

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

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (April 22) that in view of a notification from the General Veterinary Inspectorate of Poland about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in the Kępniński District and Ostrowski District of Wielkopolskie Region, Elbląski District of Warmińsko-mazurskie Region, Sierpecki District of Mazowieckie Region and Malborski District of Pomorskie Region in Poland, and a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N6 avian influenza in Thái Nguyên Province, Hà Giang Province, Yên Bái Province, Hà Tĩnh Province, Lào Cai Province, Sơn La Province, Hà Tĩnh Province and Đắk Lắk Province in Vietnam, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Vietnam for the import of poultry eggs but not for poultry meat. According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 7.63 million poultry eggs from Vietnam, 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 Polish and Vietnamese 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.