

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

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (December 23) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in Koszalinski District of Zachodnio-Pomorskie in Poland and in Cloppenburg and Oldenburg of the State of Niedersachsen, Germany, 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, in the first nine months of this year, Hong Kong imported about 9 900 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 21.32 million poultry eggs from Poland, and about 2 500 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 880 000 poultry eggs from Germany.

"The CFS has contacted the Polish and 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.