

Food Safety Order (Order No. CFS/2/2014) issued on 29 October 2014

Frequently Asked Questions (Public)

(Also refer to Frequently Asked Questions for Food Safety Order (Order No. CFS/1/2014) for further details)

Q1 Which types of foods are specified in this Food Safety Order?

A1 This Order specifies all edible fats and oils produced by CHENG I Food Co. Ltd. (CHENG I) and all edible fats and oils produced by TING HSIN Oil & Fat Industrial Co. Ltd. (TING HSIN) in Taiwan. In addition, all food products made with the above-mentioned fats and oils in Taiwan or Hong Kong are also included.

Q2 Which food products are known to be made with edible fats and oils produced by CHENG I or TING HSIN?

A2 The Taiwan authorities have released a list of affected products in their website. Relevant information has been uploaded onto the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) website. The public may pay attention to the information published on the website to keep update to the incident.

Q3 Why there is a need to issue the Food Safety Order for this incident?

A3 As Taiwan authorities proceeded with their investigation, it was announced on 8 October 2014 that CHENG I's lard/lard products were found to be produced from substandard ingredients, such as lard for animal feeds. On 10 October 2014, it was further announced by Taiwan authorities that TING HSIN's lard/lard products were also found to be produced from substandard ingredients, such as lard for animal feeds. Coupled with Taiwan authorities' announcement on 27 October 2014 that TING HSIN's substandard fats and oils products were also found to have been produced from beef tallow and coconut oil ingredients from unapproved sources in Vietnam, we have reasonable grounds to believe that fats and oils from both TING HSIN and CHENG I are very likely unfit for human consumption unless there is formal notification by Taiwan authorities otherwise. To further safeguard Hong Kong's public health, a second Food Safety Order needs to be made to put it beyond doubt that all edible fats and oils produced by TING HSIN and CHENG I, as well as all food products manufactured with such fats and oils, are prohibited from importing into and supplying within Hong Kong, and to mandate their recall in a systematic manner so as to ensure that they are no longer in circulation in the local market.

Q4 How would CFS deal with fats and oils originated from Taiwan not covered in this Order?

A4 CFS has already taken precautionary measures earlier in October 2014 to stop the import into and the supply within Hong Kong all edible oils (of animal or plant origins) produced in Taiwan with relevant powers under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). The current precautionary measures under Cap. 132 targeted at all edible fats and oils originated from Taiwan are still in force.