



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

# Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Distributors

**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



# Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Distributors

- 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)



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- 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 vessel



# Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Distributors

- 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



# Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Distributors

- 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**

