

Import of poultry meat and products from Ille-et-Vilaine Department in France suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (August 19) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Ille-et-Vilaine Department in France, 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 830 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 110 000 poultry eggs from France in the first six months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the French authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreak. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.