

Import of poultry meat and products from Ostródzki District of Warmińska-mazurskie in Poland and Ha Noi City in Vietnam suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 12) that in view of notifications from the General Veterinary Inspectorate, Poland about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in the Ostródzki District of Warmińska-mazurskie in Poland and from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N6 avian influenza in Ha Noi City 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 17 720 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and 34.26 million poultry eggs from Poland and about 975 000 poultry eggs from Vietnam 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 avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.