

Import of poultry meat and products from State of Veracruz in Mexico suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (July 30) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H7N3 avian influenza in the State of Veracruz in Mexico, 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 Mexico for import of poultry meat but not for poultry eggs. In the first six months of this year, no poultry meat from Mexico was imported into Hong Kong according to the Census and Statistics Department.

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