

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected methamphetamine (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (June 23) seized about 4.3 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$2.5 million at Hong Kong International Airport.

A female passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Siem Reap, Cambodia yesterday. During Customs clearance, the batch of suspected methamphetamine was found concealed inside a high-pressure cleaner in her luggage. The woman was then arrested.

The arrested woman, aged 28, has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. She will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (June 25).

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Sample of prepackaged frozen swordfish detected with mercury exceeding legal limit

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene

Department announced today (June 24) that a sample of prepackaged frozen swordfish imported from New Zealand was found to contain a metal contaminant, mercury, at a level exceeding the legal limit. The CFS is following up on the case.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: FZ NZ Swordfish Steak
Place of origin: New Zealand
Distributor: South Stream Seafoods Ltd
Best-before-date: April 28, 2020

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS collected the above-mentioned sample from an online shop for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that it contained mercury at a level of 0.71 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the legal limit of 0.5 ppm."

The spokesman said the CFS had informed the vendor concerned of the irregularity and had requested it to stop sale of the affected batch of product. The Centre is tracing the source of the product concerned.

"Mercury may affect the nervous system, particularly the developing brain. At high levels, mercury can affect foetal brain development, and affect vision, hearing, muscle co-ordination and memory in adults. Furthermore, as some international organisations such as the World Health Organization have pointed out, consuming predatory fish species is the main source of mercury intake for human beings. The report of the CFS' Total Diet Study has also pointed out that large fish or predatory fish species may contain high mercury levels (for example, tuna, alfonsino, shark, swordfish, marlin, orange roughy and king mackerel). Hence, groups particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of mercury, such as pregnant women, women planning pregnancy and young children, should opt for fish that are smaller in size for consumption and avoid consumption of the above-mentioned types of fish which may contain high mercury levels to minimise the health risk posed to the foetus, infants and young children by excessive exposure to metal contaminants in food," he added.

According to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap 132V), any person who sells food with metallic contamination above the legal limit may be prosecuted and is liable upon conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

"People are advised to maintain a balanced and varied diet. To avoid health risks posed by excessive intake of metallic contaminants, pregnant women, women planning pregnancy and young children should avoid eating large or predatory fish," the spokesman said.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action. Investigation is ongoing.

LegCo to debate motion on no confidence in the Fifth Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (with attachments)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (June 26) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, Mr Dennis Kwok will move a motion, states: "That this Council has no confidence in the Fifth Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

Ms Claudia Mo will move an amendment to Mr Dennis Kwok's motion.

Mr Dennis Kwok will also move a motion under Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law. The motion states: "That, pursuant to Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, this Council summons the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC and Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki to attend before the Council at its earliest meeting after the passage of this motion to produce all relevant papers, books, records or documents and to testify or give evidence on handling of the matter of and in relation to the engagement of Ms Teresa Cheng SC, after taking the office of the Secretary for Justice, in or her being concerned with (either directly or indirectly as principal, agent, director or shadow director, employee, or otherwise) any other trade, business, occupation, firm, company (private or public), chamber of commerce or similar bodies, public body or private professional practice (in particular relating to arbitration), and relevant matters."

On other Members' motions, Mr Ho Kai-ming will move a motion on ensuring children's right to play for them to grow up happily. The motion states: "That, children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services

for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;
- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidised child care service places, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework and tests and

examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;

(10) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;

(11) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; and

(12) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children."

Mr Ip Kin-yuen, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Dr Fernando Cheung, Dr Chiang Lai-wan and Mr Hui Chi-fung will move separate amendments to Mr Ho Kai-ming's motion.

On Government Bill, the Second Reading debate on the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions) Bill 2019 will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

Meanwhile, Mr Au Nok-hin and Mr Chu Hoi-dick will move four groups of proposed resolutions (20 proposed resolutions in total) under section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to amend the Protected Places (Amendment) Order 2019, the Protected Places (Safety) (Authorized Guards) (Amendment) Order 2019, the Military Installations Closed Areas (Amendment) Order 2019, the Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Regulation 2019 and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2019 laid on table of the Legislative Council on 8 May 2019. Mr Au Nok-hin's group of proposed resolutions (five in total) as set out in Appendix 1 seeks to repeal the above five items of subsidiary legislation; and Mr Chu Hoi-dick's three groups of proposed resolutions (15 in total) as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 seek to amend the commencement dates of the five items of subsidiary legislation.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

Cluster of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae cases in Queen Elizabeth Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) made the following announcement today (June 24):

Five patients (aged 53 to 93) in a male medical ward have been confirmed to be Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae carriers through screening since June 18. One of the patients passed away earlier due to the underlying disease. The remaining four patients are treated under isolation. Among them, one symptomatic patient is in serious condition; three asymptomatic patients are in stable condition. One of the three asymptomatic patients is still hospitalised in QEH and the remaining two patients have been transferred to another hospital.

The Hospital Infection Control Team has followed up with the concerned departments and experts of the Centre for Health Protection. The following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted in the ward:

1. Enhance patient and environmental screening procedures
2. Apply stringent contact precautions and enhance hand hygiene of staff and patients
3. Enhance cleaning and disinfection of the ward

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Cluster of respiratory infection cases

in Castle Peak Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Castle Peak Hospital made the following announcement today (June 24):

Six patients (aged 41 to 61) in a male forensic psychiatric ward have presented with respiratory symptoms since June 21. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patients. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation and are in a stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and restricted visiting has been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up.