

Import Beef, Pork and Mutton from Animals Raised and Slaughtered in One Eligible European Union Member State but Packed in Another EU Member State

Background

- Since March 2015, EU has been exploring with the CFS on the issue of “single market” recognition and the "born, raised and slaughtered in the same country" requirement.
- The issue concerns meat from animals raised and slaughtered in one EU member state but packed in another member state before export to Hong Kong.
- EU asked that all its member states should be treated as one single country in such export matters, since animal husbandry practices, slaughter and manufacture standards are all governed by the same EU rules.

Statutory Requirements

- Under Regulation 4(1) of the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations, Cap. 132AK, no person shall import meat without a health certificate issued by an issuing entity recognized by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene.
- According to Regulation 4(2) of Cap. 132AK, meat may be imported without a health certificate subject to the permission in writing of a health officer and to such conditions as he may impose.

Permission in writing

- The agreement made between the CFS and EU on this “born and raised” regime for import of red meat (beef, pork and mutton) has been commenced on **25 December 2016**.
- Importers who wish to import beef, pork and mutton packed in an eligible EU member state while the animal born, raised and slaughtered in other eligible EU member states under the aforesaid arrangement requires **permission in writing** of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) under the Cap. 132AK.
- Eligible EU member states are EU member states which have already established protocol with FEHD to export meat to Hong Kong and they must source food animals and their meat from the member states that have established import protocol with Hong Kong for that particular type of commodity.

Permission in writing

Importers should provide the health officer with the following information:

- the type and quantity of the beef, pork or mutton to be imported.
- countries where animal born / raised / slaughtered / packed;
- the expected date of arrival of the beef, pork or mutton at Hong Kong.
- the means of transport used for the import of beef, pork or mutton.
- any other information the officer considers essential to enable the officer to trace the beef, pork or mutton imported.

Permission in writing

- Importers may download the application form FEHB 161 from website of the FEHD or CFS to apply for the permission in writing.
- The permission in writing is valid for six months from the date of issue and can be used for more than one shipment and no application fee is required.
- FEHD pledges to process applications for the import of beef, pork and mutton under the said arrangement from EU member states within 5 working days.

Import Licence

- Under the Import and Export Ordinance, Cap. 60, import of frozen or chilled beef, mutton, pork and poultry is subject to import licensing control.
- FEHD is responsible for issuing import licence for these foods.
- Importers are also required to apply for import licence from the FEHD for each consignment of imported beef, pork or mutton from an eligible EU member states under the said arrangement.

Imported Consignment

- Each imported consignment when arrive Hong Kong will be accompanied by an export certificate issued by relevant eligible exporting EU member state to certify the meat is fit for human consumption.

Where to make applications or enquiries?

- Applications should be addressed to the CFS of FEHD at 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.
- For enquiries, please call the Chief Health Inspector (Import/Export)¹ at 2867 5570 or other staff at 2867 5577.

Ends