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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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Meat Injected with Water or other Liquid Not Allowed in Hong Kong

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

At a recent trade forum, Hong Kong Food Safety Center (CFS) officials reminded traders that Hong Kong food regulations prohibit the import and sale of meats which have been injected with water or other liquid.

Hong Kong government officials reminded traders not to import and sell meats adulterated with water or other fluid. Referring to Section 51A of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Chap. 132 (provided at the end of the report), meats which have been injected with water or liquid are not allowed. Officials pointed out that import licenses will not be issued for the importation of adulterated meat, even though they are acceptable in exporting countries and are accompanied by valid, official health certificates.

Examples of adulterated meat provided by Hong Kong CFS officials include beef which has undergone a unique technique of inserting soluble into lean meat and brine raw materials into poultry meat.

Section 51A of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Chapter 132:

Adulteration of meat

- (1) No person shall, by injection or any other means, introduce or cause the introduction of any water or other liquid into the tissues of the carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile sold for human consumption or offered, exposed or intended for sale for human consumption.
- (2) No person shall sell for human consumption or offer or expose for sale or have in his possession for the purpose of sale for human consumption, any carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile into the tissue of which there has been introduced by injection or any other means anything specified in subsection (1).
- (3) No person shall have in his possession whilst on, or bring onto or permit to be brought onto, any premises in which any carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile intended for human consumption is kept or stored or is sold or is offered or exposed for sale, any instrument designed or adapted for the introduction into the tissues of the carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile of anything specified in subsection (1).
- (4) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence.
- (5) Where — (a) any offence is committed under subsection (4); or
(b) any instrument specified in subsection (3) is found,

on any premises on which there is carried on any business in the course of which the carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile intended for human consumption is kept or stored or is sold or is offered or exposed for sale, then, in addition to any other person who may be guilty of an offence under subsection (4), and whether or not any other person is convicted for such offence, the person who carries on such business and the manager of the business shall each be guilty of an offence whether or not the persons last mentioned were aware of the commission of an offence under subsection (4) or of the presence of any instrument specified in subsection (3) on those premises.

- (6) Any public officer authorized in writing in that behalf by the Authority may seize and remove any instrument specified in subsection (3) which is found on any premises specified in that subsection or in the possession of any person on the premises who is employed on the premises either by the owner of the premises or by the person carrying on the business on the premises of keeping, storing or selling or offering or exposing for sale the carcass, meat or offal of any animal, bird or reptile intended for human consumption.
- (7) Subject to subsection (8), any instrument seized under subsection (6) may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the Authority thinks fit on the expiration of 7 days after the seizure.
- (8) If any person considers himself aggrieved by the seizure of any instrument under subsection (6) he may, within 3 days of the seizure, appeal to the court and on an appeal being so made the court may, after hearing the appellant and the Authority, order the instrument to be forfeited or otherwise dealt with as it thinks fit.