

Proposed Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong

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The Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) stipulates that all food on sale must be wholesome, unadulterated and fit for human consumption. However, no specific subsidiary legislation is currently in place to govern pesticide residues in food in Hong Kong. There is therefore a need for Hong Kong to set regulatory standards for pesticides of local relevance to meet enforcement requirements.

The Administration proposes to introduce a new subsidiary legislation to prescribe standards for pesticide residues in food by making reference to the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission – the international food standards setting agency, the Mainland and other major food supplying countries. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) conducted a public consultation on the proposed framework between 13 November 2007 and 31 January 2008. An overview of the Proposed Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong and the way forward are presented.