

Import of poultry meat and products from Segovia Province of Castilla y LeÃ³n in Spain suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 19) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Segovia Province of Castilla y LeÃ³n in Spain, 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 770 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 1.76 million poultry eggs from Spain in the first nine months of last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Spanish authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE 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.