

41 restaurants fall foul to snap hygiene reviews

- ▷ 292 premises are blacklisted
- ▷ Urban Council seeks overall rise

AN Urban Council crackdown this month has seen 41 restaurants summoned for breaching public hygiene laws.

Fourteen of the premises are on Hongkong island and 27 in Kowloon, a council spokesman said.

District health inspectors were deployed in raids on licensed food premises in the urban districts to check whether they were up to standard.

The checks also included inspections of the eateries' toilets.

Senior staff officer with the Urban Services Department, Chan Sak-man, said special attention was paid to the 292 blacklisted premises which were found to have been repeated offenders breaching hygiene regulations.

Under the Food Business (Urban Council) By-Laws of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, failure to maintain all parts, including toilets, of the licensed food premises cleanly and tidily constitutes an offence.

An offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000 plus three months' jail and a fine of \$150 for each day the offence continues upon conviction.

The current exercise was the second phase of the vigorous enforcement drive launched by the Urban Services Department to further improve the overall hygiene conditions of licensed food premises in the urban area and to rectify some of the more common irregularities found in these premises, Chan said.