

Surveillance of Food Imported by Sea



Food Control Checkpoint for Food Imported by Sea

- To strengthen the monitoring of food imported by sea, CFS has set up a Food Control Checkpoint at Kwai Chung Customhouse (KCCH).
- The Checkpoint commenced operation in October 2015.



Food Control Checkpoint for Food Imported by Sea

Food Control Checkpoint at Kwai Chung Customhouse (KCCH)



Regulatory Control Arrangements

1. Selection Criteria

- Adopt the risk-based surveillance principle in selecting containers conveying food via sea route for inspection at that Checkpoint.
- Taking into account such factors as relevant intelligence, food safety incidents in neighboring areas, whether the importers concerned have previously disregarded instructions to contact CFS for food inspections and whether cargo manifests have been submitted to C&ED prior to container arrival or whether the cargo manifests contain all the required information.

Regulatory Control Arrangements

2. Items selected for inspection

- CFS adopts the risk-based principle and driven by public concern about the safety of imported food products.
- Imported food subject to inspection include:
 - Imported food affected by food incidents
 - Other imported foods under regulatory control
 - Foods of higher risk (e.g. eggs, milk / milk products, frozen confections, etc.);
 - Foods covered under the Food Safety Order issued by the Director of FEH (e.g. food imported from Japan, edible oil imported from Taiwan, etc.)

Regulatory Control Arrangements

3. Import Documents Submission

- After the container is loaded onto the vessel at the exporting end, and prior to its arrival in Hong Kong, the food importer should take the initiative to notify CFS of the shipment as early as possible, along with the submission of relevant import documents.

Import Licence

Bill of Lading

Official Certificate
/ Health Certificate

Packing List

Certificate of
radiation levels

Exporter
Certificate

Regulatory Control Arrangements

4. Inspection of container for food safety test arrangements

● Food Control Checkpoint at KCCH

- Containers of food shipped to Hong Kong by importers are inspected at the KCCH checkpoint if selected by CFS.
- Before the container arrives in Hong Kong, CFS issues a notice to the importer concerned.
- Requiring the importer's container, after arrival, to be transferred to the checkpoint for inspection on the date and at the time specified on the notice.

Regulatory Control Arrangements

5. Security seals

- The seal / lead seal of the selected container should not be opened by the importer / the driver until the container has been delivered to the Food Control Checkpoint at KCCH.
- It must be confirmed by CFS officers that the seal is intact on arrival before opening the container.



Regulatory Control Arrangements

6. Food Safety Test

- CFS officers examine the food items at the Food Control Checkpoint at KCCH.



Regulatory Control Arrangements

6. Food Safety Test

- Should circumstances warrant, CFS officers may take samples for testing by the Government Laboratory before release of the consignment. The container will be detained before the testing result is released, if necessary.



Regulatory Control Arrangements

7. Other Specified Sites

- Depending on the circumstances of the case (e.g. frozen foods), CFS may examine the imported food at other specified sites (such as the place where the container is to be opened and unloaded).
- The seal / lead seal of the container must be confirmed to be intact by CFS officers before it can be opened.



Importer's warehouse
(apply to frozen or chilled foods)

Thank you