



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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10 January 2017

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Miss Josephine SO)  
(Fax no.: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss SO,

**Online Sale of Food Products**

Regarding the enquiries by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on online sale of food products at the meeting of 8 March 2016, our response is as follows:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) has been monitoring online food sale since June 2012. If any food sold online for human consumption is suspected of involving unlicensed food business or is from a suspicious source, the FEHD conducts investigations and takes follow-up actions accordingly, including issuing warnings to the websites concerned. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be initiated. From June 2012 to December 2015, the FEHD successfully initiated 49 prosecutions under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), and all of these prosecutions resulted in convictions.

As at 31 December 2016, the FEHD received a total of 284 applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods. So far, 151 permits have been issued, and 58 applications are under processing. The remaining 75 applications require no further action owing to the withdrawal by the applicants or other factors (such as the business under application does not involve the sale of restricted foods; or the premises concerned have already been covered by a relevant licence).

Regarding the time required for handling applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods, if an applicant has submitted all the necessary documents when making the application, and referral to other government departments for consideration is not required, it generally takes around 30 working days (counting from the FEHD's receipt of the application) to complete the site inspection, complete the process of verifying compliance with the relevant permit requirements and issue the permit to the applicant who meets all of the relevant permit requirements.

Having said the above, the time required for handling individual applications is subject to the actual circumstances, such as whether the applicant is able to submit all the necessary documents for the permit application, including particulars on restricted food suppliers and information on the websites or online platforms where consumers will place orders.

Yours sincerely,



(Kenneth CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. DFEH (Attn.: Mr KK Li) (Fax no.: 2530 1368)