

Import of poultry meat and products from Monterey County, California, US, suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (April 25) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of low-pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Monterey County, California, the United States (US), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from the county with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong imported about 275 000 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and 550 million poultry eggs from the US last year.

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