



16 April 2014

(14-2379)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>HONG KONG, CHINA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Food for human consumption
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <b>[X] All trading partners</b> <b>[ ] Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Microbiological Guidelines for Food <b>Language(s):</b> English and Chinese <b>Number of pages:</b> 38
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Microbiological Guidelines for Food are criteria indicating the microbiological condition of the food items when there are no established microbiological standards. They also supplement any existing legislative microbiological standards so as to reflect the safety and hygienic quality of the food. The purpose of this set of Guidelines is to provide assistance to health officers in the interpretation of microbiological analyses of foods and give recommendations on the appropriate follow-up action to monitor and control food safety.  The microbiological criteria for (i) ready-to-eat food in general - Aerobic colony count (ACC) and Hygiene indicator organisms, (ii) ready-to-eat food in general - specific foodborne pathogens, and (iii) specific food items are listed in Chapter I to III of the Guidelines respectively.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <b>[X] food safety, [ ] animal health, [ ] plant protection, [ ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests.</b>
<b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b> <b>[X] Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)</b>  Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (CAC/RCP 33-1985, revised 2011) Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children (CAC/RCP 66-2008, revised 2009) Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants (CAC/RCP 42-1995) Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (CODEX STAN 292-2008, amendment 2013) Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003, amendment 2013)

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b> The Guidelines make reference to the latest microbiological criteria stipulated by Codex and other national authorities, while taking local situation into account.</p>
<p><b>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p> <p>See Item 5</p>
<p><b>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> 26 June 2014. (tentative)</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 26 June 2014. (tentative)</p>
<p><b>11. Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
<p><b>12. Final date for comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 15 June 2014</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Centre for Food Safety          (Attn: Risk Assessment Section)          Food and Environmental Hygiene Department          43/F, Queensway Government Offices          66 Queensway, Hong Kong          Tel: +(852) 2867 5699          Fax: +(852) 2893 3547          E-mail: enquiries@fehd.gov.hk</p>
<p><b>13. Texts available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>See Item 12</p> <p>The notified text could also be downloaded from the following websites:</p> <p>In English  <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_Draft_Microbiological_Guidelines_for_Food.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_Draft_Microbiological_Guidelines_for_Food.html</a></p> <p>In Chinese  <a href="http://www.cfs.gov.hk/tc_chi/food_leg/food_leg_Draft_Microbiological_Guidelines_for_Food.html">http://www.cfs.gov.hk/tc_chi/food_leg/food_leg_Draft_Microbiological_Guidelines_for_Food.html</a></p>