

Advance Release Arrangement for Hong Kong-manufactured Food Products Entering the Mainland Market



Background

- ◆ The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed "the Cooperation Agreement on the Supervision of Safety and Facilitation of Customs Clearance of Food Products Manufactured in Hong Kong Exported to the Mainland" on 27 November 2023, for shortening the time required for customs clearance, further enhancing the safety of local food products exported to the Mainland and promoting trade facilitation
- ◆ Advance Release Arrangement has been rolled out on 21 May 2024
- ◆ Food products required to be tested by the Mainland Customs can be released upon completion of sampling without the need to wait for the results

Applicable Categories of Hong Kong-manufactured Food

- ◆ Beverages and frozen drinks (excluding alcoholic and milk beverages)
- ◆ Biscuits, pastries and bread
- ◆ Candies and chocolates (including chocolate, cocoa butter substitute chocolate and their products)
- ◆ Noodles (without meat ingredient)
- ◆ Seasoning (ground)
- ◆ Tea Leaves

Ports for Implementation

- ◆ Shenzhen Customs Port
- ◆ Gongbei Customs Port
- ◆ Huangpu Customs Port

Assessment Criteria for “Advance Release Permission”

- ◆ Holding a valid Food Factory Licence issued by FEHD
- ◆ Food products must be manufactured in the food factory stated in the aforesaid Food Factory Licence
- ◆ A food safety management system with relevant certification (i.e. ISO 22000 or HACCP certification) must be in place in the food factory concerned
- ◆ The food products concerned must comply with the national standards and laws

Operational Procedures of Advance Release Arrangement

1

- Food manufacturers apply for “Advance Release Permission” with the Center for Food Safety (CFS) through online application or by paper-mode application

2

- The CFS conducts preliminary assessment and accepts the application if basic criteria has been complied with

3

- Food manufacturers submit application documents, including test certificate with relevant test reports issued within the last six months by a recognized third-party institute

4

- The CFS issues "Advance Release Permission" to food manufacturers after confirmation of compliance with all requirements

Operational Procedures of Advance Release Arrangement

5

- Food Manufacturers make use of “Advance Release Permission” to apply for “Health Certificate for Foods of Animal Origin” or “Food Inspection Certificate” from the CFS for **each food consignment**

6

- The CFS issues “Health Certificate for Foods of Animal Origin” or “Food Inspection Certificate” to the food manufacturers

7

- Food manufacturers conduct customs declaration and clearance of the food (must be accompanied by relevant certificates , including the “Certificate of Hong Kong Origin-CEPA”)
- If the food is subject to sampling by the Mainland Customs, it can be released directly after sampling

Customs Clearance at the Ports of Mainland Through Advance Release Arrangement

- ◆ Mainland customs conduct inspection and sampling to the food products
- ◆ After satisfactory inspection & sampling, food products can be released without the need to wait for the results

Food Inspection Certificate and Certified True Copy of Food Inspection Certificate

- ◆ After the “Advance Release Permission” is issued, food manufacturers should apply for a “Food Inspection Certificate” for each consignment of the food product.
- ◆ Food manufacturers can apply for an official certified true copy of the “Food Inspection Certificate” (“CTC”).
- ◆ Food products in the same production period can be exported to the same consignee in the Mainland in separate consignments using the CTCs.

Provision of Support to the Trade

- ◆ Application Guidelines on CFS Webpage
- ◆ Designated Application Form
- ◆ Online Application
- ◆ Organizing Briefing and Trade Consultation Forum for the trade

The image shows a form titled "香港製造食品便利通關准許申請表 (適用於出口往內地的指定食品類別)" and "Application for Advance Release Permission for Food Products Manufactured in Hong Kong (Applicable to Export of the Specified Categories of Food Products to the Mainland)". The form is divided into two parts: Part A (Applicant Information) and Part B (Food Factory Information). Part A includes fields for Name of Food Manufacturer, Name of Business, Trader Registration No./Exemption No., Correspondence Address, Name of Contact Person, Telephone No., Fax No., and Email Address. Part B includes fields for Food Factory Licence No., Address of Food Factory, and Category No. of Food Product under Application. A footnote at the bottom states: "請參照注意事項 (1) 的說明填上合適的食品類別編號。 Please refer to Note (1) to fill in appropriate food category number." The form number FEHB 346 (8/2024) and page number 1 are also visible.

食物環境衛生署
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

食物安全中心
Centre for Food Safety

香港製造食品便利通關准許申請表
(適用於出口往內地的指定食品類別)
Application for Advance Release Permission for
Food Products Manufactured in Hong Kong
(Applicable to Export of the Specified Categories of Food Products to the Mainland)

甲部 Part A 申請人資料 Particulars of Applicant

(1) 食品生產商名稱 :
Name of Food Manufacturer

(2) 業務名稱 :
Name of Business

(3) 食物商登記號碼/獲豁免號碼 :
Trader Registration No./Exemption No.

(4) 通訊地址 :
Correspondence Address

(5) 聯絡人姓名 :
Name of Contact Person

(6) 電話號碼 :
Telephone No.

(7) 傳真號碼 :
Fax No.

(8) 電郵地址 :
Email Address

乙部 Part B 食物製造廠資料 Particulars of Food Factory

(1) 食物製造廠牌照號碼 :
Food Factory Licence No.

(2) 食物製造廠地址 :
Address of Food Factory

(3) 申請食品類別編號¹ :
Category No. of Food Product under Application¹

¹ 請參照注意事項 (1) 的說明填上合適的食品類別編號。
Please refer to Note (1) to fill in appropriate food category number.

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Application Guideline on CFS Website

The screenshot displays the website interface for the Centre for Food Safety. At the top left is the logo and name: 'Centre for Food Safety, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region'. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Food Exports > Food Export to the Mainland > Advance Release Arrangement for Hong Kong-Manufactured Food Products Entering the Mainland Market'. A left-hand navigation menu includes: 'What's New', 'About Us', 'Press Release', 'Results of Samples with Irregularity, Follow-up Samples and Food Incidents', 'Programme Areas', 'Committee and Forum', 'Import Control', 'Food Exports' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Export Certification'. The main content area is titled 'Food Export to the Mainland' and includes social sharing icons. The primary article is 'Advance Release Arrangement for Hong Kong-Manufactured Food Products Entering the Mainland Market'. The text of the article states: 'The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed the Cooperation Agreement on the Supervision of Safety and Facilitation of Customs Clearance of Food Products Manufactured in Hong Kong Exported to the Mainland (Cooperation Agreement) on 27 November 2023, establishing Advance Release Arrangement for eligible Hong Kong Manufactured food products to shorten the time for customs clearance.' It then details the 'Cooperation Framework' and the 'Operational Procedures for Advance Release Arrangement', which require manufacturers to apply for an 'Advance Release Permission' for each food category.

Thank You