

# Import or sale of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong





### Regular Food Surveillance Programme

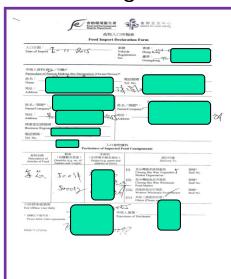
The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) operates a Food Surveillance Programme and based on risk assessment regularly takes food samples (including vegetables) at import, wholesale and retail levels for analysis to ensure the food is fit for human consumption and complies with local regulations.



Existing administrative arrangements between the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Mainland regulatory authorities

- The administrative arrangement for import of vegetables was established with the Mainland authority :
- All imported vegetables have to be sourced from registered farms and processing plants.
- Each vegetable consignment should accompany with export document such as certificates of vegetables supplied to Hong Kong and Macau.







Existing administrative arrangements between the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Mainland regulatory authorities

All imported vegetables should be accompanied by identification tags on the containers (e.g. foam boxes / bamboo container) showing the source of vegetables





Existing administrative arrangements between the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Mainland regulatory authorities

• All vegetable consignments from the Mainland via land transport should be imported through the Man Kam To land border.





## Man Kam To Food Control Office

- CFS has a Food Control Office at Man Kam To. When the vegetable vehicles reach Man Kam To Food Control Office, CFS will :
- Check the seal
- Verify the correctness of import document against the vegetable consignment
- Examine the vegetables and if necessary, take samples of vegetables for chemical analysis (including pesticide residues)





#### 《The Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) ("the Regulation")

- With a view to protecting public health, the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) ("the Regulation") comes into operation on 1 August 2014. The Regulation aims to enhance regulatory control of pesticide residues in food.
- Any person who imports, manufactures or sells any food not in compliance with the requirements of the Regulation concerning pesticide residues commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months.



Farms and processing establishments registered with the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China.

- For importers and traders engaged in the import and sale of vegetable supplied from the Mainland, they should import vegetables from farms and processing establishments registered with the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China Mainland authority.
- In addition, "The Regulation" comes into operation on 1 August 2014. It will be an offence under the Regulation if the laboratory test result shows that the level of pesticide residues in the vegetables for sale or import exceeds the prescribed MRLs/EMRLs. The importers and traders have to assume the legal liability and related penalties in accordance with the Regulation.
- The List of registered farms and processing plants are available for public <u>http://jckspaqj.aqsiq.gov.cn/xz/backzzyzjdmd/201502/t20150226\_433179.htm</u>



# 《 Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)

- Under 《 Food Safety Ordinance 》 (Cap. 612), all food importers and food distributors are required to register with the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene.
- Any person, without reasonable excuse, imports food without registering as a food importer or distributor shall be guilty of an offence, which is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.
- For the retail traders engaged in sale and also import of vegetable supplied from the Mainland, they are required to register with the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene under the Food Safety Ordinance, Cap.612.



# 《 Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)

- The Ordinance requires any person who, in the course of business, imports, acquires or supplies by wholesale food in Hong Kong to keep transaction records of the business from which it acquired the food and the business to which it supplied the food. The law has also conferred powers to FEHD officers for demanding food importers and distributors to provide food transaction records upon request.
- Any person, without reasonable excuse, who fails to comply with record keeping requirements shall also be guilty of an offence, and will be subject to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for three months upon conviction.
  食物安全中心 Centre for Food Safety