
Legislation Relating to the Use of Colouring Matter in Citrus Fruit

Background

Colouring matter is a kind of food additive. In the course of food production, manufacturers may add colouring matter into food to make them more attractive or to restore their colours. There have been complaints or media reports about the abuse of colouring matter in food.

How is Colouring Matter Regulated in Hong Kong?

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Cap. 132H) stipulate which colouring matter is permitted for food use

Regulation 4(1) prohibits the use of colouring matter in certain commodities

For example, meat, fruits, fish, etc. in raw and unprocessed state are not allowed to have any added colouring matter

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Cap. 132H)

However, the Regulations provide that **citrus fruit** (e.g. orange) may have in or upon it added permitted colouring matter if:

- (a) the words "**colour added**" are marked on the skin of such fruit in permitted colouring matter; and
- (b) such words are **distinct and legible** and of such size as to be conspicuously visible.

Any person who contravenes the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations shall be liable to a maximum penalty of \$50,000 and imprisonment for 6 months.

Thank you