

Import of poultry meat and products from Hadong-gun of Gyeongsangnam-do Province in Korea suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 23) that in view of a notification from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Hadong-gun of Gyeongsangnam-do Province in Korea, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area 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 20 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 840 000 poultry eggs from Korea last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Korean authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the World Organisation for Animal Health 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.