

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Argentina and UK suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (May 31) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Diamante Department of Entre Ríos Province in Argentina and an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Wealden District of East Sussex County in the United Kingdom (UK), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 110 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Argentina, and about 10 tonnes of chilled poultry meat and about 90 000 poultry eggs from the UK in the first three months of this year.

â€‹"The CFS has contacted the Argentinian and British authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.