

Import of poultry meat and products from Quillota Province in Chile suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (September 6) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of low pathogenic H7 avian influenza in Quillota Province in Chile, 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 Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Chile for import of poultry meat but not for poultry eggs. In the first six months of this year, Hong Kong imported about 1 700 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Chile, according to the Census and Statistics Department.

"The CFS has contacted the Chilean 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.