

FEHD combats illegal sale of hairy crabs (with photo)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said today (December 1) that, to safeguard food safety, the FEHD has stepped up enforcement actions against illegal sale of hairy crabs and conducted blitz operations in North District and Tuen Mun on November 20 and 26 respectively. Procedures on prosecution were initiated against the shop operators for violating the law.

During the operations, an online shop in North District and a market stall in San Hui Market in Tuen Mun were found selling the restricted food, hairy crab, without permission, and suspected of violating the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) (Regulation). Procedures on prosecution were initiated against the operators and the FEHD is tracing the source of the hairy crabs.

Under the Regulation, save with the written permission of the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH), no person shall sell any restricted foods, including shell fish. Operators selling hairy crabs (including physical premises and online sale) shall obtain the Shell Fish (Hairy Crab) Permit or relevant written permission granted by the FEHD. Furthermore, the relevant regulatory condition also stipulate that hairy crabs for sale shall be obtained from a reliable and reputable source. A copy of the health certificate issued by the relevant authority and acceptable to the DFEH shall also be kept.

An FEHD spokesman said, "The FEHD is very concerned about illegal sale of hairy crabs and will continue to closely monitor the situation and take stringent enforcement actions. Under the Regulation, any person who operates an unlicensed food business or sells restricted foods without permission is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months."

The FEHD urges the public and the trade to source hairy crabs from reliable suppliers and comply with the relevant regulatory requirements. If members of the public suspect that there are operators selling hairy crabs without the relevant permits/permissions or the hairy crabs are not accompanied with health certificates, they may report by calling the FEHD hotline at 2868 0000.

