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# Pesticide residues in food regulation and its enforcement

## 《食物內除害劑殘餘規例》及其 實施情況

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# Background

## 背景

- The Legislative Council completed scrutiny of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation(the Regulation) in June 2012 and the Regulation came into operation on 1 August 2014 after a two-year grace period.
- 立法會於 2012 年 6 月完成審議《食物內除害劑殘餘規例》(《規例》)，《規例》經兩年的寬限期後，已於2014年8月1日正式生效。

# Background

## 背景

- The Regulation aims to strengthen the regulation of pesticide residues in food to protect public health and promote harmonisation between local and international standards. In striving to achieve the above objectives, the Government is mindful of the need to maintain stable supply of food in Hong Kong.
- 《規例》旨在加強規管食物內的除害劑殘餘，以保障公眾健康和促使本地標準與國際標準接軌。在力求達致上述目的的同時，政府會注意維持本港食物供應穩定。

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# Background

## 背景

- The standards for pesticide residues in food developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) form the backbone of the regulatory framework under the Regulation.
- 《規例》的規管架構以食品法典委員會制定的食物內除害劑殘餘的標準為骨幹。

# Background

## 背景

- The Regulation specifies in Schedule 1 a list of maximum residue limits (MRLs) and extraneous maximum residue limits (EMRLs) for certain pesticide-food pairs, i.e. the maximum concentration of specified pesticide residues permitted in specific food commodities.
- 《規例》的附表1列明某些“除害劑－食物”組合的最高殘餘限量和最高再殘餘限量 (即指明食品中允許的指明除害劑殘餘的最高濃度)。

# Background

## 背景

- Schedule 2 to the Regulation specifies a list of exempted pesticides with no MRLs/EMRLs. These are pesticides that are natural and the residues of which are identical to or indistinguishable from natural food components. Exemption of these natural pesticides is intended to facilitate their use by the trade.
- 《規例》的附表2列明沒有訂明最高殘餘限量／最高再殘餘限量的獲豁免除害劑名單。這些除害劑是天然，及其殘餘物是與天然食物成分一樣或兩者難以區別的。制定獲豁免除害劑名單是為方便業界施用天然除害劑

# Background

## 背景

- The general principle of the Regulation is that except for exempted pesticides, import or sale of food containing pesticide residues with no specified MRLs/EMRLs in Schedule 1 is only allowed if the consumption of the food concerned is not dangerous or prejudicial to health.
- 《規例》的原則是，除獲豁免除害劑外，如食物含有除害劑殘餘但附表1並沒有訂明相關的最高殘餘限量／最高再殘餘限量，只有在食用有關食物不會危害或損害健康的情況下，才可進口或售賣有關食物。

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# Background

## 背景

- Based on risk assessment, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) will decide whether the consumption of the food concerned is dangerous or prejudicial to health.
- 食物安全中心(食安中心)會根據風險評估確定食用有關食物會否危害或損害健康。

# Control at Source

## 源頭管理

- The Government is committed to enhancing food safety through a multi-pronged approach. It adopts the “from farm to table” strategy to safeguard public health by ensuring that food consumed by the public meets safety standards. This includes not only surveillance at the import, wholesale and retail levels, but also proper control at source.
- 政府一直致力透過多管齊下的方式，提升食物安全水平，採取「從農場到餐桌」策略，確保市民享用的食物符合安全標準，從而保障市民健康。除了在進口、批發及零售層面的監察外，這亦包括做好源頭管理工作

# Control at Source

## 源頭管理

- The Government and the Mainland authorities have established administrative arrangements under which vegetables supplied to Hong Kong must come from registered vegetable farms and production and processing establishments under the supervision of the relevant Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in accordance with the requirements set out in the Administrative Measures on the Quarantine of the Vegetables Supplied to Hong Kong and Macao.
- 政府已與內地當局建立行政安排，規定內地供港蔬菜必須按照內地《供港澳蔬菜檢驗檢疫管理辦法》的要求，來自各地出入境檢驗檢疫局監管備案的蔬菜種植基地及生產加工企業。

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# Control at Source

## 源頭管理

- Every year, officers of CFS inspect registered farms on the Mainland to ensure that the agricultural products supplied to Hong Kong are wholesome and safe at source.
- 食安中心每年都會派員到內地註冊供港蔬菜種植基地巡查，從源頭確保供港農業產品的安全衛生。

# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- All vegetables supplied to Hong Kong must come from registered vegetable farms and production and processing establishments under the supervision of the relevant Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, and must be accompanied with supporting documents to ensure food safety and must be affixed with labels on the packaging for transport (e.g. basket or carton) showing information about their origin. All fresh vegetables entering Hong Kong via the land route must be imported through Man Kam To Border Control Point (MKTBCP) as designated.
- 供港蔬菜必須來自各地出入境檢驗檢疫局監管備案的菜場及生產加工企業，並隨貨附有相關證明文件確保食用安全，以及在運輸包裝上(例如籮、箱)掛上列出蔬菜來源資料的標籤。從陸路進入香港的新鮮蔬菜必須經指定的文錦渡關口進港。

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# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- The inspection and quarantine authorities on the Mainland will conduct random inspection and testing of vegetables so that only consignments that come with intact seals and satisfy the inspection requirement are allowed to enter Hong Kong.
- 內地出境口岸檢驗檢疫部門會隨機核查供港蔬菜的鉛封和貨證，也會抽樣作檢測，只有符合抽檢要求及鉛封完整的方可放行往香港。

# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- CFS officers will inspect the vehicles when they arrive at the Man Kam To Food Control Office. They will conduct checks to see if the seal on the vehicle remains intact and whether the consignment tallies with the accompanying documents, inspect the vegetables and adopt a risk-based approach in taking vegetable samples for quick tests for pesticide residues and comprehensive chemical analysis.
- 當入境菜車抵達文錦渡食品管制辦事處後，食安中心職員會檢查菜車鉛封是否完整、核對隨貨文件與付運蔬菜是否相同、檢查蔬菜及按照風險為本的模式抽取蔬菜樣本進行快速農藥殘留測試和詳細化學分析。
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# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- CFS will keep in close contact and collaboration with the Mainland authorities and the trade to exchange intelligence. Irrespective of whether or not the vegetables are distributed through direct sale or through distributors, all vegetables supplied to Hong Kong by land must be imported according to the aforesaid arrangements.
- 食安中心亦會與內地當局及業界保持緊密溝通及合作，互相交換情報。所有陸路進口香港的蔬菜，無論直銷或經批發商分銷，都必須按上述安排進口香港。

# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- The CFS and the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) have been working closely and conduct joint operations from time to time to inspect vehicles carrying vegetables.
- 食安中心與香港海關保持緊密合作，並會不時進行聯合行動，截查運載蔬菜的車輛。

# Import Arrangements

## 進口安排

- CFS will detain any consignment from unknown sources or consignment that does not tally with its accompanying documents. If the test result of a vegetable sample is found to be unsatisfactory, CFS will destroy the vegetable consignment concerned and inform the relevant Mainland authorities for investigation and follow-up. Information about the identity of the vegetable farm and production and processing establishment concerned, as well as the vegetable vehicle involved will also be recorded to facilitate detention of their next vegetable consignment supplied to Hong Kong.
- 如食安中心發現來歷不明或文件不符的蔬菜批次，會進行扣檢。如蔬菜樣本檢測不合格，食安中心會銷毀有關批次蔬菜，此外，食安中心亦知會內地有關當局調查及跟進，相關的供港種植基地／生產加工企業及運載蔬菜貨車的資料亦會被記錄，以便在下一蔬菜批次輸港時採取扣檢行動。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- In addition to proper control at source, at the downstream of the food supply chain, the food surveillance programme is also a key component of our measures to ensure food safety. Through conducting relevant food surveillance at the import, wholesale and retail levels, CFS ensures the food safety of vegetables imported to Hong Kong.
- 除了做好源頭管理外，在食物供應鏈的下游層面，食物監察計劃也是保障食物安全的重要一環。食安中心透過在進口、批發及零售層面所進行的相關食物監察，以保障供港蔬菜的食用安全。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- CFS takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels and adopts a risk-based approach in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and the types of laboratory analysis that need to be conducted. The surveillance programme is under regular review, taking into account factors including past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analysis.
- 食安中心分別從進口、批發和零售層面抽取食物樣本，並按照風險為本的模式決定抽取的食物樣本類別、檢測次數、樣本數目，以及所需進行的化驗分析。食安中心又會考慮多項因素，包括過往的食物監察結果、本港及其他地方發生的食物事故及相關的食物風險分析，定期檢討監察工作。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- During the period from 1 August 2014 when the Regulation came into operation to 31 July 2015, the CFS had taken over 29 700 food samples at import, wholesale and retail levels for testing for pesticide residues and a total of 104 vegetable and fruit samples have been detected with excessive pesticide residues. The overall unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.4 per cent.
- 由2014年8月1日《規例》正式實施至2015年7月31日，根據《規例》，中心在進口、批發和零售層面抽取了逾29 700個食物樣本進行除害劑檢測，共檢出104個蔬果樣本的除害劑殘餘量超出法例標準，整體不合格率不足百分之零點四。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- According to the findings of the risk assessment conducted on the unsatisfactory samples, a green string pod sample was found to contain Carbofuran at a level of 4.4 parts per million (ppm). Adverse health effects may be caused under normal consumption. A purslane sample was also found to contain Dimethoate at a level of 5.2 ppm. Consumption of more than 230 grams of the purslane concerned within a short period of time may cause adverse health effects. As for the remaining unsatisfactory samples, normal consumption is unlikely to pose immediate adverse health effects.
- 就不合格樣本所進行的風險評估結果顯示，其中1個青豆角樣本(克百威含量百萬分之四點四)，在正常食用情況下，可能會對健康造成不良影響。另外，有1個馬齒莧樣本(樂果含量百萬分之五點二)，在短時間內食用超過230克，可能會對健康造成不良影響。至於其餘的不合格樣本，在按一般食用量進食時，對健康帶來即時不良影響的機會並不大。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- The Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities are following up on cases involving vegetable processing establishments registered with the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities, follow-up actions are generally as follows:
  - i. Tracing the farm which produced the unprocessed vegetables; ii. Suspending the supply of vegetables from the registered farms concerned to Hong Kong ; iii. Ordering the vegetable processing establishments concerned to take remedial measures; and iv. Strengthening surveillance.
  
- 內地檢驗檢疫機構正跟進有關從內地檢驗檢疫機構備案的供港蔬菜加工企業入口的個案，一般的跟進工作包括：
  - i. 追查原料種植基地； ii. 暫停備案基地供港資格； iii. 責令有關供港蔬菜加工企業採取整改措施；及 iv. 加強檢測。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- The Government is very concerned that some unsatisfactory samples that might be originated from vegetable processing establishments not registered with the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities. The Administration alerted the AQSIQ and relevant inspection and quarantine authorities of the problem and appealed for their prompt follow-up actions including stepping up of interception actions at various control points.
- 政府十分關注不合格樣本中有些可能從內地進口但並非來自內地檢驗檢疫機構備案的供港蔬菜加工企業。當局已向國家質檢總局及相關分局反映問題，並要求內地當局盡快跟進，包括加強在各個口岸的堵截行動。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- On the part of Hong Kong, we have also taken a series of actions against at MKTBCP vegetables supplied to the territory from vegetable processing establishments not registered with the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities. These include joint operations launched with the C&ED and Police to strengthen the interception actions at the MKTBCP.
- 至於在本港方面，我們在文錦渡亦進行了連串為打擊從非內地檢驗檢疫機構備案的供港蔬菜加工企業入口蔬菜的行動，包括分別與海關和警方展開聯合行動，加強在文錦渡關口的堵截工作。

# Food Surveillance Programme

## 食物監察計劃

- As regards the unsatisfactory cases of local origin, CFS will also refer the details to the AFCD for follow-up at source. Technical staff from the AFCD will conduct site inspections at the farms concerned, educate the farmers on the proper and safe use of pesticides, and collect vegetable samples from the farms for testing of pesticide residues. Concerned farmers will also be advised to suspend the sale of the relevant consignment of vegetables until the testing results show that the vegetables are fit and safe for consumption.
- 至於源自本地的不合格個案，食安中心亦會將個案資料轉介給漁護署，讓漁護署在源頭跟進。漁護署的技術人員會到有關農場實地調查，教導農友正確及安全使用農藥，以及在田間抽取蔬菜樣本作農藥殘留化驗跟進，並勸籲農戶暫緩出售有關批次的蔬菜，直至跟進化驗結果顯示蔬菜適合安全食用為止。

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Thank you  
謝謝

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