

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Sweden and UK suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 6) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in the Municipality of Sjöbo in Skåne County in Sweden and in South Derbyshire District of Derbyshire in the United Kingdom (UK), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the Municipality of Sjöbo and the neighbouring Municipalities of Skurup and Lund in Sweden as well as South Derbyshire District in the UK 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 last year, Hong Kong imported about 1,150 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Sweden and about 8,700 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 330,000 poultry eggs from the UK.

"The CFS has contacted the Swedish and British 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.