

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 (April 13) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and a notification from the General Veterinary Inspectorate of Poland respectively about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in the Districts of Weimarer Land, Saale-Holzland-Kreis, Sömmerda, Saalfeld-Rudolstadt, Weimar, Jena and Erfurt of the State of Thüringen as well as Wolfenbüttel District of the State of Niedersachsen and Berlin in Germany, and Rzeszowski District of Podkarpackie 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 3 900 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 1.41 million poultry eggs from Germany and about 13 500 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 39.08 million poultry eggs from Poland last 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.