

Rollout of Online Application for Import Licence and Import Permission and New Measures on Food Import Control

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Department announced that with effect from **30 March 2020**, the CFS will accept online applications for import licences for meat and poultry as well as import permissions relating to game, meat and poultry through the Food Trader Portal (FTP). At the same time, the following new measures on food import control will be implemented:-

1. Extending the operation hours of the Import Licensing Office for handling online applications

By opening users accounts at the FTP, importers may submit applications for import licence round-the-clock. The Import Licensing Office of CFS will operate seven days a week with extended operation hours for handling online applications for import licence.

2. Introducing new import licence format and application form

A new application form FEHD 284 will replace Form 3 (No. TRA 187, the so-called blue paper) and the format of the import licence will also be updated. The import conditions to be imposed on the food concerned will be issued together with the import licence in the form of a notice. A sample of the new import licence can be found at www.ftp.cfs.gov.hk/web/files/pdf/SampleImportLicence.pdf for reference.

Importers who wish to submit applications in paper mode must use the new application form which can be downloaded from the CFS website www.cfs.gov.hk/english/public/public.html or obtained from the concerned CFS offices free of charge.

3. Streamlining import permission requirements

With effect from 30 March, import permission relating to meat and poultry will no longer be required except for the following four types of food:-

- (i) game;
- (ii) prohibited meat;
- (iii) meat (with Export Declaration issued by eligible EU member states); and
- (iv) meat or poultry (for re-export to the Mainland or Macau via Hong Kong).

For items (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, the validity period of import permission will be extended from six months to twelve months while that of (i) in relation to game will remain at six months. Starting from 30 March, except under special circumstances, CFS will in general no longer issue import permissions for meat and poultry other than for the four types of food mentioned above.

4. Introducing new import permission formats and application forms

The old forms FEHB 161 and FEHB 164 will be replaced by four new import permission application forms for the following types of food. New formats will also be adopted for the import permissions to be issued.

- (i) game – FEHB 285;
- (ii) prohibited meat – FEHB 287;
- (iii) meat (with Export Declaration issued by eligible EU member states) – FEHB 286; and
- (iv) meat or poultry (for re-export to the Mainland or Macau via Hong Kong) – FEHB 164.

Importers who wish to submit applications in paper mode must use the new application forms which can be downloaded from the CFS website www.cfs.gov.hk/english/public/public.html or obtained from the concerned CFS offices free of charge.

5. Updating the requirements for submission of health certificate and export declaration

Importers must upload or provide a Health Certificate from an issuing entity of the place of origin or an Export Declaration issued by an issuing entity of an eligible EU member state (either the original or copy of the Health Certificate/Export Declaration will suffice) when applying for import licence.

6. Introducing the new CFS Food Codes

To enhance the efficiency of food traceability as well as data retrieval and analysis, the CFS has developed a set of new CFS Food Codes. The food codes will be listed next to the relevant food items on the new import licences to help the trade get familiarized with the codes.

Detailed information on the above new measures can be found by clicking “More Tips” at www.ftp.cfs.gov.hk.

For enquiries, please contact our staff at 2156 3012.

Centre for Food Safety

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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