

CFS announces test results on Lunar New Year food (second phase)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (January 21) announced the test results of a recently completed seasonal food surveillance project on Lunar New Year (LNY) food (second phase). Among the 94 samples collected for testing, except for a sample of prepackaged dates in breach of food labelling regulations and a sample of sweetened winter-melon detected with a preservative exceeding the legal limit, both of which were announced earlier, the test results were satisfactory.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS announced the first-phase test results on LNY food earlier this month. As the LNY is around the corner, the CFS has completed the second phase of the surveillance project. Different types of LNY food including steamed puddings (e.g. turnip puddings and festive cakes), fried dumplings (e.g. sesame balls and crispy triangles), candies, glutinous rice balls, melon seeds and dried aquatic products, were collected from different retailers (including online retailers) for chemical and nutrition content analysis."

Chemical tests targeted preservatives, colouring matters, antioxidants, veterinary drug residue, etc. For nutrition content analysis, contents of energy, carbohydrates, protein, total fat, saturated fatty acids, trans fatty acids, sodium and sugars of the samples were tested to see if the test results comply with their declared values on the nutrition labels.

The spokesman urged the food trade to comply with the relevant laws and regulations in the preparation of food, follow Good Manufacturing Practice and use permitted food additives only in an appropriate manner. Retailers should source food from reliable suppliers, and conduct quality checks of incoming materials and end products to ensure that ingredients used are within legal standards. In addition, the food trade should maintain proper records in accordance with the requirements of the Food Safety Ordinance to allow source tracing if needed.

The spokesman also advised consumers to buy LNY food from reliable retailers with good hygiene conditions; make sure the packaging of prepackaged cakes and snacks is intact and the products have not expired; refer to the nutrition labels on the sugar, salt (sodium) and fat content, etc, for making healthy choices; and pay attention to the hygiene conditions of food containers and the personal hygiene of staff when buying loose-packed food (e.g. candied lotus seeds, nuts and melon seeds).

"Consumers should choose food products with natural colours. Bright white pistachios may have been bleached and melon seeds with unnatural gloss may have had mineral oil added. Consumption of these food products can cause gastrointestinal discomfort," the spokesman said.

"Festive cakes that are not for immediate consumption should be kept refrigerated or stored according to the instructions on the package, and should be eaten before they expire. Reheat hot-served food thoroughly before consumption, consume as soon as possible and avoid prolonged exposure of food at room temperature. Nuts and melon seeds should not be kept for a long time; those with mould or an abnormal smell or taste should not be eaten," he added.

The CFS spokesman reminded members of the public to maintain a balanced diet and avoid excessive consumption of LNY food that are high in energy, sugar, salt or fat.

Please visit the CFS website (www.cfs.gov.hk) for more food safety tips.

Owners' corporation fined over \$13,000 for failing to comply with Fire Safety Direction

An owners' corporation (OC) was convicted and fined \$13,800 at the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts last month for failing to comply with a fire safety direction issued under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (FS(CP)O) (Cap. 502).

The Buildings Department (BD) issued a fire safety direction under section 5(1) of the FS(CP)O to the OC of a 60-year-old composite building on Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, requiring the OC to comply with certain fire safety construction requirements which include replacing the doors of the escape staircases with fire-rated doors, improving the fire compartmentation of the protected lobbies, providing fire-rated enclosures to non-emergency services and electrical wiring installations in the staircases, etc.

Failing to comply with the statutory direction, the OC was prosecuted by the BD and was convicted and fined by the court on December 28.

"According to the FS(CP)O, failing to comply with a statutory direction issued under the ordinance without reasonable excuse is a serious offence. The BD may instigate prosecution proceedings against the owner of the prescribed commercial premises under the ordinance", a spokesman for the BD said today (January 21).

Pursuant to section 5(7)(a) of the FS(CP)O, any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a statutory direction, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000 at present) and to a further fine of \$2,500 for each day of non-compliance. Upon conviction, an application may also be made to a court for a Fire Safety

Compliance Order against the owner under section 6(1) of the FS(CP)O directing the owner to comply with the requirements of the direction.

Early closure of Pei Ho Street Market today for deep cleaning and disinfection

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (January 21) announced that as persons who had been present at specified dates and time periods in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building are required to undergo compulsory testing in accordance with the compulsory testing notice issued by the Government yesterday (January 20), Pei Ho Street Market will be closed an hour earlier today at 7pm for deep cleaning and disinfection to safeguard the health and safety of market stall tenants and the public.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "Apart from market tenants cleaning and disinfecting their stall areas, FEHD staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect communal areas and facilities in the market and will carry out deep cleaning work in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building and nearby streets (including Pei Ho Street, Tai Nan Street, Ki Lung Street and Kweilin Street). If all goes well, the FEHD will reopen the market tomorrow after the completion of the deep cleansing and disinfection work."

In addition, the FEHD's Kowloon Licence Issuing Office located at 4/F, Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building will suspend service at 2pm today and public services will resume on January 24. Members of public may approach the following FEHD offices for licence-related enquiries:

Hong Kong & Islands Licence Issuing Office
8/F, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building, 225 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Telephone number: 2879 5380

New Territories Licence Issuing Office
4/F, Tai Po Complex, 8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, New Territories
Telephone number: 3183 9206

On the other hand, the FEHD will conduct joint operations with various government departments again this weekend at public places in Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok, Yau Tsim, Wan Chai, Central and Western, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Sai Kung where persons including foreign domestic helpers (FDH) commonly gathered, to appeal to them to raise awareness of epidemic prevention, keep the environment clean and hygienic, and comply with the various anti-epidemic regulations and restrictions, including the requirements on group gatherings

and wearing of masks.

During the operations, apart from arranging cleansing contractors to strengthen street cleaning services at the relevant spots, the FEHD will also step up patrols to combat littering and unlicensed hawking activities. Promotional leaflets in multiple languages will also be distributed by the FEHD to appeal to the relevant persons to maintain environmental hygiene and refrain from conducting unlicensed hawking activities. They will also be reminded by other government departments to comply with the regulations on mask-wearing and prohibition of group gatherings in public places.

The spokesman said, "The Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) provides that a person who participates in a prohibited group gathering of more than four persons in public places or fails to wear a mask in accordance with the requirement respectively may be charged a fixed penalty of \$5,000."

To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the spokesman strongly appeals to all to stay vigilant and comply with the relevant regulations on prevention and control of disease in a concerted and persistent manner. The spokesman also reminds members of the public to exercise self-discipline and co-operate to fight the virus together.

Commencement notices for legislation related to updated regulatory system of dangerous goods gazetted

The Government published in the Gazette today (January 21) the Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Ordinance 2002 (Commencement) Notice, the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 (Commencement) Notice, the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulation 2012 (Commencement) Notice, the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Commencement) Notice, the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 (Amendment) Regulation 2021 (Commencement) Notice and the Dangerous Goods (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (Commencement) Notice (referred to collectively as the Commencement Notices).

To update the regulatory system for dangerous goods (DGs) with a view to aligning it with international standards, the Government has reviewed the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) and its subsidiary legislation and has been making legislative amendments in phases. A total of six pieces of legislation have been enacted successively, namely the Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Ordinance 2002, the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption)

Regulation 2012, the Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulation 2012, the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation, the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 (Amendment) Regulation 2021 and the Dangerous Goods (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (referred to collectively as the relevant legislation).

The Secretary for Security has appointed March 31, 2022, as the day on which the relevant legislation comes into operation. Meanwhile, the Director of Fire Services published in the Gazette today the Code of Practice for Control of Dangerous Goods on Land for providing practical guidance to the trade. The Fire Services Department will also introduce the details of the updated regulatory system for DGs through different channels, including a thematic website, Announcements in the Public Interest, leaflets and District Fire Safety Committees, etc., and maintain close liaison with the relevant trades.

A spokesperson for the Security Bureau said, "The amended Dangerous Goods Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation align the regulatory system for DGs with international standards, and at the same time enhance the safety of the manufacture, conveyance, storage and use of DGs, while facilitating the operation of the trade and the daily use of DGs by the public. The updated regulatory system will take effect on March 31. To ensure a smooth transition from the existing regulatory system for DGs to the updated regime, a grace period of 24 months will be given for the trades and the public to adapt to the new legislation."

The Commencement Notices will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on January 26.

[OGCIO invites Leading Organisers for Hong Kong ICT Awards 2022](#)

The Hong Kong ICT Awards (HKICTA) 2022, steered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), will be open for enrolment in the middle of this year and will announce its results in the awards presentation ceremony to be held towards the end of this year. The OGCIO is now inviting proposals from interested non-profit organisations or industry associations to take part as Leading Organisers for the HKICTA 2022.

The HKICTA aims at recognising and promoting outstanding information and communications technology (ICT) inventions and applications, thereby facilitating innovation and excellence among Hong Kong's ICT talent and enterprises. Through concerted efforts of the ICT sector, academia and the Government, this annual signature event has already given over 1 800 awards to recognise outstanding local ICT products and solutions since its debut in

2006. Award winners also have the opportunity to be nominated for regional and international awards. Hong Kong entries have scooped remarkable prizes, with recent examples including eight HKICTA 2020 winners attaining awards in the 20th Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance Awards and three winners attaining awards in the World Information Technology and Services Alliance 2021 Global ICT Excellence Awards. This is a clear showcase of the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong's ICT industry.

The HKICTA 2022 consists of eight award categories. They are:

- * Digital Entertainment Award
- * FinTech Award
- * ICT Startup Award
- * Smart Business Award
- * Smart Living Award
- * Smart Mobility Award
- * Smart People Award
- * Student Innovation Award

The OGCI0 welcomes all professional bodies, trade associations or other non-profit organisations to apply to become Leading Organisers, which are responsible for recruiting and screening entries, promoting the HKICTA through their networks, planning and managing the adjudication process, and holding individual presentation ceremonies for their categories. The selection of Leading Organisers will be conducted through an open and fair process based on an established assessment mechanism and criteria taking into account the effectiveness of proposals as well as the capability and past performance of the applicants.

Organisations interested in being a Leading Organiser can contact the OGCI0 at 2582 4318 or email hkictawards@ogcio.gov.hk to obtain a set of the application documents (including a Request for Proposal and a Proposal Form). The deadline for submission is February 17. Further details are available on the website of the HKICTA (www.hkictawards.hk).