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HKG to Issue Origin Certification for Non-U.S. Poultry

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department will provide free certificates of origin for non-U.S. poultry products to facilitate Hong Kong exporters re-exporting poultry products to China. This measure is being adopted to complement the Chinese customs authority's efforts to prevent illegal trade activities.

Summary

At the request of the Chinese government, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department will issue certificates of origin for all non-U.S. poultry products re-exported to China. This service will be provided on a voluntary basis and at no cost to Hong Kong traders. According to Hong Kong customs officials, the Chinese authority will render normal inspection to shipments with the Hong Kong issued certificates of origin. Thus, shipments without the Hong Kong issued certificate may experience delays while waiting for customs clearance to mainland China. Despite the expected increased demand for their services, the Hong Kong Government has agreed to issue certificates of origin to prevent illegal trade activities in accordance to Hong Kong's Trade Description Ordinance.

The New Certification Service Provided by Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department

The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (CSD) offered a seminar on August 17 to educate exporters on the new certification service they will offer to exporters transshipping non-U.S. origin poultry products to mainland China. At this well-attended seminar, Hong Kong government officials emphasized that the intent of this service is to facilitate trade, specifically poultry re-exports to China. They noted that shipments with the Hong Kong issued certificate of origin would continue to experience the normal customs clearance process without experiencing undue delays at the Mainland Chinese border. Hong Kong officials also made it clear that this service is being provided on a voluntary basis and at no cost to exporters. For the time being, the CSD has not determined when this new measure will go into effect pending the implementation of the new customs clearance measures in China.

During the seminar CSD officials also explained the operation details of the certification service. Traders interested in this service will be required to notify the CSD of the arrival of shipments in advance. Upon arrival of shipments, customs officers will verify the authenticity of the commercial seal before providing a Hong Kong CSD seal and issuing a certificate of confirmed origin. In cases where containers need to be opened, a CSD officer will be required to be on site while the container is opened and relocked.

For example, if part of the shipment will remain in Hong Kong and the remaining is re-export to China, a CSD officer will have to be on site through the entire container opening and locking process, i.e. beginning when the commercial seal is broken until the required unloading process is complete. The officer will then lock the container with a CSD seal and issue an confirmed origin certificate.

CSD's Seminar Notice to Hong Kong Traders

The CSD offered a seminar for traders explaining the new service. See the extracted notice below:

As informed by the General Administration of the Customs of the People's Republic of China ("the Mainland Customs"), an enhanced control arrangement ("the arrangement") will be implemented shortly to regulate the import into Mainland of both US and non-US frozen chicken products transshipping at Hong Kong. The arrangement aims to prevent illegal activities in transshipping through Hong Kong US frozen chicken products in the guise of non-US origin to the Mainland to evade the anti-

dumping duty and countervailing duty imposed on these products by the Mainland. The illegal transshipment activities, if involving the application of false origin labels to goods and exporting goods with false origin labels in Hong Kong, would be an offence under the Laws of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (“the Department”), apart from enhancing the enforcement action on these illegal transshipment activities, will take measures to facilitate exporters to meet the enhanced requirements imposed by the Mainland Customs where they transship non-US frozen chicken products to the Mainland through Hong Kong. The Department will issue certificate to confirm that non-US frozen chicken products have not been tampered with during the transshipment period in Hong Kong.