

Food Safety Order (Order No. CFS/3/2014) issued on 7 November 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 BEEI HAE Oil And Fats Co. Ltd. (BEEI HAE) and SHYEH CHYNG Enterprise Co. Ltd. (SHYEH CHYNG) 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 BEEI HAE or SHYEH CHYNG?

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 websites to keep update on 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 3 November 2014 that BEEI HAE and SHYEH CHYNG were suspected to have produced edible fats and oils from substandard ingredients, such as beef tallow for animal feeds and inedible fats and oils of both animal and plant origins. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has reasonable grounds to believe that fats and oils from the above companies are very likely unfit for human consumption unless there is formal notification by Taiwan authorities otherwise. FEHD's investigation also revealed that some traders in Hong Kong had imported lards from both companies. To further safeguard Hong Kong's public health, a third Food Safety Order needs to be made to put it beyond doubt that all edible fats and oils produced by BEEI HAE and SHYEH CHYNG, 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.