

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 27, 2021

**Report Number:** HK2021-0029

**Report Name:** Documentation Requirements for Hemp Seed Transshipments via Hong Kong

**Country:** Hong Kong

**Post:** Hong Kong

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

U.S. exporters are reminded to obtain an “Export Authorization” document from the state agricultural department before sending any hemp seed shipments to a third market via Hong Kong. The Hong Kong agent/forwarder needs this “Export Authorization” document to apply for a removal license, which is mandatory for any hemp seed products transshipped via Hong Kong.

U.S. exporters who ship hemp seeds to a third country via Hong Kong need to provide an “Export Authorization” document from their U.S. state department of agriculture in order to apply for the “Removal License” from the Hong Kong Department of Health. The “Removal License” should be obtained prior to the shipment’s arrival in Hong Kong. Only with the “Removal License” will the hemp seed shipment be allowed to continue its journey to its destination.

The Hong Kong ATO is aware of U.S. hemp seed shipments being detained in Hong Kong even though the shipments had a through bill of lading from the United States to a third country. The shipments were detained by Hong Kong Customs during transshipment through Hong Kong and then released upon the agent’s successful application of a “Removal License” from the Hong Kong Department of Health.

Hemp seeds are regulated by Hong Kong’s Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. According to the Ordinance, Hong Kong Customs will allow importers/forwarders to transship/re-export dangerous drugs only when they provide a “Removal License” issued by the Hong Kong Department of Health. To get a "removal License", the importer/forwarder, needs to obtain an “export authorization” issued by the U.S. government, which is an issuing condition for a “Removal License”. The “Export Authorization” is a letter or document stating that the U.S. government allows or does not have any objection to having the named “dangerous drug” be exported out of the United States. The document should include the following information.

Product name

Quantity

Name of exporter and importer

Bill of lading information

In the previous two detained shipment cases where the ATO was made aware of the issue, the U.S. exporters in question were able to obtain the “Export Authorization” from the U.S. state agricultural department.

These transshipment requirements apply to all products listed on the [Dangerous Drug Ordinance](#) and cannabiniol and its tetrahydro derivatives (THC) are on the list. As such, any products containing THC need to have a “Removal License” for transshipments via Hong Kong if that involves conveyance change.

According to Hong Kong government officials, shipments in transit in Hong Kong, i.e. shipments remain on the same plane /ship during their stay in Hong Kong, are not required to have the “Removal License” to continue their journey to their destination. Hong Kong law requires the “Removal License” only when there is a change of conveyance or shipping vessel or vehicle.

For other regulatory issues pertaining to hemp, please refer to the [GAIN](#) report.

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.