

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Germany suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 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 Dortmund District in the State of Nordrhein-Westfalen in Germany, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from Dortmund District and its adjacent Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis District and Bochum District 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 470 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 1.06 million poultry eggs from Germany last year.

"The CFS has contacted the German 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.