proposal.

The motion, moved by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, states: "Regarding the Government's proposal to adjust the tolls of private cars, taxis and motorcycles for using the three road harbour crossings with effect from January 1, 2020 (Toll Adjustment Proposal) with a view to rationalising cross-harbour traffic which will bring about benefits to society as a whole, with expected benefits including alleviating cross-harbour traffic congestion, reducing the obstruction of non-cross-harbour traffic by cross-harbour traffic queues, saving the commuting time for citizens using public

transport and reducing emission from vehicles, etc., this Council supports the Government to introduce into this Council legislative amendments relating to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing for the implementation of the Toll Adjustment Proposal, and to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for the Western Harbour Crossing Toll Compensation Scheme."

Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Jeremy Tam, Mr Gary Fan, Mr Chan Han-pan, Mr Au Nok-hin and Mr Ma Fung-kwok will move separate amendments to the Secretary for Transport and Housing's motion.

On Members' motions, Mr Dennis Kwok will move a motion under Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The motion states: "That, pursuant to Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, this Council summons the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, to attend before the Council at its earliest meeting after the passage of this motion to produce all relevant papers, books, records or documents and to testify or give evidence on her handling of the case of alleged corruption and/or alleged misconduct in public office of former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mr Leung Chun-ying, her failure to comply with the Department of Justice's briefing out policy to seek legal advice from Queen's Counsel and/or Senior Counsel on the case, and her decision of not prosecuting Mr Leung Chun-ying, and relevant matters."

Dr Fernando Cheung will move a motion on enacting legislation to protect the rights and interests of rare disease patients. The motion states: "That quite a number of countries have laid down definitions, enacted legislation and formulated evidence-based and regularized long-term policies on rare diseases as early as the 1980s, making it more convenient for rare disease patients to apply for approval of drugs, subsidy, and so on, and enabling them to receive more efficient and more proper treatment and care; and the United States, member states of the European Union and the neighbouring countries and regions of Hong Kong, such as Singapore, Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Korea have long laid down definitions of rare diseases, formulated support policies, established a database of rare disease cases, etc.; however, the Hong Kong Government has yet to lay down any definition and formulate any concrete policy on rare diseases to provide support for rare disease patients; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to enact legislation on rare diseases, in order to protect and promote the rights of rare disease patients and enable them to receive proper diagnosis, treatment and care, thereby fulfilling the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the relevant contents include:

(1) establishing a policy committee on rare diseases to advise on a strategic development direction for a policy on rare diseases, monitor the implementation of the policy on rare diseases by government departments and statutory bodies, report on the implementation of the policy on rare diseases, etc.;

(2) establishing an evaluative committee on rare diseases to evaluate whether a disease meets the definition of rare diseases;

(3) defining a disease which affects no more than 1 in 10 000 individuals in Hong Kong and is clinically definable as a rare disease;

(4) introducing a registration system for rare disease drugs whereby rare disease patients, medical practitioners and pharmaceutical companies can apply for the inclusion of new drugs in the list of drugs for rare diseases;

(5) introducing a subsidy system to ensure that rare disease patients will receive safe, quality, effective and affordable drugs and treatment, instead of laying emphasis only on cost-effectiveness; and

(6) introducing a rare disease information system which contains a list of rare diseases and their prevalence rates, the demographic information of patients and usage statistics of rare disease drugs."

Professor Joseph Lee and Dr Elizabeth Quat will move separate amendments to Dr Fernando Cheung's motion.

Mr Tony Tse will move a motion on creating opportunities to assist small and medium enterprises and promoting upward mobility of young people. The motion states: "That this Council urges the Government to create opportunities to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and promote upward mobility of young people; specific measures are as follows:

(1) reforming the procurement and tendering systems of the Government and public organisations, including attaching more importance to creative designs and innovative technology in evaluation, rather than only putting emphasis on the 'lowest bid wins' principle and imposing unnecessary requirements on the experience, qualifications and capital of tenderers; and splitting projects and service contracts as appropriate to avoid unnecessary bundled tender of multiple contracts, thereby reducing the monopoly by large enterprises and multinational groups, increasing local SMEs', start-up enterprises' and young professionals' chances of tendering and success in bidding;

(2) actively assisting local SMEs and young people to develop markets and seize the opportunities presented by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area), including setting up more offices in the Greater Bay Area to facilitate the provision of more support to SMEs and young people who wish to seek development on the Mainland, and at the same time striving with the Mainland for more tax concessions and facilitating measures;

(3) holding architectural design competitions for suitable small and medium public works projects and allowing winners to participate in the projects, and providing unsuccessful entrants whose works have reached a certain standard with reasonable design fees as encouragement;

(4) raising the subsidy ceiling for the Continuing Education Fund and expanding the funding scope, and providing SMEs with staff training allowance to promote concurrent improvement of enterprises and staff;

(5) providing young people with aspirations for starting their own business with free or low-rent shared offices on a time limited basis, and offering one-stop start-up support services; and

(6) building a home ownership ladder with clearly defined levels to assist young families and young professionals with repayment ability yet unable to afford the high rate of down payment in acquiring their first property, thereby helping them to move upward."

Mr Wu Chi-wai, Dr Lo Wai-kwok, Mr Charles Mok, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Paul Tse and Dr Chiang Lai-wan will move separate amendments to Mr Tony Tse's motion.

Meanwhile, Ms Starry Lee will move a motion under Rule 49E(2) of the Rules of Procedure. The motion states: "That this Council takes note of Report No. 9/18-19 of the House Committee laid on the Table of the Council on January 23, 2019 in relation to the Fugitive Offenders (France) Order."

On Government Bills, the National Anthem Bill will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bill will be adjourned.

The Second Reading debate on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Bill will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

CHP investigates case of severe paediatric influenza A infection and outbreaks of influenza A at RCHD and kindergarten-cum-child care centre

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (January 21) investigating a case of severe paediatric influenza A infection, as well as influenza A outbreaks at a residential care home for persons with disabilities (RCHD) in Tsuen Wan and a kindergarten-cum-child care centre in Yuen Long.

The case of severe paediatric influenza A infection involves a 3-year-old boy with good past health, who has presented with fever, cough and shortness of breath since January 7. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Kwong Wah Hospital on January 15 and was admitted to the hospital on the same day. He later developed respiratory failure and was transferred to the paediatric intensive care unit of the hospital for further management. His nasopharyngeal aspirate tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was influenza A infection complicated with severe pneumonia. He is now in a stable condition.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had received seasonal influenza vaccination for the current season and had no travel history during the incubation period. His home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far. The CHP's investigations are ongoing.

The outbreak at the RCHD involves 15 male residents and three female residents, aged 23 to 62, as well as two female staff members. They have developed fever, cough and sore throat since January 11. All sought medical attention. Fifteen of them required hospitalisation and 13 of them were discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of 14 residents tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing, six of which tested positive for influenza A (H1) virus.

For the outbreak at the kindergarten-cum-child care centre, it involves 12 boys and nine girls, aged 3 to 5, who have developed similar symptoms since January 9. All of them sought medical attention. Three required hospitalisation and were discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of seven affected students tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing, two of which tested positive for influenza A (H1) virus.

"The latest surveillance data indicated that the local seasonal influenza activity has continued to increase in the past two weeks and may continue to rise in the period ahead. We urge the community to continue heightening their vigilance against seasonal influenza. As young children are particularly

affected in this influenza season, we appeal to parents who have not yet arranged vaccination for their children in this season to do so as soon as possible to strengthen their personal protection," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Apart from children, people aged 50 to 64 years, the elderly and those with underlying illnesses who have not yet received influenza vaccination this season are also urged to get vaccinated as early as possible to prevent seasonal influenza as it takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body after vaccination. Medical advice should be sought promptly if influenza-like symptoms develop so that appropriate treatment can be initiated as early as possible to prevent potential complications. Parents and carers are reminded to render assistance in prevention, care and control for vulnerable people," the spokesman added.

Besides receiving seasonal influenza vaccination as early as possible for personal protection, the public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene for protection against influenza and other respiratory illnesses. For more information, please visit the CHP's [influenza page](#) and weekly [Flu Express](#).

Hong Kong Customs combats unfair trade practice at medicine shop

Hong Kong Customs today (January 21) arrested a salesman of a medicine shop suspected to have applied a false trade description in the course of selling a proprietary medicine, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO).

Customs officers conducted a test-buy operation at a medicine shop in Tsim Sha Tsui this afternoon. A salesman was suspected to have applied a false trade description on a brand of medicine by stating it was a particular brand of medicine in the course of selling medicines. Customs officers then arrested the 39-year-old man.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TDO and consumers to procure products at reputable shops.

Under the TDO, any person who in the course of any trade or business applies a false trade description to any goods commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TD0 to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).