

Update on supplies from Mainland

The Task Force on Supplies from the Mainland led by the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to explore various means to stabilise the supply of goods from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

A spokesperson for the TLB said that the "Sea Express" water transportation service from the Mainland to Hong Kong has been fully launched and its capacity is rising to increase the supplies of fresh food, other daily necessities and manufacturing materials. The current supply of fresh food from the Mainland is stable.

The spokesperson said today (October 3) that Shenzhen operated 151 cargo vessel trips and transported around 15 340 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cross-boundary supplies by water for the period from September 30 to yesterday (October 2), equivalent to about 68 450 tonnes of goods, of which around 10 TEUs (about 40 tonnes) were fresh food and around 15 330 TEUs (about 68 410 tonnes) were non-fresh food, according to information from the Mainland authorities.

Since the launch of services from the three ports in Shenzhen since February 18 to yesterday, a total of around 1 042 900 TEUs of cross-boundary supplies have been transported, equivalent to about 4 967 660 tonnes of goods, of which around 2 370 TEUs (about 20 050 tonnes) were fresh food and around 1 040 530 TEUs (about 4 947 610 tonnes) were non-fresh food.

Meanwhile, to avoid a spillover of the epidemic, the Transport Department (TD) arranges for dedicated staff to conduct rapid nucleic acid tests, using nasopharyngeal swabs for specimen collection, for cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers at various land boundary control points. Only drivers with a negative result are allowed to enter the Mainland. A total of 6 182 rapid nucleic acid tests were conducted for the period from September 30 to yesterday, among which two cases that tested preliminarily positive were found. The TD has passed the cases to the Department of Health for follow-up.

The TLB will closely monitor the situation and co-operate with the Mainland authorities to facilitate and implement various measures to ensure both smooth cross-boundary land transport and a stable goods supply to Hong Kong, while reducing the risk of epidemic transmission in both the Mainland and Hong Kong.