

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: HK2024-0047

Report Name: Reminder to US Beef Exporters of Hong Kong Regulations on Imports of Ground Beef

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Hong Kong classifies ground meat as prohibited meat under its food legislation. Importers are required to secure a permit from Hong Kong authorities to allow the entry of U.S. meat shipments prior to arrival at Hong Kong's port. Absent this specific permit, Hong Kong will not issue an import license. U.S. exporters should confirm with their importers, particularly new importers of ground beef, if they have secured this permit prior to shipping as this can also inadvertently delay consolidated shipments containing eligible products.

In Hong Kong, ground meat is classified as prohibited meat under its food legislation on Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations ([Cap.132AK](#)). However, U.S. ground meat can enter Hong Kong jurisdiction if importers get a permit from the Center for Food Safety (CFS) prior to the shipments' arrival. Goods without the required permit will not be able to attain an import license issued by the CFS. Each permit allows multiple shipments within one year for ground meats. Under Hong Kong law, traders importing ground beef goods into Hong Kong without a permit could be subject to a fine and up to six months of imprisonment. Hence, when shipping ground beef to Hong Kong, U.S. exporters should confirm with Hong Kong importers that they have secured this permit as this could also impact the entry of consolidated shipments containing eligible products.

For the first four months of 2024, U.S. beef exports to Hong Kong increased 4 percent to \$127 million year-on-year. The United States remains Hong Kong's second largest beef supplier. While the market has been dominated by Brazilian beef, U.S. beef satisfies a completely different market segment which demands premium and quality cuts. During that same period, Hong Kong imports of Brazilian beef grew 14 percent and demand is increasing.

ATO Hong Kong has two annual public reports to facilitate U.S. exporters' understanding of Hong Kong's import requirements. These cover the latest updates on regulation and listed out the required standards and certificates for agricultural imports. The two reports are the "[Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report](#)" and the "[FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual](#)". U.S. exporters can reference these reports before shipping or contact the ATO to clarify any concerns.

Attachments:

No Attachments.