

*Kindly refer to the file number when responding

To: Health departments at all governorates
Baghdad Health Department/Al-Rusafa
Baghdad Health Department/Karkh

Office of the General Director

The Office – Advisory Committee [signature]

Dr. Alaa 28 August

Subject: Food Safety Advisory Committee Decision Number 170

Greetings,

In reference to the approval of HE Minister of Health of the minutes of the meeting held by the Food Safety Advisory Committee number 170 on 11 August 2011 at the Public Health Directorate, at which the below topics have been discussed:

First: Ukrainian Eggs:

Reference to the letter of the Ministry of Agriculture/Planning and Follow-up Department/Animal Production Division number 22817 on 23 June 2011, including the suspicion that the products of animal origin have been exposed to radiation, **the Committee decided:**

To continue working according to Article 2 of the Food Safety Advisory Committee Decision number 176; and to ensure and emphasize the examination of all food products imported from all sources in terms of radiation by the Ministry of Environment/Radiation Protection Center

Second: Electronic Cigarettes

In reference to the letter of the Health Control Department, number P.H.D 8/5/2/542 on 15 June 2011, e-cigarettes, made in China, were imported through Umm Qasr Port, and were examined by the Radiation Protection Center. The test proved the product to be safe in terms of radiation, according to their letter number 501, dated 21 December 2009. The Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control, according to its letter number 10096 on 22 December 2009, declined to conduct an examination of the aforesaid sample because of the lack of an appropriate Iraqi standard specification. The Central Public Health Laboratory declined to conduct an examination of it for not being a food item. The National Center for Drug Control and Research, in its letter number 2472 on 21 April 2011, declined to examine the sample for not being a pharmaceutical substance. Dr. Muhammad Yahya Abd al-Razaq presented the WHO reports on e-cigarettes, as being made of anti-rust stainless steel and have a chamber to store liquid nicotine of different concentrations. The World Health Organization emphasized that the allegation made by e-cigarette manufacturers that e-cigarettes help people quit smoking does not have any scientific grounds. The FDA declared that e-cigarettes contain toxic chemicals such as Diethylene glycol.

To avoid health and social harm, as the advertising and promotion of these cigarettes may be a means to mislead young people, encourage them to use nicotine and expose them to health and behavioral risks of addiction; and

In confirmation of our enactment of the Supreme Tobacco Control Committee recommendations and according to the Public Health Directorate letter number 11978 on 22 February 2010, paragraph 3 prohibiting the import of this product in the public and private sectors for the following reasons: because it causes addiction and endangers the health of the consumer, **the Committee decided:**

(1-4)

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- To ban the importation and trading of e-cigarettes

Dr. Alaa Shaalan Hussein, Director of the Research Institute and Dr. Haider Hashem Nasser, Director of the Central Public Health Laboratory, objected to the decision for the following:

-The aforementioned substance does not meet the definition of food stated in Food Act number 29 of 1982, Article 1(5) which provides that "Food: every substance consumed for the purposes of human consumption as food in its solid, semi-solid or liquid forms, chewing gum, drinking water, ice, or any ingredients used in food preparation and this does not include drugs, medicines, cosmetics and food additives."

-Making the decision to ban e-cigarettes does not conform to the powers of the Food Safety Advisory Committee as mentioned in Chapter 2: Specifications and the Advisory Committee, Article 3(3) "The Committee may form specialized scientific subcommittees that work under its supervision to study specific topics related to food specifications and its suitability for human consumption."

Third: Imported Fresh and Red Meat of all Kinds and from Global Origins:

In reference to the letter of the Health Supervision Department, number P.H.D 8/3/1/593 on 23 June 2011 and the letter of the Minister of State for National Security Affairs number 1/M5/281/33/1053 on 6 June 2011 and through direct coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture/the General Veterinary Company, it was noticed that food products entered Iraqi lands by illegal means, and among the most important of such products were the heads and limbs of sheep and cattle which are very dangerous because they are considered from the remains of slaughtered or dead animals as they are used in the country of origin as animal feed and most of them are imported from the state of Ukraine and other states where serious epidemic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and other common diseases such as mad cow disease are spread, **the Committee decided:**

1. In the event that food products enter Iraqi territory by illegal means, the relevant authorities must take legal measures against them.
2. Proceed with the implementation of decision number 163, paragraph 3, which provides "the continuation of the current mechanism for examining imported food samples and requesting health certificates and formal papers to launch consignments."

Fourth: Italian Meat:

Based on the Food Advisory Committee Decision number 168 of 23 June 2011, regarding the discussion of the study presented by Dr. Basem Najm Al-Adadh, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture to lift the ban on importing Italian meat, **the Committee decided:**

The ban on red meat and its Italian products shall proceed, while the disease continues to be monitored in Italy and its provinces (Sicily, Sardinia, Piedmont), provided that the subject will be re-examined at the beginning of the next year 2012.