

## 9.11 IMPORT, EXPORT AND CURRENCY CONTROL

### GENERAL

Under the Import and Export Ordinance (Chapter 60), the Reserved Commodities Ordinance (Chapter 296), the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Chapter 403) and their subsidiary legislation, the Director-General of Trade and Industry is the licensing authority for imports and exports of certain prohibited articles. These articles may only be imported, exported in accordance with a licence issued by the Trade and Industry Department to which Department reference should be made in case of doubt. Post Office staff are not in a position to advise whether an export licence is required in respect of a particular article or class of goods; and they should not express any opinion on the subject of export restrictions. In any case of doubt a parcel or packet will be accepted for posting, but such acceptance should not be taken as implying in any way that export licensing requirements have been satisfactorily met. The responsibility for complying with these requirements rests with the sender. The Post Office shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made, nor for decisions taken by the customs examination of the items submitted to customs control. The following points should be noted :-

- (a) Certain items not listed are subject to licensing control by the Director-General of Trade and under import/export control by other departments of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; these include :-
  - (i) the import and export of dangerous drugs by the Department of Health (Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134);
  - (ii) the import and export of radio transmitting equipment by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (Telecommunications Ordinance, Cap. 106);
  - (iii) the import of animals, birds and reptiles by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139);
  - (iv) the import and export of arms and ammunition by the Hong Kong Police Force (Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance, Cap. 238);
  - (v) the import of dogs or cats by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Dogs and Cats Regulations, Cap. 167);
  - (vi) the import of sand by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (Sand Ordinance, Cap. 147);
  - (vii) the import of plants, plant pests and soil by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance, Cap. 207);
  - (viii) the import of any artificial sweetener or food containing artificial sweetener by the Department of Health (Food Adulteration (Artificial Sweeteners) Regulations, Cap. 132).

- (ix) the export of poultry carcasses or poultry products to certain scheduled countries by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Poultry (Slaughtering for Export) Regulations, Cap. 139);
  - (x) the import and export of endangered species, scheduled animal parts and controlled medicine by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 187);
  - (xi) the export of any local protected wild plant, or any part of it by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Forest and Countryside Ordinance, Cap. 96);
  - (xii) the export of any protected wild animal, or any part or nest or egg of it by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Wild Animals Protection Ordinance, Cap. 170);
  - (xiii) the import and export of explosives by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations, Cap. 295) and Dangerous Goods (Government Explosives Depots) Regulations, Cap. 295);
  - (xiv) the import of game, meat, poultry and prohibited meat by the Department of Health (Imported Meat and Poultry Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xv) the import of food containing added colouring matter by the Department of Health (Colouring matter in Food Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xvi) the import of food containing metals by the Department of Health (Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xvii) the import food containing aflatoxins and/or erucic acid by the Department of Health (Harmful substances in Food Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xviii) the import of food containing preservatives and/or antioxidants by the Department of Health (Preservatives in Food Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xix) the import of smokeless tobacco products by the Department of Health (Smokeless Tobacco Products (Prohibition) Regulations, Cap. 132);
  - (xx) the import and export of Ozone Depleting substances by the Environmental Protection Department (Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance Cap. 403);
  - (xxi) the import of radioactive substances and irradiating apparatus by Department of Health (Radiation Ordinance Cap. 303).
- (b) The import and export of dutiable commodities (tobacco, liquor, methyl alcohol, hydrocarbon oil and cosmetics) are controlled by the Commissioner of Customs & Excise. Applications for import and export licences should be made to the Customs and Excise Department.
- (c) The import/export and transshipment of acetylating substances (acetic anhydride, acetyl chloride and acetyl bromide) must be covered by import/export authorization and transshipment permit approved by the Commissioner of Customs & Excise. Enquiries may be addressed to the Customs and Excise Department.

Where the value of the contents of any postal packet sent abroad or received from abroad is \$4,000 or over, a declaration must be lodged with the Customs & Excise Department.

## **BANKNOTES, CURRENCY NOTES ETC.**

There is no restriction on the import or export of banknotes or currency notes.

## **IMPORT LICENCES**

Certain goods require the production of a valid import licence before delivery can be effected; all enquiries on this matter should be directed to Trade and Industry Department. The following goods must be covered by valid import licences when imported from any territory :-

- (a) Strategic commodities;
- (b) Reserved commodities;
- (c) Pesticides;
- (d) Radioactive substances and irradiating apparatus;
- (e) Pharmaceutical products and medicines;
- (f) Textiles;
- (g) Ozone depleting substances.

## **EXPORT LICENCES**

Certain goods require the production of a valid export licence before exportation can be effected; all enquiries on this matter should be directed to Trade and Industry Department.

The following goods must be covered by valid export licences when exported from Hong Kong :-

- (a) Strategic commodities;
- (b) Reserved commodities;
- (c) Pesticides;
- (d) Textiles;
- (e) Pharmaceutical products and medicines;
- (f) Ozone depleting substances.