

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, March 7, 2025 is 106.4 (same as yesterday'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 March 6 to noon today (March 7), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 167 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. 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 52 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, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 120 780 samples of food imported from Japan (including 79 267 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 27 878 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Missing man in Ma On Shan located

A man who went missing in Ma On Shan has been located.

Tsang Cheuk-wing, aged 34, went missing after he was last seen at a unit on Ning Tai Road on January 29 afternoon. His family made a report to Police on February 28.

The man was located on Ning Tai Road this afternoon (March 7). No suspicious circumstances were detected.

Postal services to Finland return to normal

Hongkong Post announced today (March 7) that, as advised by the postal administration of Finland, mail delivery services previously impacted by the strike have returned to normal.

Medicine shop salesman convicted of engaging in commercial practice

involving misleading omission for selling Chinese herbal medicine

A medicine shop salesman was earlier convicted of engaging in a commercial practice involving a misleading omission in the sale of a Chinese herbal medicine, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TD0), at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on February 21. After being remanded in custody for 14 days, the salesman was sentenced to 120 hours' community service order today (March 7) and must compensate the victim in the case by an amount of \$11,000.

Customs earlier received information from a Mainland visitor alleging that a staff member of a medicine shop in Mong Kok misled him in the course of selling a Chinese herbal medicine. After an investigation, it was revealed that the staff member did not disclose the pricing unit of the medicine despite the visitor's inquiry, misleading the visitor to believe that the unit price of the medicine was calculated per catty. After the medicine was ground into powder, the staff member revealed that it was priced per mace and cost \$22,400 in total, which was 160 times higher than what was expected. Eventually the visitor was forced to purchase a portion of the medicine at around half the price.

Customs has long been concerned about visitors being misled into making purchases by unfair trade practices and has established a Quick Response Team to handle urgent complaints lodged by short-haul visitors. The complaints will be promptly referred to investigators to handle with priority.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TD0. Consumers should procure products from reputable traders. They are also reminded to check carefully the total price and unit price of the goods before making a payment, and to retain the transaction receipts and related records, which can be used as the basis for follow-up action in case a complaint is lodged in the future.

Under the TD0, any trader who engages in a commercial practice that omits or hides material information or provides material information in a manner that is unclear, unintelligible, ambiguous or untimely, and as a result causes, or is likely to cause, an average consumer to make a transactional decision, commits an offence of misleading omissions. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

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Members of the public may report any suspected violation of the TD0 to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).