



**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

- 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.**



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- 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



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- 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**



Registration Scheme for Food Importers and Distributors

- 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

