

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

No Water or Liquid Injection into Meat Allowed

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

In the light of an intercepted shipment of injected meat, the Hong Kong government has written to various meat supplying countries, advising them of Hong Kong's regulation of prohibiting meat imports injected with water or liquid.

Summary

Hong Kong food safety authority remind traders that Hong Kong prohibits the importation and sale of meat and offal products which have been injected with water or liquid, though these practices may be acceptable to exporting countries.

In the light of finding a shipment of meat products which have been injected with soluble oil for modifying the texture of the product, the Hong Kong food safety authority has written to various meat supplying countries pointing out that under section 51A, Cap. 132 it is a violation to sell or import any meat or offal products which have been injected with water or liquid. While the shipment in question was not U.S. products, the country of origin was not published.

The related section of the regulation is given below.

Cap 132 - PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE 23

Section: 51A 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.