

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: June 18, 2024

Report Number: HK2024-0034

Report Name: Reminder for Traders Shipping to Hong Kong - Ensure Health Certificates are Properly Formatted to Avoid Potential Rejections

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

A batch of U.S. frozen confectionary was almost rejected at Hong Kong's port of entry due to an erroneously formatted health certificate. U.S. exporters shipping to Hong Kong are urged to work with importers in Hong Kong to ensure that a properly formatted health certification is included when requesting an import license application.

In April 2024, ATO Hong Kong was approached by USDA headquarters on a possible shipment detention because the submitted health certificate was not in the format required by the local government. Hence, Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department refused to issue an import permit for the shipment.

To prevent potential disruptions in the future, traders are reminded to confirm local import requirements and accompanying documentation is properly formatted when shipping food and beverage products to Hong Kong. ATO Hong Kong issues two annual public reports that provide U.S. exporters with information on Hong Kong's import requirements. The reports are the "[Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report](#)" and the "[FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual.](#)" U.S. exporters are encouraged to reference these reports before shipping or contact the ATO at ATOHongKong@state.gov for further clarification or more information about the Hong Kong market.

Attachments:

No Attachments.