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**This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into Hong Kong.**

<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Food Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part V (Food and Drugs) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132)</li><li>• Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for implementing territory-wide food safety control and enforcement of food regulations</li><li>• There are specific legal requirements and arrangements for the import of certain food categories<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- game, meat and poultry (<a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_04.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_04.html</a>)</li><li>- milk and milk beverages (<a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_05.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_05.html</a>)</li><li>- frozen confections (<a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_03.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_03.html</a>)</li><li>- marine products (<a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_06.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_06.html</a>)</li></ul></li><li>• Hong Kong Ordinance can also be obtained from the website: <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.hk/eng/home.htm">http://www.legislation.gov.hk/eng/home.htm</a></li><li>• Hong Kong has its own food and agricultural import regulations, which are different from those in China.</li></ul>
Regulatory/ Enforcement Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hong Kong's Center for Food Safety (CFS - <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/eindex.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/eindex.html</a> )<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- operates under the Hong Kong Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD - <a href="http://www.fehd.gov.hk">http://www.fehd.gov.hk</a> )</li><li>- Responsible for implementing territory-wide food safety control policies and enforcing food related legislation.</li><li>- Take food samples at point of entry to Hong Kong for various kinds of tests, including bacteriological examination and chemical analyses. FEHD, upon request, will pay market prices of any food samples taken</li></ul></li><li>• Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Conservation Department (<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/afcd">http://www.info.gov.hk/afcd</a>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- controls the importation of plants &amp; live animals</li></ul></li><li>• Hong Kong Customs &amp; Excise Department (<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/customs">http://www.info.gov.hk/customs</a>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- issues licence for imported dutiable commodities</li></ul></li></ul>
Health Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issued by health authorities of countries of origin</li><li>• Required for the importation of meat products, frozen confection and dairy products</li><li>• Recommended to accompany imports certifying the food product concerned is fit for</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<p>human consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Guide to Application for Health Certificate for Foods of Animal Origin is available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_10.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_10.html</a></li><li>• For import of exotic meat, health certificate certifying the animal's scientific name and its domesticated origin is required. Exporters are strongly advised to enquire about the documentation requirements from FEHD on a case-by-case basis.</li></ul>
Plant Import License and Phytosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both plant import license and phytosanitary certificate are required for any plant imported into Hong Kong except for<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cut flowers</li><li>- Fruit &amp; vegetables for consumption</li><li>- Grains, pulses, seeds and spices for human or animal consumption or for industrial use</li><li>- Timber and timber products including rattan and bamboo</li><li>- Dried tobacco and manufactured articles incorporating dried leaves</li><li>- Plants produced in and imported from China</li></ul></li><li>• The importation of plants to Hong Kong is subject to the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance, Cap. 207.</li><li>• Plant Import License should be obtained from the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Conservation Department prior to shipment of plants</li><li>• A phytosanitary certificate has to be issued by the competent authority in the country of its origin</li></ul>
Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Required for import of marine products, meat products, frozen confection and dairy products</li></ul>
Other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With certain food categories, such as frozen confectionary and milk beverages, source of manufacture has to be approved by Director of FEHD and importers would need to apply for import permit</li><li>• For importation of wild and cultivated ginseng, export licenses issued by exporting countries are required</li><li>• Importation of frozen or chilled beef, mutton and pork is subject to import licensing control by FEHD</li></ul>
Other Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg.html</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dried Milk Regulations</li><li>- Coloring Matter in Food Regulations</li></ul></li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sweeteners in Food Regulations</li><li>- Food Adulteration (metallic contamination) Regulations</li><li>- Harmful Substances in Food Regulations</li><li>- Food and Drugs (Composition and Labeling) Regulations</li><li>- Mineral Oil in Food Regulations</li></ul>
<b>Labeling</b>	
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulation 2 and Schedule 1-4 of Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling Regulations)</li><li>• The Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_list.html#cl">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_list.html#cl</a></li></ul>
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Either English or Chinese or both languages</li><li>• If both languages are used in the labeling or marking, the name of the food and list of ingredients shall appear in both languages.</li><li>• Stick-on labels are allowed.</li></ul>
Required information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name of the food<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- should serve to make the nature and type of food known to the purchasers</li></ul></li><li>• List of ingredients used in the product (in decreasing order of proportion)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- including additives, flavourings and preservatives used</li></ul></li><li>• Allergen labeling</li><li>• Net contents and drained weight</li><li>• Name and addresses of manufacturer/ packer</li><li>• Country of origin</li><li>• Lot identification</li><li>• Storage and use instructions</li><li>• Date Marking (indicated by "best before" or "use by" date)</li></ul>
Date format labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Best Before indication in both Chinese and English</li><li>• "Use by" is used for highly perishable prepackaged food and for shorter shelf-life foods</li><li>• The dates should be shown either in Arabic or in both English and Chinese languages</li><li>• There is no specified order as long as the sequence is clearly declared in both Chinese and English</li><li>• Any food with a shelf-life longer than 18 months are also required to mark a "best-before" date</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More information is available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_cl.html#5">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_cl.html#5</a></li></ul>
Allergen Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a food consists of or contains any of the following substances, the name of the substance shall be specified in the list of ingredients:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- cereals containing gluten, (namely wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt or their hybridized strains and their products)</li><li>- crustacean and crustacean products</li><li>- eggs and egg products</li><li>- fish and fish products</li><li>- peanuts, soybeans and their products</li><li>- milk and milk products (including lactose)</li><li>- tree nuts and nut products</li></ul></li><li>• If a food consists of or contains sulphite in a concentration of 10 parts per million or more, the functional class of the sulphite and its name shall be specified in the list of ingredients.</li></ul>
Name and Address of Manufacturer or Packer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepackaged food shall be legibly marked or labeled with the full name and address of the manufacturer or packer, except under the following situations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The package is marked with an indication of the country of origin and the name and address of the distributor or brand owner in Hong Kong, and the address of the manufacturer or packer of the food in its country of origin has been notified in writing to the Director of FEHD.</li><li>- The package is marked or labeled with an indication of its country of origin and with a code marking identifying the manufacturer or packer in that country and particulars of the code marking and of the manufacturer have been notified in writing to the Director of FEHD.</li></ul></li></ul>
Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shall be listed by both its functional class and its specific name or its identification number under the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives.</li><li>• The prefix "E" or "e" with the INS number as adopted by the European Union under the E-numbering system is also acceptable.</li></ul>
Exemption from labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individually wrapped confectionery products and preserved fruits intended for sale as a single item,</li><li>• Prepackaged foods for sale at catering establishment for immediate consumption and those containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wines, fruit wines and other drinks with alcoholic strength by volume of 10% or more</li><li>• For those in between 1.2 and 10%, use by date will need to be labeled on the drinks</li><li>• More details available in the Schedule 4 of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling Regulations) <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_cl.html#6">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_cl.html#6</a></li><li>• Products selling less than 30,000 units a year, having no nutrition claims on the packaging may be eligible for exemption.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Applications for a Small Volume Exemption (SVE) may be made by Hong Kong importers to the Hong Kong Government (HKG). Guide to Application for Small Volume Exemption is available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/whatsnew_fstr/files/Application_guide_for_SVE_e.pdf">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/whatsnew_fstr/files/Application_guide_for_SVE_e.pdf</a></li></ul></li></ul>
Health and Organic Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subjected to the same piece of food ordinance as conventional foods</li><li>• Health foods should not include medicinal ingredients, or they may be regarded as pharmaceutical products<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pharmaceutical products are subject to registration under the Health Department and are regulated by the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance.</li></ul></li><li>• Some Chinese medicine (subjected to the Chinese Medicine Ordinance) may be regarded as health food</li><li>• The Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance (chapter 231) prohibits advertisements claiming that a product has curative or preventive effects on any of the diseases listed in the schedule to the Ordinance.</li><li>• While the Hong Kong Organic Center provides organic certification for local produce, Hong Kong does not have a law regulating organic food products.</li></ul>
Alcoholic Drinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The HKG released a Code of Practice regarding the Labeling of Alcoholic Drinks. This labeling guideline is provided to the trade for them to follow on a voluntary basis.</li><li>• Under the Dutiable Commodities Regulation, every container containing liquor for local consumption is required to be labeled with the alcoholic strength.</li><li>• For more details, refer to Gain Report HK#5021.</li></ul>
Biotech Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both conventional and biotech food are subject to the same food safety regulation.</li><li>• Currently, voluntary labeling guideline is available. However, the policy on the labeling of biotech pre-packaged foods and drinks will be reviewed.</li><li>• Threshold level applied for labeling purpose is 5%, in respect of individual food ingredient</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional declaration on the food label is recommended when significant modifications of the food e.g. composition, nutrition value, level of anti-nutritional factors, natural toxicant, presence of allergen, intended use, introduction of an animal gene, etc, have taken place</li><li>• Negative labeling is not recommended (less definite terms such as “sourced from non-GMO sources” is still advisable)</li></ul>
Nutritional labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stricter than Codex recommendations</li><li>• Hong Kong’s nutrition labeling regulation requires all prepackaged food sold in Hong Kong to label energy plus seven nutrients namely, protein, carbohydrate, fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium and sugars</li><li>• The Centre for Food Safety has prepared the relevant Guidance Notes in the following link <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_nl_guidance.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_nl_guidance.html</a></li><li>• Products selling less than 30,000 units a year can apply for small volume exemption provided that the products do not carry any nutritional claims.</li></ul>
Nutrient Function Claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hong Kong’s nutrition labeling regulation also covers nutrient function claims, which have to fulfill the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The nutrient function claim is based on scientific substantiation and scientific consensus</li><li>- The nutrient function claim must contain information on the physiological role of the claimed nutrient</li><li>- The content of the claimed nutrients must meet the relevant condition of nutrient content claim for “source”, if applicable.</li></ul></li></ul>
Packaging & Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hong Kong currently has no special requirements for packaging and containers</li></ul>
Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hong Kong food laws provide a list of permitted food preservatives, coloring matter and artificial sweeteners. Details can be found in the following Regulations (available at <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg.html</a>):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Preservatives in Food Regulations</li><li>- Coloring Matter in Food Regulations</li><li>- Food Adulteration (Artificial Sweeteners) Regulations</li><li>- Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations</li><li>- Harmful Substances in Food Regulations</li><li>- Food and Drugs (Composition and Labeling) Regulations - Additives in Certain Milk</li></ul></li></ul>

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Pesticides and Other Contaminants	<p>Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hong Kong presently has no specific law regulating pesticide residue in foods.</li><li>• However, the FEHD has announced to be introducing a new subsidiary legislation to govern pesticide residues in food in Hong Kong.</li><li>• Meanwhile, the Center for Food Safety allows the presence of pesticide residues in food up to a certain MRL, as recommended by the Codex.</li><li>• For more information on Hong Kong's current regulation on MRL, please refer to gain report #HK4015</li><li>• Exporters are reminded that the maximum permitted level of cadmium in vegetables is 0.1 ppm.</li></ul>

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report  
Part V (Food and Drugs) of Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132)  
Centre of Food Safety Website (<http://www.cfs.gov.hk> )  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (<http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/index.html>)

**DISCLAIMER:**

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**