

CFS finds traces of malachite green in grass carp and grass carp fish maw samples

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (September 24) announced that trace amounts of malachite green were found in a prepacked grass carp sample and a grass carp fish maw sample. Follow-up is in progress.

Details of the grass carp sample are as follows:

Packed by: Wai Kee Marine Products Ltd
Net weight: 245 grams
Use-by date: August 23, 2018

A CFS spokesman said, "The CFS collected the grass carp sample from a supermarket in Ho Man Tin and the grass carp fish maw sample from a stall in Smithfield Market under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test results showed that they contained malachite green at respective levels of 0.953 parts per billion (ppb) and 5.13 ppb.

"Malachite green is a type of industrial dye and has been used for treating infection in fish. Major agricultural economies such as the Mainland, the European Union, Canada and the United States prohibit the use of the chemicals in food fish. According to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap 132AF), no food sold in Hong Kong is allowed to contain malachite green. Offenders will be prosecuted and will be liable to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months upon conviction."

The CFS is following up on the unsatisfactory results, including tracing the sources and taking samples for testing.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the incidents and take appropriate action.

Public reminded not to burn wax, fly sky lanterns or litter

Attention radio/TV announcers:

Please broadcast the following at suitable intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) reminds people to keep places clean, not to burn wax, not to put lit candles on the ground or grass pitches, not to throw glow sticks or other objects onto trees, and not to fly sky lanterns while celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival.

People littering at LCSD venues are liable to a penalty of \$1,500, while the maximum penalty for burning wax, throwing objects onto trees or flying sky lanterns is a fine of \$2,000 and 14 days' imprisonment.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the adverse impact brought about by Tropical Cyclone Mangkhut which has led to various levels of damage to the facilities and trees at many LCSD venues, the department is making great efforts to conduct clearance and repair work and members of the public are advised not to go near or enter the cordoned-off areas in these venues for the sake of safety.

First Modular Integrated Construction pilot project commences (with photos)

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok, Tseung Kwan O was held today (September 24). As the first pilot project to adopt Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), the quarters will provide 648 units for married disciplined services staff.

The construction of the Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok echoes the Government's initiative to adopt advanced technology and innovative construction methods to enhance productivity and cost-effectiveness, as introduced in last year's Policy Address. The Architectural Services Department and the main contractor of the project will adopt MiC and the concept of "factory assembly followed by on-site installation", in which most of the labour-intensive and time-consuming processes can be accomplished in an off-site prefabrication yard with a view to enhancing productivity by minimising the duration of work and demand for construction workers. MiC will also enhance on-site safety and quality control of projects, as well as reducing adverse impacts on the environment.

Officiating at the ceremony, the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), Mr Hon Chi-keung, said the Government aims to promote the application of new technology and innovative construction methods and lead by example through public projects. He expressed the hope that through the adoption of MiC in this Fire Services Department project, the confidence of the industry in the new construction method will be further strengthened.

Other officiating guests at the ground-breaking ceremony were the Director of Fire Services, Mr Li Kin-yat; the Director of Architectural

Services, Mrs Sylvia Lam; and the Chairman of the Construction Industry Council, Mr Chan Ka-kui.



Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (September 24) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From September 16 to 22, five community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Fairview Court, 5-13 Tsat Tsz Mui Road, North Point;
2. A male patient, aged 50 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Pik Wai House, Shek Pai Wan Estate, Southern District;
3. A male patient, aged 63 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tak Yue House, Hau Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O;
4. A male patient, aged 64 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Ka Choi Lane, Tuen Mun; and
5. A male patient, aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Yan Lok House, Tin Yan Estate, Tin Shui Wai.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of September 22, 77 LD cases had been reported in 2018. In 2017 and 2016, there were 72 and 75 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened

immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

1. Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
2. Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
3. If using these devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not tap water. Also, clean and maintain them regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute the infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow medical advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile (not distilled or tap) water to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain them regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2- μm filters. Never leave stagnant water. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change

the water daily; and

- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:

1. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
2. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
3. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
4. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2018 to invite additional applications from October 3

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) announced today (September 24) that the Sale of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Flats 2018 will invite additional applications starting from October 3. Eligible applicants who have not applied previously may submit applications from October 3 to October 16. Application forms and application guides will be available from September 26.

All valid applications received during the previous application period from March 29 to April 11 will remain valid. These applicants are not required to submit fresh applications.

Only one balloting will be held, tentatively in November, to determine the priority of flat selection for different categories of applicants from the two application periods.

"Previous applicants who wish to change their registered family composition should apply for cancellation of their previous applications to the HOS Sales Unit before submitting fresh applications. If not, both the previous and newly submitted applications will be considered as duplicates and cancelled accordingly," a spokesman for the HA said.

"Should any person be found to be included in more than one application form (including green form and white form), the applications will be considered as duplicates and all related applications will be null and void.

The application fees paid are non-refundable and non-transferrable," the spokesman said.

Previous applicants who choose to cancel their previous applications can apply for cancellation. The application fees paid will be refunded. Applicants must complete the "Application Form of Cancellation of Application and Refund of Application Fee" and submit it to HOS Sales Unit on or before October 16. This application form can be obtained at the HA Customer Service Centre (HACSC) in Lok Fu or downloaded from the website: www.housingauthority.gov.hk/hos/2018.

The HA's Subsidised Housing Committee, at its respective meetings in June and July, approved the re-opening of application to invite additional applications, the revised selling prices and sales arrangements for Sale of HOS Flats 2018, and the new alienation restrictions.

Under the Sale of HOS Flats 2018, 4,431 flats in three new HOS developments, i.e. Hoi Lok Court in Cheung Sha Wan, Kai Long Court in Kai Tak and Yu Tai Court in Tung Chung, will be offered for sale.

The HA will provide a sales leaflet indicating the revised selling price ranges of the HOS flats and new alienation restrictions from seven days before the commencement to the end of the re-opened application period. Sales brochures and full price lists will be available for collection by the public at the HACSC and on the designated websites of the three HOS developments seven days before commencement of flat selection.

Soft copies of the sales leaflet, additional information, latest drafts of Deeds of Mutual Covenant and aerial photographs of the developments will also be uploaded to the designated websites of the three HOS developments. "Members of the public are encouraged to make good use of the website for the Sale of HOS Flats 2018 (www.housingauthority.gov.hk/hos/2018), where they can browse the sales materials and view the virtual show flat walkthrough videos," the spokesman said. Soft copies of the application form and application guide will also be available for viewing and downloading from the HA/Housing Department's website.

"The application period will run from 8am on October 3 until 7pm on October 16. Applications submitted before the application period or after the closing time will not be accepted," the spokesman said.

Project information, approved building plans, Outline Zoning Plans, land grants, latest drafts of Deeds of Mutual Covenant, aerial photographs, building models, virtual show flat walkthrough videos and doll houses produced by the building information modelling technique and more will be displayed at the HACSC from 8am to 7pm from September 26 to October 16 for inspection by the public. Copies of the sales leaflets and the application forms and application guides for the Sale of HOS Flats 2018 will be available at the HACSC for collection by the public. During this period, these documents will also be available for collection by the public within office hours at the estate offices and District Tenancy Management Offices of the

HA, rental estate offices of the Hong Kong Housing Society, the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department and the Sham Shui Po Housing Information Centre.

Members of the public may visit the HACSC from 8am to 7pm during the application period or call the HA's 24-hour Sales Hotline on 2712 8000 for application details on the HOS developments.