Refined Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong

Recapitulation

Technical Meeting
6 September 2011
Refined Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Residues in Food in Hong Kong

July 2011
Objectives

We propose that DFEH should make a Regulation on Pesticide Residues in Food (the proposed Regulation) under section 55 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)

- better protect public health;
- facilitate effective regulation; and
- promote harmonisation between local and international standards.

The Government is mindful of the need to maintain a stable supply of food in Hong Kong
Salient features of the refined regulatory framework

1. to define “pesticide” and other related terms in a way consistent with Codex;
2. to provide a list of MRLs/EMRLs, to adopt MRLs/EMRLs recommended by Codex as the backbone as well as the Codex’s classification of foods;
3. to prohibit the import and sale of the concerned food for which no MRL/EMRL has been specified, unless DFEH is satisfied that the detected level will not be dangerous or prejudicial to health;
4. to provide a list of exempted substances;
5. to accept applications for adding/revising MRLs and exempted substances;
6. to dovetail the proposed Regulation with the registration of pesticides for use on food crops under the Pesticides Ordinance (Cap. 133); and
7. to commence the proposed Regulation after a two-year grace period.