

Food Safety Order (Order No. CFS/3/2014) issued on 7 November 2014

Frequently Asked Questions (Trade)

(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.

Q5 I am an importer involved in Food Safety Order, what should I do?

- A5
- i. Immediately identify food specified in Annex A of the Food Safety Order from storage facilities and isolate them.
 - ii. Set up telephone enquiry service to handle enquiries related to recall of the food specified in Annex A as soon as possible.
 - iii. Immediately notify all known distributors of the recall and its arrangement.
 - iv. Inform FEHD (Email: fso_enquiry@fehd.gov.hk; Fax: 2776 5226), upon commencement of recall, of detailed description of the products to be recalled and the recall period.
 - v. Retract the food concerned returned by distributor(s), retailer(s) or consumers.
 - vi. Report to FEHD within two working days upon completion of recall for advice on final disposal of the recalled food (Recalled food include remaining stock of food and returned food from customers).
 - vii. Submit report to FEHD within one week from the date of completion of recall, and the report should contain the following information:
 - (a) the names of the companies, organizations or persons from whom the food was returned;
 - (b) the description and amount of the food returned;
 - (c) the description and amount of any stock of food specified in Annex A;
 - (d) a reconciliation between the delivered and recovered quantities of the food, as well as the stock in hand; and
 - (e) the final disposal of the recalled food.

Q6 I am a distributor involved in Food Safety Order, what should I do?

- A6
- i. Immediately identify food specified in Annex A of the Food Safety Order from storage facilities and return them to the supplier.
 - ii. Set up a telephone enquiry service to handle enquiries related to recall of the food specified in Annex A as soon as possible.
 - iii. Immediately notify all known retailer(s) and consumers of the recall and its arrangement.
 - iv. Inform FEHD (Email: Food_Recall_Notification@fehd.gov.hk; Fax: 2521 4784), upon commencement of recall, of detailed description of the products to be recalled and the recall period.
 - v. Retract the food returned by retailer(s) or consumers and return to the supplier.
 - vi. Keep records of recalled food, including :
 - (a) a description of the recalled food including brand and product name, size, identifying codes; and
 - (b) the date and quantity of food returned to the supplier.
 - vii. Report to FEHD within two working days upon completion of recall, the quantity and description of the recalled food and any remaining stock, and the date of return to the supplier.

Q7 I am a retailer involved in Food Safety Order, what should I do?

- A7
- i. Immediately stop sale and use of all food specified in Annex A of the Food Safety Order, and return them to the supplier.
 - ii. Immediately remove from the shelves all food specified in Annex A, and return the food concerned to the supplier. In case there is no supplier, the food concerned should be properly disposed of by the retailer.
 - iii. Retract the food returned by consumers, and return them to the supplier as appropriate.
 - iv. Keep record on quantity and description of the food such as brand and product name, size, identifying codes, and date of return to the supplier (or disposal as appropriate) of the food concerned.