

Hong Kong Customs and Centre for Food Safety remind public not to illegally import regulated food

Hong Kong Customs and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (September 25) held a joint press conference to report on the latest number of illegal import of regulated food (such as raw meat, poultry and eggs) cases and to remind members of the public not to illegally bring regulated food into Hong Kong.

In the first eight months this year, Customs detected about 1 300 cases of illegal imports of regulated food through passenger channel at land boundary control points, exceeding the 1 019 cases in the year of 2023 and doubling that of the same period last year. This reflects that there has been a significant increasing trend in such cases recently.

The CFS said members of the public who illegally bring regulated food into Hong Kong will not only be prosecuted, but also need to be aware that these foods may be improperly stored during travel, such as at an improper temperature or unhygienic packaging, leading to the growth of pathogenic bacteria and increased food safety and personal health risks.

With the National Day Golden Week approaching, Customs and the CFS reminded members of the public not to illegally bring regulated food from the Mainland or overseas into Hong Kong for the sake of convenience, so as to avoid criminal liability and health risks. Meat and egg products not fully cooked and raw meat products in any forms of packaging (including vacuum packed or tinfoil) are all subject to the control of relevant regulations. Customs and CFS officers will distribute leaflets at different land boundary control points before and during the holiday to remind inbound travellers to abide the relevant regulations.

In addition, according to the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap. 132AK), it is an offence to bring any game, meat, poultry or eggs into Hong Kong without a health certificate issued by an issuing entity of the place of origin and/or without prior written permission granted by the FEHD. An offender shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).