

Imported Food Control
Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Can a member of the public bring game, meat, poultry or eggs into Hong Kong?

A1: According to the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60), any person who imports chilled or frozen meat and poultry shall obtain an import licence issued by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG). Offenders will be prosecuted and shall be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for two years. In addition, according to the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK), if any person imports or brings game, meat, poultry or eggs into Hong Kong, such foods shall be accompanied by a health certificate issued by an issuing entity of the place of origin and/or an import permission issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Offenders will be prosecuted and shall be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

Q2: Is bringing raw meat (including game, meat and poultry) packaged in vacuum, aluminum foil, or stored in frozen state etc. into Hong Kong regulated by law?

A2: Bringing raw meat (including game, meat and poultry) into Hong Kong in any form of packaging (including vacuum, aluminum foil or frozen etc.) is regulated by the relevant legislations, which means such foods must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the place of origin, or an

import licence and/or import permission from the HKSARG at the time of import into Hong Kong.

Q3: Is bringing partially cooked game, meat, poultry and poultry eggs (such as soft boiled eggs) into Hong Kong regulated by law?

A3: Unless otherwise specified by law, game, meat, poultry and poultry eggs that have not been thoroughly cooked are all regulated under the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK), while the aforesaid meat and poultry are also regulated under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60). That means such foods must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the place of origin, or an import licence and/or import permission from the HKSARG at the time of import into Hong Kong. The Centre for Food Safety of the FEHD investigates suspected illegal cases to ensure food safety.

Q4: Is bringing compounded food, such as dumplings and wonton, into Hong Kong regulated by law?

A4: The Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) stipulates that all food for sale and intended for human consumption in Hong Kong must be fit for human consumption. Nevertheless, compounded food (eg. dumplings and wonton), which is not regulated under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) or the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK), does not require to be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the place of origin, or an import licence and/or import permission from the HKSARG at the time of import.

Q5: What is “game” under the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK)?

A5: According to the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK), “game” means the fresh or frozen carcass, flesh or other edible part, including edible viscera and offal, of an animal (such as deer, crocodiles and pigeons) **other than** meat derived from cattle, sheep, pigs, calves or lambs and poultry derived from chickens, ducks, geese or turkeys.