

Import of poultry meat and products from Senegal and areas in Poland and Netherlands suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 8) that in view of a notification from the General Veterinary Inspectorate of Poland about outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Radzynski District of Lubelskie Region in Poland, and notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in the Province of Noord Brabant in the Netherlands and highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Senegal, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that since Hong Kong has not established any protocol with Senegal for the import of poultry meat and eggs, there is no import of such commodities from the country. According to the Census and Statistics Department, in the first nine months of last year, Hong Kong imported about 9 900 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 21.32 million poultry eggs from Poland, and about 4 600 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from the Netherlands.

"The CFS has contacted the Polish, Dutch and Senegalese authorities over the issues 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.