

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Germany and Poland suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 9) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Oberspreewald-Lausitz District, in the State of Brandenburg in Germany, and a notification from the General Veterinary Inspectorate of Poland about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in MiÅ™dzyrzecki District in Lubuskie Region and Siedlce District in Mazowieckie Region in Poland, 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 430 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 800,000 poultry eggs from Germany and about 4,070 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 24.82 million poultry eggs from Poland in the first nine months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the German and Polish authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE 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.