Control of Food Imported from Japan
Background

- Earthquake at Japan on 11 March 2011
- The earthquake triggered powerful tsunami
- Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant was damaged by the tsunami
- Radioactive substances have been released in the environment
- Certain agricultural foods in a number of prefectures had been contaminated
- At levels hazardous to human health
Food Surveillance

Section 78B Order

- Since 12 March 2011, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has stepped up surveillance on radiation level of imported food from Japan.

- The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued an Order under Section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to prohibit certain food items to be imported into Hong Kong or supplied within Hong Kong from the five most affected prefectures of Japan, namely

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>縣份</th>
<th>Prefecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>福島</td>
<td>Fukushima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>茨城</td>
<td>Ibaraki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>栃木(栃木)</td>
<td>Tochigi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>千葉</td>
<td>Chiba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>群馬</td>
<td>Gunma</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Order No. : CFS/1/2011  
FEHD Ref. : FEHD/CFS/78B

TO : All persons

This Order takes effect at 12:00 noon on 24 March 2011.

I now have reasonable grounds to believe that the making of this order in relation to the food specified in Annex A is necessary to prevent or reduce a possibility of danger to public health, or to mitigate any adverse consequence of a danger to public health, the details of which are specified in Annex B. I DO, in exercise of my powers under section 78B(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132), order that :

a. you be prohibited from importing into Hong Kong the food specified in Annex A, that is intended for human consumption, for the period from 12:00 noon on 24 March 2011 until further notice.

b. you be prohibited from supplying\(^1\) within Hong Kong the food specified in Annex A, that is imported into Hong Kong after 12:00 noon on 24 March 2011, and is intended for human consumption, for the period from 12:00 noon on 24 March 2011 until further notice.

If you feel that you are aggrieved by this order, you may, within 28 days from becoming bound by it (that is the date and time specified in paragraph 1), appeal to the Municipal Services Appeals Board.

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\(^1\) "Supplying" means (a) selling the food; (b) offering, keeping or exhibiting the food for sale; (c) exchanging or disposing of the food for consideration; (d) transmitting, conveying or delivering the food in pursuance of (i) a sale; or (ii) an exchange or disposal for consideration; or (e) for commercial purposes, giving the food as a prize or making a gift of the food.
Food Surveillance

Section 78B Order

- Prohibited food items
  - Vegetables
  - Fruits
  - Milk and Milk beverages
  - Milk powder

from the five most affected prefectures of Japan, namely Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma.
Prohibited food items
The following food items from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma to Hong Kong were also prohibited, unless accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority of Japan

- chilled or frozen game
- chilled or frozen meat
- chilled or frozen poultry
- poultry eggs
- all live, chilled or frozen aquatic products
Food Surveillance

Certificate issued by the competent authority of Japan

- The import of all chilled or frozen game, meat and poultry, all poultry eggs and all live, chilled or frozen aquatic products from the five prefectures to Hong Kong were also prohibited, unless accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority of Japan certifying that the radiation levels do not exceed the Guideline Levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample of Certificate on radiation levels in aquatic products</th>
<th>Sample of Certificate on radiation levels in game, meat, poultry and poultry eggs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Sample Certificate 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Sample Certificate 2" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food Surveillance

Section 78B Order

- The Order has taken into effect on 24 March 2011 and is still in force
- Contravention a term of the Order commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of HK$100,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months
Report arrival of food imported from Japan for radiological inspection

Please submit the following documents to arrange radiological inspection

Compulsory information

- Bill of lading / Air waybill
- Packing list (with originating prefecture of manufacture)

Other information (If applicable)

- Invoice
- Lot sheet of cold store
- Laboratory report
- Import Licence
- Health Certificate
- Certificate of origin
## Report arrival of food imported from Japan for radiological inspection / Enquiry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By sea</th>
<th>By air</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Inspector (Import/Export) Radiation</td>
<td>Health Inspector (Import/Export) Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel ︰ 2522 1271 / 2522 1297</td>
<td>Tel ︰ 2116 8254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax ︰ 2739 6639</td>
<td>Fax ︰ 2116 0290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email ︰ <a href="mailto:RIO@fehd.gov.hk">RIO@fehd.gov.hk</a></td>
<td>Email ︰ <a href="mailto:fsc@fehd.gov.hk">fsc@fehd.gov.hk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

- The risk of Fukushima nuclear plant event has not been cleared
- Radioactive isotope Caesium-137 has a half-life of several ten years
- The order on prohibition of importation of food from the affected 5 prefectures in Japan is still in force
- To ensure the safety of imported food from Japan, CFS continues to monitor closely the situation in Japan and the radiation testing results of food samples in order to formulate surveillance programme according to risk assessment