

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected counterfeit goods and duty-not-paid liquor worth about \$1.5 million (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs on June 28 seized about 7 400 suspected counterfeit goods and eight litres of suspected duty-not-paid liquor at the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal Customs Cargo Examination Compound. The total estimated market value was about \$1.5 million, with a duty potential of about \$70,000.

Through risk assessment, Customs on that day inspected a 40-foot container, declared as carrying food, clothes and footwear and arriving in Hong Kong from Nansha, Guangdong. After the inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected counterfeit goods, including clothing, footwear, handbags and belts, and the batch of suspected duty-not-paid liquor inside the container.

An initial investigation revealed that the batch of suspected counterfeit goods and suspected duty-not-paid liquor would be transhipped to overseas regions.

The investigation is ongoing.

Customs will continue to take stringent enforcement action against cross-boundary counterfeit goods activities based on risk assessment and intelligence analysis and combat illicit liquor activities by interception at source for the protection of revenue.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who imports or exports any goods to which a forged trademark is applied commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, anyone involved in dealing with, possession of, selling or buying illicit liquor commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violation of the above-mentioned Ordinances 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).



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, July 22, 2024 is 106.4 (same as last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, July 20, 2024 was 106.4 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will

continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on July 19 to noon today (July 22), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 415 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan"

(www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 69 756 samples of food imported from Japan (including 44 872 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 16 544 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Missing man in Kwai Chung located

A man who went missing in Kwai Chung has been located.

Cheng Ying-lung, aged 40, went missing after he left his residence in Kwai Chung Estate on December 31, 2023. His family made a report to Police on January 9.

The man turned up at police station to cancel the missing person report today (July 22). He sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

Fraudulent websites related to Bank Julius Baer & Co. Ltd.

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank Julius Baer & Co. Ltd. relating to fraudulent websites, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the websites concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.