

Annual updating of declarations of interests by CE, politically appointed officials and ExCo Members

A Government spokesman said today (July 31) that the Chief Executive (CE), politically appointed officials and Members of the Executive Council (ExCo) have updated their annual declarations of interests, and the updated declarations are available on government websites for public inspection.

The updated declaration of interests of the Chief Executive has been uploaded to the website of the Chief Executive's Office (www.ceo.gov.hk/eng/links.html). The declarations of interests of politically appointed officials, made in accordance with the Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System (PAO Code), have also been updated and uploaded to the websites of the respective offices or bureaux.

Information on the registrable interests of ExCo Members (including the President as well as ex-officio and non-official ExCo Members) has also been uploaded to the ExCo website after updating (www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/eng/interests.html).

The PAO Code stipulates that politically appointed officials shall declare their investments and interests on appointment and annually thereafter, and these declarations are required to be uploaded to the websites of the respective offices or bureaux. The CE voluntarily observes the above declaration arrangement. ExCo Members are likewise required to declare their registrable interests on appointment and annually thereafter, and these declarations are to be uploaded to the ExCo website.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Tender date	: July 31, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1831
Issue date	: August 1, 2018
Maturity date	: October 31, 2018

Amount applied	: HK\$77,395 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$33,511 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.40 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.44 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 22 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.45 PCT

Tender date	: July 31, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1860
Issue date	: August 1, 2018
Maturity date	: January 30, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$43,451 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$9,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.54 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.57 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 39 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.64 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning August 6, 2018:

Tender date	: August 7, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1832
Issue date	: August 8, 2018
Maturity date	: November 7, 2018
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$40,096 MN

Tender date	: August 7, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1861
Issue date	: August 8, 2018
Maturity date	: February 8, 2019
Tenor	: 184 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$11,000 MN

Tender date	August 7, 2018
Paper on offer	EF Bills
Issue number	Y1892
Issue date	August 8, 2018

Maturity date	August 7, 2019
Tenor	364 Days
Amount on offer	HK\$5,000 MN

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 is 103.9 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

CFS announces food safety report for June

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (July 31) released the findings of its food safety report for last month. The results of about 14 100 food samples tested were satisfactory except for 18 samples. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.9 per cent.

A CFS spokesman said about 1 700 food samples were collected for microbiological tests, some 4 200 samples were taken for chemical tests and the remaining 8 200 (including about 7 500 taken from food imported from Japan) were collected to test radiation levels.

The microbiological tests covered pathogens and hygienic indicators, while the chemical tests included pesticides, preservatives, metallic contaminants, colouring matters, veterinary drug residues and others.

The samples comprised about 3 900 samples of vegetables and fruit and their products; 600 samples of meat and poultry and their products; 1 800 samples of aquatic and related products; 1 200 samples of milk, milk products and frozen confections; 1 000 samples of cereals, grains and their products; and 5 600 samples of other food commodities (including beverages, bakery products and snacks).

The 18 unsatisfactory samples comprised seven vegetable samples detected with pesticide residues exceeding the legal limits; a vegetable sample and two dried mushroom samples detected with excessive cadmium; two anchovy fillet samples detected with histamine; a chilled goose sample and a frozen tiger prawn sample detected with veterinary drug residues; a fresh beef sample found to contain sulphur dioxide; a honey sample found to contain

a trace amount of an antibiotic; a packed milk drink sample found to contain excessive *Bacillus cereus*; and a fried pad thai noodle sample found to contain excessive coagulase-positive staphylococci organisms.

The CFS has taken follow-up action on the unsatisfactory samples, including informing the vendors concerned of the test results, instructing them to stop selling the affected food items and tracing the sources of the food items in question.

Since the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap 132CM) came into effect on August 1, 2014, as of June 30 this year, the CFS has taken over 147 400 food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing for pesticide residues. The overall unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.2 per cent.

The spokesman added that excessive pesticide residues in food may arise from the trade not observing Good Agricultural Practice, e.g. using excessive pesticides and/or not allowing sufficient time for pesticides to decompose before harvesting. The maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticide residues in food set in the Regulation are not safety indicators. They are the maximum concentrations of pesticide residues to be permitted in a food commodity under Good Agricultural Practice when applying pesticides. In this connection, consumption of food with pesticide residues higher than the MRLs will not necessarily lead to any adverse health effects.

Histamine is commonly found in certain kinds of fish such as tuna, sardine, mackerel and anchovy, as a result of bacterial spoilage. Consumption of fish containing high levels of histamine can cause food-borne intoxication. Symptoms of histamine poisoning include tingling and burning sensation around the mouth, facial flushing and sweating, nausea, vomiting, headache, palpitations, dizziness and rash. The onset of intoxication symptoms is within a few hours after consumption and these symptoms will normally disappear in 12 hours without long-term effect.

The spokesman reminded the food trade to ensure that food for sale is fit for human consumption and meets legal requirements. Consumers should patronise reliable shops when buying food and maintain a balanced diet to minimise food risks.

Waste collector convicted for second time for collecting waste vehicle batteries without license

An unlicensed waste collector again illegally collected waste vehicle

batteries, which are classified as chemical waste. He was convicted at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (July 31) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) and the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation and was fined a total of \$17,000. This collector was also convicted in March this year for illegal collection of waste vehicle batteries and fined \$11,000.

During an enforcement operation in January this year, staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) intercepted a light goods vehicle at Tung Fat Square in Tai Po and found some 40 waste vehicle batteries in the vehicle. After investigation by the department, it was confirmed that the person involved in the case was not a licensed chemical waste collector and that he had illegally collected waste lead-acid batteries (WLABs) from nearby vehicle repair workshops. After investigation, the EPD prosecuted the collector under the WDO and the Regulation.

The EPD spokesman said that WLABs contain sulphuric acid and lead, while waste lubricating oil contains mineral oil, and these are classified as chemical waste. Improper handling or disposal will pollute the environment and pose risks to public health.

The spokesman reminded those who provide vehicle battery replacement or vehicle repair services that they should register with the EPD as chemical waste producers in accordance with the Regulation, and should hire a licensed chemical waste collector to properly collect and handle WLABs, waste lubricating oil and more. For replacement of vehicle batteries or lubricating oil, vehicle owners should engage the services of registered vehicle repair workshops or companies.

Under the WDO, first-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

Members of the public may visit the EPD's website for more information about the control of chemical waste: www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_cwc.html.