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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2877 5029)

Dear Miss L.O.,

**Imported Game, Meat and Poultry
(Amendment) Regulation 2015 (L.N. 106 of 2015)**

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2015. Our responses to the questions raised in your letter are set out below.

Under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry (Amendment) Regulation 2015 (L.N. 106 of 2015), no person may import eggs into Hong Kong (i) without a health certificate issued by an issuing entity from the place of origin recognized by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to certify that the eggs are fit for human consumption; (ii) where the eggs have been transhipped, without a transhipment certificate; (iii) without having obtained a permission in writing of a health officer; or (iv) without having complied with such conditions as a health officer may impose.

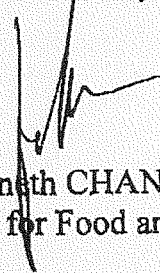
The reason for imposing the requirements set out in subparagraphs (iii) and (iv) above is to enable import control of eggs by requiring the importer to obtain a permission in writing from a health officer; and in so doing, the importer has to provide information that the health officer considers essential for tracking the actual importation of the poultry eggs into Hong Kong. Such information as may be

required by the health officer is listed in new regulation 4(2A) of the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations (IGMPR) (Cap. 132AK) (please see section 7(8) of L.N. 106 of 2015).¹ It may include the type and quantity of eggs to be imported and other details of the consignments. In the case of meat and poultry, similar restrictions are already imposed through the import licensing system under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) whereby an import licence is required for the import of meat and poultry. The importer has to provide necessary information on the consignment of meat or poultry to be imported in order to obtain the import licence.

The existing regulation 4(2) of Cap. 132AK states that meat and poultry may be imported without an official certificate subject to the permission in writing of a health officer and to such conditions as he may impose. The legislative intent is that an official certificate (replaced with health certificate under L.N. 106 of 2015) should normally be required for the import of meat, poultry, or eggs in all cases. However, an exception may be granted under regulation 4(2) in rare circumstances, such as when a small quantity of meat, poultry or eggs need to be imported for promotion (but not for sale), from a country or place which has not yet established an import protocol with Hong Kong.

Please let us know if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,



(Kenneth CHAN)
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc DFEH (Attn: Dr SY Lee and Mr Donald Wong) (Fax : 2521 9527)
DoJ (Attn: Ms Emma Wong) (Fax : 2869 1302)

¹ As explained in the Legislative Council (LegCo) Brief (File Ref: FH CR 2.3821/06) on the "IMPORT AND EXPORT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2015, IMPORTED GAME, MEAT AND POULTRY (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2015 and FOOD BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2015," the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel of the LegCo was advised in 2011 of a proposal to provide for the control over the import of poultry eggs through a regulation under the Food Safety Ordinance. This approach was premised on an assumption that the food safety related provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance have been incorporated into the Food Safety Ordinance. As the incorporation has yet to be done due to competing priorities, we propose providing for the control of poultry egg import under the IGMPR of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.