

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Metropolitan City of Florence in Tuscany Region in Italy suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 21) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Metropolitan City of Florence in Tuscany Region in Italy, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 770 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 77 000 poultry eggs from Italy in the first nine months of last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Italian authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.