

Legislative Proposals on Regulation of Edible Fats and Oils and Regulation of “Waste Cooking Oils”

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Background

Following the “substandard lard” incident in September 2014, the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau jointly announced that they agreed to further safeguard food safety and Hong Kong's reputation through legislative amendments and enhanced enforcement.

On 7 July 2015, the Hong Kong SAR Government published the [Legislative Proposals on Regulation of Edible Fats and Oils and Recycling of “Waste Cooking Oils”](#).

Consultation

The consultation comprises two main parts:

1. Proposed regulation of edible fats and oils produced locally, imported into and exported from Hong Kong
2. Proposed regulation of recycling of “waste cooking oils”

“Waste cooking oils” is defined as “oils” abandoned from any cooking process for human consumption other than those from household.



Proposed regulation of edible fats and oils

- Make it a statutory requirement that “waste cooking oils” and “substandard oil” not intended for human consumption should not be used as ingredients for edible fats and oils manufactured locally, imported into and exported from Hong Kong

- Edible fats and oils manufactured locally, imported into and exported from Hong Kong should be accompanied by an official certificate or a certificate issued by an officially recognised independent testing institution certifying that the edible fats and oils fulfil the proposed statutory standards and being fit for human consumption.
- Importers of edible fats and oils should provide copies of certificates or other relevant documents to their downstream distributors, retailers or food premises for inspection by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”).
- FEHD will regulate local edible fat and oil production activities by its routine inspection and enforcement work.



Proposed regulation of recycling of “waste cooking oils”

- All “waste cooking oil” collectors, including those who collect “waste cooking oils” from restaurants and food factories and “waste cooking oil” traders, must hold a waste collection licence issued under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.
- All “waste cooking oil” disposers must hold a waste disposal licence under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.
- Importers and exporters of “waste cooking oils” have to obtain a permit issued under the Waste Disposal Ordinance to cover all import or export shipments of “waste cooking oils”.
- All registered collectors, disposers and exporters must keep proper transaction records of collection and delivery of “waste cooking oils” for 12 months.
- Food premises must record the dates on which “waste cooking oils” are collected from their premises, the quantities, and the names and addresses of the collectors and recyclers. They have to keep these records for at least 12 months.
- Grace period will be provided to allow the trade sufficient time to make necessary preparation for meeting the new requirements.



BEC's Submission

The Government has invited the public to provide views on the proposed regulatory framework before 6 October 2015. After consulting BEC Waste Management Advisory Group, a draft BEC submission will be prepared for comments by all BEC members.

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