

Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Food Distributors under Food Safety Ordinance Cap.612

Section 4 and section 5 of the Ordinance require any person who carries on a food importation/distribution business to register with DFEH as a food importer/food distributor

- "Food importer" means a person who carries on a business that brings or causes to be brought into Hong Kong food by air, land or water
- "Food distributor" means a person who carries on a business the principal activity of which is the supply of food in Hong Kong by wholesale





- Any person directly engaged in the transaction of importing/distributing food and has acquired the food, whether through electronic or other means, is regarded as a food importer/food distributor.
- For the purpose of the Ordinance, food is acquired when the person acquiring it takes possession or control of the food, even though the food may not be under his custody.



- Food importers/ food distributors who have already registered or have obtained a licence under other Ordinances are exempted from complying with the registration requirement. They include:
  - ⇒ The holder of a permission or the licensee of a licence under section 30 of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X)
  - ⇒ The licensee of a licence under Part III of the Frozen Confections Regulation (Cap. 132AC)
  - ⇒ The licensee of a licence under Part II of the Hawker Regulation (Cap. 132AI)
  - The licensee of a licence under Part III of the Milk Regulation (Cap. 132AQ)



- ⇒ The licensee of a licence under the Offensive Trades Regulation (Cap. 132AX)
- The licensee of a licence under Part II of the Slaughterhouses Regulation (Cap. 132BU)
- The registered stockholder of a reserved commodity under regulation 13 of the Reserved Commodities (Control of Imports, Exports and Reserve Stocks) Regulations (Cap. 296A)
- ⇒ The licensee of a licence under section 8 or the permittee of a permit under section 14 of the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353)
- The certificated owner of a vessel licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) in respect of a Class III wessel



- The Food Safety Ordinance exempts these food importers/ distributors from complying with the registration requirement as a trade facilitation measure
- The exempted food importers/food distributors are still required to provide supplementary information concerning the business of food importation/distribution





- The registration scheme assists DFEH in identifying and contacting a more defined group of food traders speedily in a food incident
- Any person who, without reasonable excuse, carries on a food importation/ distribution business without registered as food importer/ food distributor commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months

- The registration cycle for food importers and food distributors will be valid for a period of 3 years, subject to renewal
- The fee level for registration and renewal of registration for a 3-year term is \$195 and \$180 respectively





#### Further information/Enquiry

- "Guide to the Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Food Distributors" has been uploaded to the ordinance website for reference (www.foodsafetyord.gov.hk)
- email to us at fso\_enquiry@fehd.gov.hk
- call telephone hot-lines at 2156 3017/ 2156 3034





#### Thank You

