



Briefing Session on
Outsourcing of
Food Tests:
Review and Way Forward

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Review of Outsourcing Contracts in 2008-09



Outsourcing in 2008-09

- ★ **3 contracts issued**

- ★ about 6 months for each
- ★ ending March 2009

- ★ **Sulphur dioxide in general foodstuff**

- ★ **Preservatives in general foodstuff**

- ★ **Organochlorine pesticides in fruits and vegetables**



Salient Points about the Contracts

- ✦ **Accredited in the corresponding tests**
- ✦ **Test sample collection**
 - ✦ within specific time after notice
 - ✦ at Homantin for contracts on sulphur dioxide and preservatives
 - ✦ at Pokfulam for contracts on pesticides
- ✦ **Report results within specific period**
- ✦ **Retention of remaining test samples**



The Contracts

✦ Sulphur dioxide in general foodstuff

- about 1,000 samples
- reporting limit: 8 mg/kg

✦ Preservatives in general foodstuff

- benzoic acid, sorbic acid, salicylic acid
- about 1,000 samples
- reporting limit: 50 mg/kg for each

✦ Organochlorine pesticides in fruits and vegetables

- 20 pesticides
- about 900 samples
- reporting limit: 0.02 mg/kg for each



Way Forward:
Outsourcing Contracts
in 2009-10



Outsourcing Contracts in 2009-10

- ✦ **Over 70,000 tests**
- ✦ **Some contracts start in April 2009**
 - ✦ invitation for quotation terminates by end of February 2009
- ✦ **Contract period varies**
 - ✦ one year
 - ✦ half year
 - ✦ short-term contracts about 2-3 months



Outsourcing: Test Areas

- ✦ Food preservatives
- ✦ Food contaminants
- ✦ Pesticide residues



General Requirements

- ★ **Accredited in the corresponding tests**
- ★ **Test sample collection**
 - within specific time after notice
 - at Homantin for contracts on preservatives and contaminants
 - at Pokfulam for contracts on pesticides
- ★ **Report results within specific period**
- ★ **Retention of remaining test samples**



Contracts on Preservatives

✦ Preservatives in general foodstuff

- ✦ SO₂; benzoic, sorbic and salicylic acids; parabens
- ✦ reporting limit: 8 mg/kg for SO₂, 30 mg/kg for each of the parabens and 50 mg/kg for each of the other preservatives

✦ Sulphur dioxide in general foodstuff

- ✦ reporting limit: 8 mg/kg

✦ Short-term contracts

- ✦ preservatives in specific food such as beverages (SO₂; benzoic and sorbic acids; parabens)



Contracts on Contaminants

✦ **Metallic contamination in fruits and vegetables**

- ✦ As, Cd, Cr, Hg, Pb, Sb, Sn
- ✦ reporting limits: refer to http://www.govtlab.gov.hk/english/test_methods.htm

✦ **Heavy metals in aquatic products and miscellaneous foods**

- ✦ As, Cd, Cr, Hg, Pb, Sb, Sn

✦ **Melamine in general foodstuff**



Contracts on Pesticides

★ Organochlorine pesticides (×35)

- fruits and vegetables
- general foodstuff
- reporting limit: 0.01 mg/kg for each

★ Organophosphorus pesticides (×44)

- fruits and vegetables
- general foodstuff
- reporting limit: 0.1 mg/kg for each

★ Short-term contracts

- Pyrethroids (×8) in fruits and vegetables
- N-methylcarbamates (×16) in fruits and vegetables
- reporting limit: 0.1 mg/kg for each

★ Test parameters: refer to

- http://www.govtlab.gov.hk/english/test_methods.htm



Thank You