

Import of poultry meat and products from areas of India suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (June 4) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Mysuru District and the Davanagere District of Karnataka State, the Bhind District of Madhya Pradesh State, and the Malappuram District of Kerala State in India, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from the above areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with India for the import of poultry eggs but not for poultry meat. According to the Census and Statistics Department, no poultry eggs from India were imported into Hong Kong in the first three months of this year.

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