

LegCo to consider motion under Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting next Wednesday (July 4) at 11.30am (or immediately after the meeting for the Chief Executive's Question Time to be held at 11am) in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, Members will consider a motion under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance.

The motion, to be moved by Ms Claudia Mo, states: "That this Council appoints a select committee to inquire into the incident of one of the layers of steel reinforcement bars in a structural wall in To Kwa Wan station of the Shatin to Central Link being shaved thin, and whether the incident involved ineffective monitoring by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the MTR Corporation Limited and their deliberate concealment of the construction scandal, and other related matters; and that in the performance of its duties the committee be authorised under section 9(2) of the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap 382) to exercise the powers conferred by section 9(1) of that Ordinance."

Meanwhile, Dr Lo Wai-kiok will move a motion on expediting the promotion of smart city development. The motion states: "That, since smart city is one of the four major areas of focused development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, the Administration released the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017, mapping out the policies and measures to be implemented in the next five years in six areas, namely smart mobility, smart living, smart environment, smart people, smart government and smart economy; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to proactively allocate resources to perfect various policies and ancillary measures, so as to expedite the promotion of smart city development; the relevant measures include facilitating the research and development and application of innovation and technology, upgrading the technological infrastructure of Hong Kong, promoting the intellectualisation of infrastructure and green architecture, facilitating the opening of data by public and private organisations for development and application, setting up a platform for sharing big data, making optimal use of innovation and technology for improvement of people's daily living, as well as developing a low-carbon green and smart community, with a view to fostering the sustainable development of Hong Kong and facilitating the people in leading a quality life."

Mr Christopher Cheung, Mr Tony Tse, Mr Alvin Yeung, Dr Elizabeth Quat, Mr Hui Chi-fung and Mr Charles Mok will move separate amendments to Dr Lo's motion.

Dr Fernando Cheung will move a motion on the Report of the Subcommittee on Children's Rights. The motion states: "That this Council notes the Report of the Subcommittee on Children's Rights."

Dr Helena Wong will move a proposed resolution under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to extend the period for amending the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2018 laid on the table of the Council on June 13, 2018 to the first sitting of the next session of the Legislative Council.

On government bills, the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2018 and the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Bill will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bills will be adjourned.

The Second Reading debate on the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 6) Bill 2017 will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

During the meeting, member of the Advisory Committee on Corruption of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Mr Abraham Shek, and the Chairman of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Complaints Committee, Mr Jeffrey Lam, will present the "Independent Commission Against Corruption Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Annual Report 2017" and the "Independent Commission Against Corruption Complaints Committee Annual Report 2017" respectively. They will address the Council on the Reports.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Chan Kin-por, will present the Finance Committee Report on the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure 2018-2019 and address the Council. The Chairman of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, Ms Tanya Chan; the Chairman of the Panel on Security, Mr Chan Hak-kan; the Chairman of the Panel on Development, Mr Tommy Cheung; the Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs, Mr Ma Fung-kwok; and the Chairman of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, Mr Charles Mok, will present the 2017-2018 reports of the related Panels and address the Council respectively.

Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the

public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

[Pesticide residue exceeds legal limit in water spinach sample](#)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (June 29) announced that a water spinach sample was found to contain pesticide residue at a level exceeding the legal limit. The CFS is following up on the case.

A CFS spokesman said, "The CFS collected the water spinach sample from a stall at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained methamidophos at a level of 0.21 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) of 0.05 ppm.

"Based on the level of pesticide residue detected in the sample, adverse health effects will not be caused under usual consumption," he added.

Generally speaking, to reduce pesticide residues in vegetables, members of the public can rinse vegetables thoroughly under clean running water, and scrub produce with hard surfaces with a clean brush to remove dirt and substances including pesticides and contaminants from the surface and the crevices, when appropriate.

Any person who imports, manufactures or sells any food not in compliance with the requirements of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap 132CM) concerning pesticide residues commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

Since the regulation came into effect on August 1, 2014, the CFS has taken over 147 400 samples at import, wholesale and retail levels for testing for pesticide residues. Together with the unsatisfactory sample announced today, a total of 225 food samples (including 217 vegetable and fruit samples) have been detected as having excessive pesticide residues. The overall unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.2 per cent.

The spokesman added that excessive pesticide residues in food may arise from the trade not observing Good Agricultural Practice, e.g. using excessive pesticides and/or not allowing sufficient time for pesticides to decompose before harvesting. The MRLs of pesticide residues in food set in the Regulation are not safety indicators. They are the maximum concentrations of pesticide residues to be permitted in a food commodity under Good Agricultural Practice when applying pesticides. In this connection,

consumption of food with pesticide residues higher than the MRLs will not necessarily lead to any adverse health effects.

The CFS will follow up on the unsatisfactory result, including tracing the source of the food in question and taking samples for testing. Investigation is ongoing.

Trace of nitrofurans metabolite found in prepackaged frozen tiger prawn sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (June 29) announced that a trace amount of metabolite of furazolidone (a type of nitrofurans) (AOZ), a non-permitted veterinary drug, was found in a sample of frozen tiger prawn imported from India. Follow-up is in progress.

Details of the product are as follows:

Product name: TIGER PRAWN Peeled & Deveined, Tail On
Product brand: ocean gems
Place of origin: India
Importer: Indoguna Lordly Company Limited
Packing: 1 kilogram per pack
Best-before date: March 3, 2020

A CFS spokesman said, "The CFS collected the tiger prawn sample at import level for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that it contained AOZ at a level of 21 parts per billion."

The CFS has informed the importer concerned of the irregularity and the importer had stopped selling the affected product. The CFS is tracing the source and distribution of the affected product.

"The JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives) considered that competent authorities should prevent residues of furazolidone in food," the spokesman said.

The CFS will alert the trade to the incident, continue to follow up and take appropriate action.

Excessive cadmium found in two prepackaged dried mushroom samples

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (June 29) announced that two prepackaged dried mushroom samples were detected with cadmium, a metallic contaminant, exceeding the legal limit. The CFS is following up on the cases.

Details of the products are as follows:

- (1) Product name: Dried Mushroom
Product brand: Herbary Health
Place of origin: Japan
Packer: Herbary Health Food Co Ltd
Net weight: 500 grams per pack
Best before date: December 31, 2019
- (2) Product name: Mushrooms
Product brand: Not available in English
Place of origin: Taiwan
Sole agent of Hong Kong and Macau: Chopsticks Company Ltd
Net weight: 70 grams per pack
Best before date: October 20, 2018

"The CFS collected the two dried mushroom samples from a supermarket in Admiralty and an online shop respectively for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. After applying the conversion factors for dried foods as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the results showed that the samples contained cadmium at levels of 0.18 parts per million (ppm) and 0.162 ppm respectively, exceeding the legal limit of 0.1ppm," a CFS spokesman said.

"The CFS has informed the vendors concerned of the irregularities and instructed them to stop sale and remove from shelves the affected batches of the products. The CFS is tracing the source of the affected products."

According to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap 132V), any person who sells food with metallic contamination above the legal limits is liable upon conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

"Based on the levels of cadmium detected in the samples, adverse health effects will not be caused under usual consumption," the spokesman said.

The CFS will alert the trade to the incidents, continue to follow up and take appropriate actions. Investigation is ongoing.

[Hong Kong Customs signs Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with New Zealand and Action Plan with Canada \(with photos\)](#)

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson, in Brussels, Belgium, yesterday (June 28, Brussels time) during the 132nd Council Session of the World Customs Organization.

Under the MRA, the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAE0) Programme and the New Zealand Secure Exports Scheme are mutually recognised, by which Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) of both economies enjoy mutual customs clearance benefits, including reduced examination and prioritised clearance.

This is the ninth MRA that the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has concluded with other Customs administrations after those with the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and Australia. Apart from demonstrating the two Customs administrations' efforts in strengthening international cargo security, the signing of the MRA with New Zealand also enables accredited Hong Kong traders to better explore the market there by leveraging their edge of certified status under the Belt and Road Initiative.

MRA negotiation is now extending to North America. During the same Council Session today (June 29, Brussels time), the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, signed an MRA Action Plan with the Vice President of the Canada Border Services Agency, Mr Martin Bolduc, to mark the commencement of formal negotiation for mutual recognition of the HKAE0 Programme and the Partners in Protection programme in Canada.

Participation in the HKAE0 Programme is free, open and voluntary. Any company engaging in business principally related to the international supply chain is welcome to apply for AEO status. Since the formal launch of the HKAE0 Programme in April 2012, the C&ED has accredited 47 companies as AEOs, including multinational companies and small and medium-sized local enterprises.

