The section sets out the summary of the main laws, regulations, rules and policies that govern our business operations in the PRC and Japan as well as our exportation business to certain major overseas countries include Japan, the European Union (Netherlands)/(United Kingdom), Malaysia, Korea, Mongolia and Singapore.

#### PRC LAWS AND REGULATIONS

# POLICIES ON MODERN HUSBANDRY, POULTRY REARING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Since 2006, the State Council and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs ("MOA") have promulgated a series of policies for the purpose of promoting the development of modern husbandry, poultry rearing and processing industry. These policies include the Several Opinions of the State Council Concerning the Promotion of Sustainable and Healthy Development of Animal Husbandry (《國務院關於促進畜牧業持續健康發展的意見》) promulgated by the State Council on 26 January 2007, the Several Opinions of MOA Concerning the Acceleration of the Work of Promoting Standardised Large Scale Raising and Rearing of Livestock and Poultry (《農業部關於加快推進畜禽標準化規模養殖的意見》) issued by MOA on 29 March 2010, and the Circular on Printing and Distributing the Key Points of Work for Animal Husbandry for the Year 2018 (《關於印發<2018年畜牧業工作要點>的通知》) promulgated by MOA on 30 January 2018, and the Circular on Printing and Distributing the Key Points of Work for Animal Husbandry and Veterinarian for the Year 2019 (《關於印發<2019年畜牧獸醫工作要點>的通知》) promulgated by MOA on 30 January 2019.

The foregoing governmental documents call for consolidation, improvement of industrialisation and specialisation level of the animal husbandry industry, acceleration of the rearing and promotion of fine breeds of livestock and poultry and transformation of breeding and raising pattern of livestock and poultry. Moreover, these governmental documents also set forth various governmental preferential policies and incentives provided to the enterprises in the husbandry and farming industry, including increasing the fiscal subsidy and support for the husbandry and farming industry, expanding the applicable scope of fiscal subsidy for agriculture machinery and equipment to include animal husbandry equipment, innovating security methods, expanding the scope of mortgage and pledge, enhancing the establishment of a mechanism whereby banks, government, enterprises and security providers may share risks, striving to expand the pilot scope of insurance policy premium subsidy for animal husbandry, and promoting the development of modern husbandry by allowing the market to play its role.

#### LARGE SCALE ANIMAL RAISING AND BREEDING INDUSTRY

# **Record Filing of Livestock and Poultry Breeding Farms**

The Animal Husbandry Law of PRC (《中華人民共和國畜牧法》) (the "Animal Husbandry Law"), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 29 December 2005, became effective on 1 July 2006, and amended on 24 April 2015, stipulates the conditions that a livestock or poultry breeding farm shall meet, and requires the owner of a breeding farm to file the name and address of the farm, strains of livestock and poultry as well as scale of breeding for record with the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine authority under the local people's government at the county level where the farm is located, and to obtain labels and codes for the livestock and poultry. The following are the conditions that a livestock or poultry breeding farm should meet:

- To have production premises and supporting facilities commensurate with its scale of rearing;
- To have animal husbandry and veterinary technicians in its service;

- To possess the conditions for epidemic prevention, as provided for by laws and administrative regulations and prescribed by the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine authority under the State Council;
- To have such facilities as methane-generating pits for comprehensive use of, or other facilities for innocuous treatment of, the faeces of livestock and poultry, waste water and other solid wastes; and
- To meet other conditions provided for by laws and administrative regulations.

# Licence for Production and Operation of Rearing Livestock and Poultry

According to the Animal Husbandry Law, an entity or individual engaged in the production and operation of rearing livestock and poultry shall obtain a licence for production and operation of rearing livestock and poultry. An applicant applying for the licence for production and operation of rearing livestock and poultry shall meet various conditions set out in the Animal Husbandry Law. The licence is issued by the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine authority under the local people's government at or above the county level and is valid for three years.

An applicant shall meet the following conditions in order to be granted with the licence for production and operation of rearing livestock and poultry:

- The rearing livestock and poultry for production and operation must be the breeds and the synthetic strains that have gone through the verification or identification by the national commission for genetic resources of livestock and poultry, or the breeds and synthetic strains introduced from abroad upon approval;
- The applicant has the husbandry and veterinary technicians commensurate with the scale of production and operation;
- The applicant has the rearing facilities and equipment commensurate with the scale of the production and operation;
- The applicant has the conditions for epidemic prevention among the rearing livestock and poultry, as provided for by laws and administrative regulations and prescribed by the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine authority under the State Council;
- The applicant has sound systems for quality control and for recording the rearing of strains; and
- The applicant meets other conditions as provided for by laws and administrative regulations.

#### **Certificate for Meeting Animal Epidemic Prevention Conditions**

The Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention of the PRC (《中華人民共和國動物防疫法》), which was promulgated on 3 July 1997 and amended on 30 August 2007, 29 June 2013 and 24 April 2015, respectively, by the Standing Committee of the NPC, provides that an animal farm shall meet the following conditions for prevention of animal epidemics, and the operator of the animal farm shall apply to the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine authority under the local people's government at or above the county level for a certificate for meeting animal epidemic prevention conditions:

 The farm is located at certain distance from public places, such as residential areas, sources of drinking water, schools and hospitals as prescribed by the veterinary medicine authority under the State Council;

- The enclosure and isolation of the production area and the engineering design and technological processes shall meet the requirements for animal epidemic prevention;
- The farm has necessary facilities and equipment for innocuous treatment and for cleaning and decontamination of waste water, waste materials, animals that die of diseases, and infected animal products;
- Technicians for animal epidemic prevention have been equipped for the farm;
- A sound system for animal epidemic prevention has been established for the farm; and
- The farm meets other conditions for animal epidemic prevention as laid down by the veterinary medicine authority under the State Council.

As provided for by the Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention of the PRC, animal epidemic prevention authorities shall monitor the outbreak and spread of animal epidemics; an entity or individual engaged in raising, slaughtering, marketing, isolation or transportation of animals and/or other activities in connection therewith shall immediately report to the local veterinary medicine authority, animal health supervision authorities or animal epidemic prevention and control authorities when it finds that animals have, or are suspected to have, contracted epidemics, and in addition, it shall have the animals isolated and take other control measures to prevent the spread of the epidemics. According to the Regulations on Administration of National Animal Epidemics Surveillance and Reporting System (For Trial Implementation) (《國家動物疫情測報體系管理規範(試行)》) promulgated on 10 June 2002 by MOA, regular surveillance shall be conducted on any large-scale animal farm where a certain classified disease breaks out, and all documents relating to the animal epidemic surveillance shall be reported to the animal husbandry and veterinary medicine bureau under MOA within the prescribed period of time.

Where animals are eradicated and animal products and relevant goods are destroyed through mandatory measures taken in the course of prevention, control and elimination of animal epidemics, the people's governments at or above the county level shall provide compensation. The specific rates and measures for compensation shall be determined and adopted by the department of finance under the State Council together with other departments concerned. Compensation shall be made for animals that die of stress caused by mandatory vaccination given in accordance with law. The specific rates and measures for compensation shall be determined and adopted by the department of finance under the State Council together with other departments concerned.

#### **Prevention and Control of Pollution**

According to the Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Pollution Caused by Large-scale Rearing of Livestock and Poultry (《畜禽規模養殖污染防治條例》) promulgated by the State Council on 11 November 2013 and became effective on 1 January 2014:

- Livestock and poultry farms and rearing districts which are built, reconstructed or expanded shall be in compliance with the development plan of animal husbandry and the pollution prevention and control plan of livestock and poultry rearing, meet the requirements for animal epidemic prevention, and undergo environmental impact assessment. An environmental impact report shall be prepared for any large scale livestock or poultry farm or rearing district which has a potential material impact on the environment;
- In the livestock and poultry farms and rearing districts, there must be relevant facilities for faeces of livestock and poultry, shunting sewage and drains, and storage of faeces and sewage, and comprehensive utilisation and harmless treatment facilities for anaerobic

digestion and stack retting of faeces, organic fertiliser processing, methane producing, separation and delivery of dregs and fluid of methane, sewage treatment and corpse treatment;

- China encourages and supports comprehensive use of wastes of livestock and poultry rearing by way of putting manure back to farmland, producing methane and organic fertiliser, among other uses;
- China encourages and supports the disposal and containment of wastes of livestock and poultry rearing by way of combining planting and rearing to utilise wastes such as manure of livestock and poultry and sewage nearby;
- China encourages and supports comprehensive utilisation, such as producing methane and organic fertiliser, and construction of facilities for delivery and utilisation of dregs and fluid of methane, methane electricity generation, among other uses; and
- The facilities for prevention and control of pollution caused by livestock and poultry farms must be designed, constructed and used concurrently with the main structure. Methods adopted by a livestock or poultry farm for comprehensive use of wastes of livestock and poultry rearing must be put in place at the time when the farm is put into operation. The inspection carried out by environmental protection authorities on completed facilities for prevention and control of pollution caused by livestock and poultry farms shall include the implementation progress of the measures adopted for comprehensive use of wastes generated from livestock and poultry rearing.

#### LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE FOOD INDUSTRY IN GENERAL

#### **Food Safety**

The Food Safety Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國食品安全法》) (the "Food Safety Law"), which was adopted by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 28 February 2009 and amended on 24 April 2015 and 29 December 2018, and its implementation regulations, which was promulgated by the State Council on 20 July 2009 and amended on 6 February 2016 and 1 December 2019, adopt measures and requirements in to improve food safety and prevent large scale food safety accidents which including but not limited to the following aspects:

- strengthen the role of local government in the supervision and coordination of food safety regulation work;
- strengthen food safety risk monitoring and assessment, and early intervention into and quick control over food safety accidents;
- revise the standards for the use of food additives and strengthen regulation of use of food additives;
- establish a food recall system;
- abolish the food safety inspection exemption system;
- clarify the fundamental principles in formulating food safety standards; and
- develop a licencing system for food distribution.

#### **Food Production**

According to the Food Safety Law, China implements a licencing system for food production. According to the Measures for Administration of Food Production Licences (《食品生產許可管理辦法》), which became effective on 17 November 2017 and was amended on 1 March 2020, food

production enterprises must meet the required production conditions stipulated therein and must obtain food production licences. An enterprise intending to produce food shall apply to the local market regulatory department at or above the county level at the place where the enterprise is located. The effective period for a food production licence is five years.

According to the Regulation of the People's Republic of China for the Administration of Manufacturing Licences of Industrial Products (《中華人民共和國工業產品生產許可證管理條例》), which took effect on 1 September 2005, and the Implementation Measures of "Regulation of the People's Republic of China for the Administration of Manufacturing Licences of Industrial Products" (《中華人民共和國工業產品生產許可證管理條例實施辦法》), which took effect on 1 August 2014, China imposes a production permit system on dairy products, meat products, beverages, rice, flour, edible oils, alcoholic beverages and other products which have a direct connection with human health. If an entity intends to produce products listed on the government-formulated catalogue of industrial products that require manufacturing licences, such entity should apply for and obtain manufacturing licence from its local administration of quality and technology supervision at the provincial level. The term of a manufacturing licence is five years.

According to the Rules for the Implementation of the Management and Supervision of Food Manufacturing and Processing Enterprises (for trial implementation) (《食品生產加工企業質量安全監督管理實施細則(試行)》), which took effect on 1 September 2005, China imposes on the food market a permit system to ensure food safety. Enterprises participating in food manufacturing or processing are required to fulfil government-set standards regarding the production of safe food and obtaining manufacturing licence(s) for industrial products, and the manufactured or processed food would need to pass safety tests and be stamped (or labelled) with food safety stamps (or stickers) to indicate that such food is sufficiently safe to leave the producers and enter target markets.

# The Use of Food Additives

According to PRC laws on food safety, the use of food additives, unless absolutely necessary and proved by risk assessments to be harmless to health, should be completely avoided. The health administrative agencies of the State Council require that the standards regarding the use of food additives, in particular, the allowable food additives and their scope of applications and dosage levels, should be updated in a timely manner on the basis of technical requirements and the results of food safety risk analysis. Food manufacturers should use food additives in accordance with such standards regarding the allowable food additives and their scope of applications and dosage levels and may not use any chemical other than food additives that might be injurious to health.

When purchasing raw materials, food additives and food-related products in order to produce food, the food manufacturers should examine the licences and qualification documents of their suppliers. In case the suppliers are unable to furnish the qualification documents, the food manufacturers should inspect the products provided by such suppliers in accordance with the standards regarding food safety. The food manufacturers may not purchase or use raw materials, food additives or food-related products that are not compliant with the food safety standards. The food manufacturers shall inspect raw materials, food additives or food-related products they purchase for the production of food and keep for at least two years records of the names, volumes, specifics, date of purchase, and names and contacts of the suppliers thereof, among other relevant information.

# **Labelling of Food**

The Provisions for the Administration of Food Labelling (《食品標識管理規定》), which became effective on 22 October 2009, sets forth that, food labels shall display the name, place of production,

date of production, expiry date, net contents, list of ingredients, name, address and contact information of the manufacturer, and the code of safety standard adopted by the manufacturer.

If the name or the introduction of food contains wording such as "nutrition" or "strengthening", the nutritional ingredients and the amount of energy of such food shall be clearly indicated in the labelling, and the format of labelling shall comply with the relevant state requirements. The labelling of food products that require manufacturing licences shall include number of their manufacturing licences and the QS (Quality Safe) mark.

#### **Food Standardisation**

Under the Standardisation Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國標準化法》), which became effective on 1 January 2018, standards relating to the protection of personal health and the safety of persons and property, as well as standards imposed by other laws and regulations, are classified as "mandatory standards". Food hygiene standards are part of mandatory standards.

## **Food Inspection**

According to the Food Safety Law and its implementation regulations, China has implemented an inspection system relating to food production and operation. The food safety supervision and administration department of a people's government at or above the county level shall, on a regular or unscheduled basis, conduct sampling inspections of food and publish the inspection results according to the relevant provisions, and shall not exempt any food from such inspection. A food production enterprise may itself inspect the food produced by it or employ a food inspection institution that satisfies the requirements of the relevant laws and regulations to do so.

#### **Food Recall**

In accordance with PRC laws on food safety, China has launched a food recall system. According to the Administrative Measures on the Administration of Food Recall (《食品召回管理辦法》), which became effective on 1 September 2015, food recall is divided into three levels, namely, Recall of Level One, Level Two and Level Three, on the basis of the severity of the associated health hazards. The acts of food recall are categorised as "proactive recall" and "ordered recall". In the situations that the food manufacturers or dealers find that the food they manufacture or handle is unsafe, they shall immediately cease production or dealing, and recall and dispose of such unsafe food products pursuant to the foregoing provisions. Non-compliance in this regard will result in the food manufacturers or dealers being subject to warnings from or fines or other administrative penalties imposed by the food and drug regulatory authorities.

#### **PRODUCT QUALITY**

# **Product Quality Law of the PRC**

Products that we manufacture are subject to the PRC laws and regulations in relation to product quality. The Product Quality Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國產品質量法》) (the "**Product Quality Law**"), which became effective on 29 December 2018, is the principal law governing the supervision and administration of product quality.

According to the Product Quality Law, manufacturers are liable for the quality of products they produce, and sellers must take reasonable actions to ensure the quality of the products they sell. The

manufacturer shall be liable to compensate for any bodily harm or damage to property (other than the defective product itself) caused by any defective product of the manufacturer unless the manufacturer is able to prove that:

- it has not circulated the product;
- the defect did not exist at the time when the product was circulated; or
- the state of scientific or technological knowledge at the time when the product was circulated was not such that it allowed the defect to be discovered.

A seller will be liable to compensate for any bodily harm or damage to property (other than the defective product itself) caused by any defective product it sold if such defect is attributable to the seller. A person who is harmed or whose property is damaged by any defective product may claim such loss against the manufacturer or the seller of the product.

## **Safety of Agricultural Products**

The Agricultural Products Safety Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國農產品質量安全法》) (the "Agricultural Products Safety Law"), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 29 April 2006 and amended on 26 October 2018, governs the supervision and administration of the quality and safety of primary agricultural products, including plants, animals, microorganisms and other products obtained in the course of agricultural activities. The Agricultural Products Safety Law regulates the agricultural products in the following aspects to ensure that they meet the requirements necessary to protect people's health and safety, including:

- the quality and safety standards of agricultural products;
- the production places of agricultural products;
- the production of agricultural products; and
- the packaging and labelling of agricultural products.

According to the Agricultural Products Safety Law, producers of agricultural products shall reasonably use chemical products in order to avoid contaminating production places of agricultural products. Agricultural producers shall also ensure that the preservatives, additives and other chemicals used in the process of production, packaging, preservation, storage and transportation of agricultural products shall be in conformity with the relevant compulsory technical specifications set by the State; or otherwise, these products shall not be sold.

# **PRODUCT LIABILITY**

Pursuant to the General Principles of the Civil Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民法通則》), which was promulgated by the NPC on 12 April 1986 and was amended on 27 August 2009, and the Protection of Consumers' Rights and Interests Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國消費者權益保護法》), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 31 October 1993 and became effective on 1 January 1994, as amended by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 27 August 2009 and 25 October 2013, both manufacturers and distributors shall be held jointly liable for losses and damage suffered by consumers caused by the defective products they manufacture or distribute.

The Tort Liability Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國侵權責任法》), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 26 December 2009 and became effective on 1 July 2010, provides that where a product endangers personal life or property safety due to its defect, the manufacturer and the distributor(s) thereof shall bear liability in tort.

#### LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN TRADE

# **Import and Export of Goods**

According to the Foreign Trade Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國對外貿易法》), which was promulgated on 12 May 1994 and amended on 6 April 2004 and 7 November 2016, respectively, by the Standing Committee of the NPC and the Measures for Record-Filing and Registration of Foreign Trade Operators(《對外貿易經營者備案登記辦法》), which was promulgated on 25 June 2004 by MOFCOM and became effective on 1 July 2004 and amended on 18 August 2016 and 30 November 2019, foreign trade operators engaged in goods import and export in China shall go through record-filing and registration with the foreign trade authority under the State Council or the agencies authorised by such authority. Where a foreign trade operator fails to do so, the customs shall not handle the formalities for declaration and clearance of the goods imported or exported by the operator.

As provided for in the Customs Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國海關法》) which became effective on 5 November 2017, by the Standing Committee of the NPC, as well as other related regulations, the declaration of imported or exported goods and the payment of duties may be made by the consignees or consigners thereof or by their entrusted customs brokers that are registered with the approval of the customs. The consignees or consigners of imported or exported goods and the customs brokers engaged in customs declaration shall be registered with the customs in accordance with the law.

According to the Law on Inspection of Imported and Exported Commodities of the PRC (《中華人民共和國進出口商品檢驗法》), which became effective on 29 December 2018 and its implementation regulations, inspection of imported and exported goods which are listed in the catalogue of imported and exported goods subject to compulsory inspection, which was prepared by the state administration for commodity inspection, shall be conducted by the commodity inspection authorities; imported and exported goods which are not subject to compulsory inspection shall be inspected on a sampling basis. Consignees and consignors or their authorised agencies may apply to the commodity inspection authorities for inspection.

According to the Regulations of the PRC on Administration of Import and Export of Goods (《中華人民共和國貨物進出口管理條例》), which was promulgated on 10 December 2001 by the State Council and became effective on 1 January 2002, China applies a uniform administration system to the import and export of goods. China allows free import and export of goods and maintains fair and orderly import and export trade in goods pursuant to the law. No entity or individual may impose or maintain prohibitive or restrictive measures against import and export of goods, except for goods of which the import or export is explicitly prohibited or restricted by laws or administrative regulations.

# LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO PROPERTIES

## **Rural Land Contracting**

According to the Property Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國物權法》) which was promulgated on 16 March 2007 and became effective on 1 October 2007 (the "**Property Law**"), arable land, woodland, grassland and other land used for agricultural purpose and owned collectively by farmers through the economic collective of which the farmers are members, or owned by the State but used collectively by farmers through the economic collective, may be contracted to third parties, or contractors.

According to the Rural Land Contracting Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國農村土地承包法》) which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 29 August 2002 and became effective on 1 March 2003, as amended on 27 August 2009 and 29 December 2018 (the "Rural Land Contracting Law"), contractors of rural land can be members of the economic collective that owns or uses the relevant land, or enterprises and individuals outside the economic collective. A contractor of rural land is primarily entitled to the following rights:

- using and benefiting from the use of contracted land, transferring the right to operate the contracted land, and independently organising the operation of the contracted land;
- transferring the land operation right in accordance with the law;
- obtaining compensation if the contracted land is expropriated or occupied by the government in accordance with the laws; and
- other rights specified by the laws.

At the same time, a contractor of rural land must undertake the following obligations:

- maintaining the agricultural usage of the contracted land and refraining from using the land for non-agricultural purposes;
- protecting and using the contracted land in accordance with the laws and refraining from causing any permanent damage to the contracted land; and
- other obligations specified by the laws.

The awarding party of contracted land, primarily the economic collective that owns or uses the relevant land, is entitled to monitor whether the contractor is using the contracted land in agreed manners. However, it may not interfere with normal operations of the contractor in accordance with the laws.

Under the Property Law and the Rural Land Contracting Law, the contracting term for arable land shall be 30 years, for grassland shall be between 30 to 50 years, and for woodland shall be between 30 to 70 years.

# Contracting Rural Land to Non-member of Economic Collective

According to the Rural Land Contracting Law, the decision to contract the rural land to an enterprise or individual that is not a member of the economic collective which owns the land must be made in accordance with relevant procedures, which require (i) the approval by at least two-thirds of the members of the economic collective or two-thirds of the representatives for members of the economic collective, and (ii) the approval by the competent government at the township level.

# Transferring Right to Operating Contracted Land

The Property Law and the Rural Land Contracting Law provide that a contractor of rural land may transfer its right to operate the contracted land through subcontracting, leasing, exchanging, assignment or other means by entering into written agreements with the transferee. The transferee could be members of the economic collective that owns the relevant contracted land, or enterprises and individuals outside the economic collective as long as such enterprises and individuals engage in agricultural production activities.

A transfer of the contractor's right to operate the contracted land must comply with, among other things, the following principles:

- such transfer must be based on voluntary negotiation between the contractor and the transferee;
- such transfer must not alter the (i) nature of the ownership or (ii) agricultural usage of the contracted land;
- the term of transfer may not exceed the remainder of the contracting term;
- the transferee must be capable of conducting agricultural production activities; and
- members of the same economic collective shall enjoy priority in obtaining the right to operate the contracted land under same conditions.

According to the Measures for the Administration of Transferring Right to Operating Contracted Rural Land (《農村土地承包經營權流轉管理辦法》) which was promulgated by the MOA on 19 January 2005 and became effective on 1 March 2005, the relationship between the contractor and the awarding party of the contracted land will not be affected if the contractor transfers its right to operating the contracted land to a third party. If the transferring is accomplished through assignment, prior consent from the awarding party must be obtained. If the transferring is accomplished though the other means, the contractor only needs to file the transfer with the awarding party timely.

If a contractor intends to authorise the awarding party or an intermediary agency to transfer its right to operate the contracted land to a third party, it shall issue a letter of authorisation that specifies particulars such as the scope and term of authorisation. Without the written authorisation of the contractor, no organisation or individual may transfer the right to operate the relevant contracted land.

# **Leasing of Collectively-owned land**

According to the Organic Law of Villagers' Committee of the PRC (《中華人民共和國村民委員會組織法》) which was took effect on 29 December 2018, disposal of any property collectively owned by an economic collective of villagers must be approved by the villagers' meeting after deliberation. The villagers' meeting may also authorise the meeting of representatives of villagers to approve the disposal after deliberation. If a lessee leases collectively-owned land from an economic collective of villagers, the aforementioned requirements must be complied with. If the leased land has been classified as agricultural land, the lessee must not use the land for non-agricultural purposes, unless the allowed usage of the leased land has been converted into non-agricultural purposes in accordance with the PRC laws.

## **Land Used for Agricultural Facilities**

According to the Circular of the Ministry of Land and Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture on the Further Promotion of the Healthy Development of Facility Agriculture (《國土資源部、農業部關於進一步支持設施農業健康發展的通知》) which was issued on 29 September 2014 ("2014 Circular"), land used for agricultural facilities is divided into land for production facilities, land for ancillary facilities and land for supporting facilities, which is in nature agricultural land and shall be administered as such, and accordingly, no governmental approval of cultivated land conversion is required for the use of agricultural land for agricultural facilities. No such land can be put into use without the signing of a land use agreement with the local government at township or town level and rural collective economic organisation. After the signing of such agreement, the township government or town government shall promptly submit the land use agreement and construction plans of the facilities to be built on such land to the competent department of land and resources and agricultural department at the county level for record keeping as required. In addition, prior approval

by the government at the county level must be obtained to use any land for agricultural facilities. Land used for agricultural facilities must not be used for non-agricultural purposes without going through the legal requirements under the PRC laws.

On 17 December 2019, the Circular of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Issues Concerning the Management of Facility Agricultural Land (自然資源部、農業農村部關於設施農業用地管理有關問題的通知, the "2019 Circular") was issued, according to which the 2014 Circular has expired and automatically revoked. The 2019 Circular stipulates that land used for agricultural facilities is divided into land directly for crop cultivation and land for livestock and poultry aquaculture, including related land used for storage, drying, packaging, disposal, inspection, and etc. General cultivated land can be used for facility agricultural land, while permanent basic farmland shall not be used as facility agricultural land in principle unless certain procedures for allocation are completed. Rural collective economic organisation is responsible to file the use of facility agricultural land to township government, and the township government consolidates such information periodically and reports to natural resources authority at the county level.

## **REGULATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT**

The PRC National People's Congress promulgated the Labour Contract Law of PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) which became effective on 1 January 2008 and was amended on 28 December 2012, and the State Council promulgated Implementing Rules for the Labour Contract Law of PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法實施條例》) on 18 September 2008. The labour contract law and the implementing rules impose requirements concerning, among others, the execution of written contracts between employers and employees, the time limits for probationary periods, and the length of employment contracts. Also, under the labour contract law an employer is not permitted to establish staffing companies to place workers with themselves or their subsidiaries, and no enterprises is permitted to provide work placement business without obtaining a work placement licence, for an enterprise that acts in violation of such provisions, the labour administrative department shall order it to stop the illegal act, confiscate all illegal gains and impose a fine between one and five times the amount of illegal gains, if there is no illegal gain, a fine of no more than RMB50,000 shall be imposed.

The PRC Social Insurance Law (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》) became effective on 1 July 2011 and was amended on 29 December 2018. In accordance with the PRC Social Insurance Law and other relevant laws and regulations, enterprises in China are required by PRC laws and regulations to participate in certain employee benefit plans, including social insurance funds, namely a pension plan, a medical insurance plan, an unemployment insurance plan, a work-related injury insurance plan, a maternity insurance plan, a housing provident fund, and a handicapped employment security fund, and contribute to the plans or funds in amounts equal to certain percentages of salaries, including bonuses and allowances, of the employees as specified by the local government from time to time at locations where they operate their businesses or where they are located. According to the PRC Social Insurance Law, an employer that fails to make social insurance contributions may be ordered to rectify the non-compliance and pay the required contributions within a stipulated deadline and be subject to a late fee of up to 0.05% per day, as the case may be. If the employer still fails to rectify the failure to make social insurance contributions within the stipulated deadline, it may be subject to a fine ranging from one to three times the amount overdue. In addition, the PRC Individual Income Tax Law (《中華人民共和國個人所得税法》) requires companies operating in China to withhold individual income tax on employees' salaries based on the actual salary of each employee upon payment.

According to the Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Forwarding the Opinions of the Ministry of Health and Other Departments on Establishing a New Rural Cooperative Medical Care System (Guo Ban Fa [2003] No. 3) (《國務院辦公廳轉發衛生部等部門關於建立新型農村合作醫療制度意

見的通知》(國辦發[2003]3號)), it is necessary to strengthen the publicity and education of the New Rural Cooperative Medical Care System (now unified as the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents) and adopt various forms to promote the importance of the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents and local specific practices for farmers, guide them to continuously enhance self-care and mutual aid awareness, and mobilise the broad masses of farmers to participate in the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents scheme voluntarily and actively. According to the Several Opinions of the State Council on Solving the Problem of Migrant Workers (Guo Fa [2006] No. 5) (《國務院關於解決農民工問題的若干意見》(國發[2006]5號)), migrant/ rural workers may voluntarily participate in the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents of their original domicile. Pursuant to the Opinions of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine on Solidifying and Developing the New Rural Cooperative Medical Care System (Wei Nong Wei Fa [2009] No. 68) (《衛生部、民政部、財政部、農業部、中醫藥局關於鞏固和發展新型農村合作醫療制度的意見》(衛農衛發[2009]68號)), rural/ migrant workers shall be actively guided to participate in the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents scheme.

Pursuant to the Opinions of the State Council on Integrating the Basic Medical Insurance System for Urban and Rural Residents (Guo Fa [2016] No. 3) (《國務院關於整合城鄉居民基本醫療保險制度的意見》(國發[2016]3號)), the PRC Government established the unified Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents through integrating the basic medical insurance system for urban residents and the New Rural Cooperative Medical Care System. Migrant workers and persons in flexible employment shall participate in the basic medical insurance for urban employees in accordance with the law, and may participate in the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents in accordance with local regulations if encountered difficulties. All regions shall improve the approaches of participation in the insurance, realise coverage of all eligible residents and avoid repeated participation in the insurance.

According to the Opinion of the State Council on Establishing a Unified Basic Pension Insurance System for Urban and Rural Residents (Guo Fa [2014] No. 8) (《國務院關於建立統一的城鄉居民基本養老保險制度的意見》(國發[2014]8號)), the State Council has decided to integrate the New Rural Social Pension Insurance and the Social Pension Insurance for Urban Residents, and establish a unified Basic Pension Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents.

According to Article 8 of the Notice of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the Ministry of Finance on Printing and Distributing the Interim Measures for the Connection of Urban and Rural Pension Insurance Systems (Ren She Bu Fa [2014] No. 17), insured personnel may not receive urban employee pension insurance and pension insurance for urban and rural residents at the same time.

The employer fully bears the relevant fees after receiving the invoices for reimbursement provided by the rural employees without requiring the employees to bear the fees under the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents and the Basic Pension Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents, as compared to social security fund and housing provident fund contributions schemes.

## **REGULATIONS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The PRC has adopted comprehensive legislation governing intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trademarks and domain names.

**Copyright**. Copyright in the PRC, including copyrighted software, is principally protected under the Copyright Law of PRC (《中華人民共和國著作權法》) and related rules and regulations. Under the Copyright Law, the term of protection for copyrighted software is 50 years.

Trademark. The PRC Trademark Law (《中華人民共和國商標法》) and its implementation rules protect registered trademarks. The PRC Trademark Law has adopted a "first-to-file" principle with respect to trademark registration. The Trademark Office under the SAIC is responsible for the registration and administration of trademarks throughout the PRC, and grants a term of ten years to registered trademarks and another ten years if requested upon expiry of the initial or extended term. Trademark licence agreements must be filed with the Trademark Office for record.

Patent. Pursuant to the PRC Patent Law (《中華人民共和國專利法》) and its implementation rules, once a patent for an invention or utility model has been granted, unless otherwise provided by the Patent Law, no entity or individual may use the patent, patented product or patented process for production or business purposes without the authorisation of the patent owner. Once a patent has been granted for a design, no entity or individual may manufacture, sell or import any product containing the patented design without the permission of the patent owner. If a patent is found to have been infringed, the infringer must, in accordance with relevant regulations, cease such infringement, take remedial action and pay damages.

**Domain Name**. Domain names are protected under the Administrative Measures on Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》) promulgated by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of PRC (the "**MIIT**") on 24 August 2017 and took effect on 1 November 2017. The MIIT is the major regulatory authority responsible for the administration of the PRC Internet domain names. The registration of domain names in PRC is on a "first-apply-first-registration" basis. A domain name applicant will become the domain name holder upon the completion of the application procedure.

#### JAPANESE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE JAPANESE LEGAL SYSTEM**

#### **Primary Features**

The Japanese legal system has the following significant features:

- The Japanese legal system is a hybrid civil law system with characteristics of both civil law systems, such as the French and German civil legal systems, as well as common law systems, such as the United States legal system.
- Under Japanese law, any act shall not be subject to criminal prosecution unless such act is
  explicitly and clearly described as a crime under a strict contextual interpretation of the
  applicable statutory provisions.
- Court rulings, although they have a de facto binding effect on inferior courts, do not
  modify existing law or create new law. Laws can only be adopted or modified through the
  legislative process.
- Court rulings, similar to court rulings in other civil and common law systems elsewhere, may be overturned by laws and regulations and/or amendments to existing laws and regulations enacted or adopted by legislative or executive authorities.
- The highest court in Japan is the Supreme Court.

# THE LABOUR LAWS

There are various labour-related laws enacted in Japan, including the Labour Standards Act (Act No. 49 of 1947, as amended), the Industrial Safety and Health Act (Act No. 57 of 1972, as amended), and the Labour Contract Act (Act No. 128 of 2007, as amended). The Labour Standards Act provides, among other things, the minimum standards for working conditions such as working hours, rest periods, days off and annual paid leave. The Industrial Safety and Health Act requires, among others, the implementation of measures to secure employee safety and protect the health of workers in the workplace. The Labour Contract Act regulates, among others, the change to labour contracts and working rules, dismissals and disciplinary actions.

#### THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND FOREIGN TRADE ACT

The Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No.228 of 1949, as amended) aims to control foreign exchange and foreign trade. When "a resident" has paid from Japan to a foreign state or received a payment made from a foreign state to Japan, or when "a resident" has paid to or received a payment from a non-resident, the "resident" thereof shall report to the Minister of Finance, except in case that, among others, each payment is not more than JPY30,000,000 or is a payment for imported or exported goods which customs clearance is made in Japan.

## LAW AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO EXPORTATION

## **JAPAN**

The export of processed chicken meat products to Japan is subject to the following regulations under Japanese law to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious livestock diseases and ensure food safety.

# Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control of Japan (Act No. 166 of 1961, as amended), (the "Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Act")

The purpose of the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Act is to promote the livestock industry by preventing the outbreak or spread of domestic animal infectious diseases. Under the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Act, import of items that are from or via regions prescribed by relevant ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and are designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (the "MAFF") is prohibited in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. As at the Latest Practicable Date, chicken meat imported from the PRC is so designated, and thus its import to Japan is in principle prohibited.

As an exception to this prohibition, chicken meat carrying a certificate from a PRC government agency or another person designated by the MAFF to the effect that the chicken meat has been heat-processed at a facility designated by the MAFF and in accordance with the standards set by the MAFF, may be imported to Japan from the PRC. The standards for heat-processed chicken meat products to be exported from the PRC to Japan are provided for in the "Animal Health Requirements for heat-processed poultry meat and its products to be exported to Japan from the People's Republic of China" concluded between the governments of Japan and the PRC, which can be summarised as follows:

- Processed chicken meat to be exported to Japan must be slaughtered at slaughter facilities approved by the government of the PRC and processed at processing facilities approved by the government of the PRC.
- Heat processing must take place at a facility designated by the MAFF as being capable of a heat processing that meets a certain standard.
- The designation of a heat processing facility is valid for two years.

Processed chicken meat products must undergo inspection by animal quarantine officers when imported into Japan and be issued with a certificate of import quarantine.

# Food Sanitation Act of Japan (Act No. 233 of 1947, as amended) (the "Food Sanitation Act")

The purpose of the Food Sanitation Act is to prevent the sanitation hazards resulting from eating and drinking by enforcing the regulations and other measures necessary, from the viewpoint

of public health, to ensure food safety and thereby to protect citizens' good health. The Food Sanitation Act prohibits the import of (i) food that is rotten, covered with harmful substances, or contaminated with pathogens, (ii) food that does not meet the criteria established by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (the "MHLW"), (iii) containers and packaging which contain or are covered in harmful substances and (iv) a certain category of food (including chicken meat) for sale that is not produced or processed in countries, regions or facilities which are designated by the MHLW (applicable on 1 June 2021 or later). Also, a person who intends to import food (including chicken meat) for sale must submit a food import notification to the MHLW containing specified information and must attach a certificate issued by a government agency of the exporting country certifying that it is not the meat of poultry or products thereof which have or are suspected to have any disease and other matters.

When the MHLW finds it necessary to prevent food sanitation hazards, it may order a person who imports food which is found likely to violate the Food Sanitation Act, judging from circumstances at production sites and other circumstances, to receive inspections by the MHLW or a registered conformity assessment body regarding said food. A person who has received such order shall not sell said food until he or she receives said inspections and receives notice of the results thereof.

# Customs Act of Japan (Act No. 61 of 1899, as amended) (the "Customs Act")

The Customs Act provides for the establishment, payment, collection and return of customs duties, and the customs procedures with respect to the export and import of goods. A person intending to import goods must declare to the director-general of the customs house the volume and price of such goods for the purpose of determining customs duties, and other necessary information. For the import of chicken meat in particular, during inspection it is necessary to demonstrate to the customs house that the chicken meat satisfies the criteria provided for in the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Act and the Food Sanitation Act and receive confirmation from the customs house, because chicken meat must satisfy the criteria provided for in the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Act and the Food Sanitation Act as stated above.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION (NETHERLANDS)

# **General Overview of Importation on Poultry Meat**

Within the European Union ("EU") import tariffs are harmonised under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). As a result of this all member states of the EU levy the same import tariffs on import of poultry meat from third countries. As a member state of the EU, the Netherlands is part of the EU free trade union and the customs union. This allows free transportation of goods within the territory of the EU, during which no additional custom duties are levied.

Pursuant to Commission Decision 2002/994/EC, import of poultry meat from the PRC to the Netherlands is prohibited, unless the products are accompanied by a declaration of the competent authority of PRC stating that each consignment has undergone a chemical test in order to ensure that the products do not present a danger to animal or human health. The chemical test must be carried out to detect the presence of chloramphenical and nitrofuran and its metabolites in particular.

#### Commission Regulation (EC) No.136/2004 and Veterinary Control Regulation Third Countries 2018

Prior to physical arrival of the chicken meat to the territory of the EU, the veterinary staff of the border inspection post that the products will arrive using (part 1 of) the Common Veterinary Entry Document (the "CVED"). Prior to introduction of the poultry meat into the common market, each consignment is subject to veterinary checks by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety

Authority (the "NVWA"), under responsibility of an official veterinarian appointed by the NVWA. After completion of the veterinary checks (part 2 of) the CVED can be completed under the responsibility of the official veterinarian. The CVED shall be signed by that official veterinarian or by another official veterinarian operating under supervision of the former, to give veterinary clearance to the consignment.

# Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on Organic Production and Labelling of Organic Products and Repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91

Additional rules apply to import of organic products. The products must comply with the EU-rules affecting its production and either be subject to control of a control authority recognised by the EU, or be subject to control measures of equivalent effectiveness which are permanently and effectively applied, provided that the products are covered by a certificate issued by the competent or recognised control authority. The original certificate accompanies the goods to the premises of the first consignee, after that the importer keeps the certificate for a period of not less than two years.

If an irregularity is found in compliance with the requirements, the control authority is authorised to ensure that no reference to the organic production method is made in the labelling and advertising of the production affected by the irregularity. Depending on the severity of the infringement, the control authority can prohibit marketing, labelling and advertising which refers to organic production method for a certain period.

# Product liability articles 6:185 and 6:187 (3) of the Dutch Civil Code

According to Dutch law the producer of a product is responsible for the damage that is caused by a defect of the product. When goods are imported to the EU from a third country, the importer is considered to be the producer and is therefore liable for damages caused by a defect of the product. It is important to note that this concerns a strict liability. The producer is therefore exposed to a higher liability risk.

# Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 on Protection Against Dumped Imports and Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Protection Against Subsidised Imports

The EU has measures in place against dumped and subsidised Imports. Dumping is considered to take place when the export price of the products is less than its normal value, i.e. the market price for the products in the exporting country, or cost of production including, a reasonable amount for selling, general and administrative costs, and profit.

A subsidy is considered to occur if there is a financial contribution by a government in the country of origin or export. An investigation into dumping or subsidising of Products can be initiated upon a complaint by any natural or legal person in the EU. A dumping investigation examines whether: (i) dumping has taken place, (ii) the EU industry suffers material injury through that, (iii) a causal link exists between dumping and injury; and (iv) measures are not against the EU interest. A subsidy investigation examines whether: (i) imports from countries are subsidised; (ii) the EU industry suffers material injury; (iii) there is a causal link between the injury and the subsidised imports; and (iv) put in measures in place is in the European Interest.

#### THE UNITED KINGDOM

#### Introduction

The UK exited the EU on 31 January 2020. By virtue of the transition period in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (dated 19 October 2019), EU law will continue to apply in and in relation to the UK until 31 December 2020. Whilst it was thought possible in light of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that this transition period may be extended beyond that date, on 12 June 2020, the UK Government confirmed that it would not seek an extension. During the transition period, it is intended that the UK and EU would reach an arrangement as to their future trading relationship. Immediately after the end of the transition period, the UK regulatory regime will mirror the EU regulatory regime, but it is possible that thereafter the UK regulatory regime will diverge from that of the EU in certain respects. Accordingly, the regulatory requirements for the importation of poultry meat products from the PRC into the UK are not expected to substantively change immediately after the transition period, although it is possible that the UK's regulatory requirements could diverge over time.

Therefore, as at 31 March 2020 and until at least 31 December 2020, the below EU law shall continue to apply.

# Regulation (EC) No. 798/2008

The export of the poultry products, including exporting processed (cooked) chicken products (the "Poultry Products") from the PRC to customers in the United Kingdom ("UK") is governed by Regulation (EC) No. 798/2008, as amended (the "2008 Regulation"). The 2008 Regulation sets out the veterinary certification requirements governing the import of, inter alia, poultry; poultry meat and mechanically separated poultry meat into the EU and the UK from third countries.

The 2008 Regulation lays down a list of third countries from which such products may be imported into the EU, which includes the PRC and specifically Shandong.

Under the 2008 Regulation, the Group is required to complete a veterinary certificate in order to export the Poultry Products from the PRC to the UK. The certificate requires, *inter alia*, compliance with the following: (1) public health attestations; (2) animal health attestations; and (3) an animal welfare attestation. These attestations provide confirmation that various EU regulatory requirements surrounding food safety and hygiene have been complied with.

## **Other Relevant Legislation**

Other applicable legislation includes Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004, as amended (the "2004 Regulation"), the Commission Decision 2007/777/EC, as amended (the "2007 Decision"), the Commission Decision 2002/994/EC (the "2002 Decision") and Regulation (EC) No. 543/2008, as amended (the "543 Regulation").

The 2004 Regulation sets out certain legal requirements which apply to the import of food products into the UK from outside the EU. In particular, it states that the third country of dispatch must appear on a list, (and the PRC does appear on this list, as specified in the 2008 Regulation), and the establishment (i.e. facility) from which the product is dispatched must be listed, which includes the third plant of Shandong Fengxiang Food Development Co., Ltd.

The 2007 Decision sets out the animal and public health conditions and model certificates required for the import of meat products from third countries. The Poultry Products fall within the definition of "meat products" and must comply with the following: come from an approved third country (see above); come from an EU approved establishment (see above); and be accompanied by a health certificate.

There is significant overlap between the 2008 Regulation and 2007 Decision and their respective certificates. In our view, it appears that both pieces of legislation apply to the Poultry Products. Accordingly, there is some ambiguity as to which certificate should be used for the export of the Poultry Products from the PRC to the UK.

Whilst the certificate provided under the 2008 Regulation is more recent, given that the Group has been using the certificate from the 2007 Decision and, as far as we are aware, without any issues being raised at the Border Inspection Post at the UK border, we do not consider this to be problematic. In our opinion, there is nothing to suggest that the Group should not continue using the certificate from the 2007 Decision for the export of the Poultry Products to the UK going forward.

The 2002 Decision sets out certain protective measures with regard to poultry meat products imported from the PRC. Pursuant to the 2002 Decision, the Poultry Products may not be imported into the UK unless they are accompanied by a declaration of the PRC's competent authority stating that each consignment has undergone a chemical test to ensure that the products do not present a danger to animal or human health. In particular, the chemical test must be carried out to detect the presence of chloramphenicol and nitrofuran and its metabolites (as is the case here).

The 543 Regulation sets out the rules applicable to the marketing of frozen, pre-packaged poultry meat products, which includes "poultry cuts". The Poultry Products fall within the definition of "poultry cuts" (which includes chicken breast and chicken breast fillet). The requirements for such products are as follows: (1) the pre-packages may contain one or more poultry cuts of the same type and species (as is the case here) and (2) the pre-packages must bear an indication of the weight of the product.

#### **MALAYSIA**

## Animals Act 1953 (the "Animals Act")

The Animals Act governs, among other things, the control of the movement of, the licensing requirements of importation and exportation of and the prevention of spreading diseases of animals, birds and carcasses into, within and from Malaysia. It is administered by the Department of Veterinary Services (the "**DVS**") of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry.

The Animals Act provides that a person requires a permit from the Director General of Quarantine and Inspection under the MAQIS Act (as defined below) to import, among other things, any carcass. All applications to import poultry carcasses, products or parts into Malaysia must be through the local agent or a Malaysian based/registered company.

# Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2011 (the "MAQIS Act")

The MAQIS Act regulates, among other things, the certification for import of animals and carcasses and enforcement relating to food and matters connected to it. It is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry.

The application for the permit to import any carcass shall be made by the local agent or a Malaysian based/registered company.

Any person who is involved in importing, among other things, carcass, without the requisite permit, licence or certificate shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six years or to both and, for a second or subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding RM150,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years or to both.

The MAQIS Act also requires any person who is involved in the importation of carcasses to comply with any import conditions as may be specified in the permit, licence or certificate issued. Any person who contravenes this commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to the same penalties set out above.

Pursuant to the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (Issuance of Permit, Licence and Certificate) Regulations 2013 issued under the MAQIS Act, an application for a permit, to import shall only be made after the applicant is registered as an importer or agent with the Director General under the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (Registration of Importers, Exporters or Agents) Regulations 2013.

The Regulations for the Importation of Poultry Carcasses, Products or Parts thereof into Malaysia (revised in 2014) (the "Regulations") issued under the MAQIS Act requires all application to import frozen, chilled carcasses or parts and value added or heat treated poultry products (the "Products") to be made by a local agent or a Malaysian based/registered company. Each consignment of Products shall be accompanied by the following:

- (a) a valid import permit issued by the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department permitting the importation into Malaysia under the MAQIS Act;
- (b) an official veterinary health certificate in English dated within seven days of the said application issued by the government veterinary authority of the exporting country;
- (c) a halal certificate issued or endorsed and signed by the authorised personnel of the registered Islamic organisation in the exporting country that has been approved by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia ("JAKIM") (i.e. Shandong Halal Certification Service) that the slaughtering process has been done according to Muslim rites and that all slaughtering, chilling, freezing, storing, transportation and all other acts in connection with handling and consignment have been done separately from the other species of animals.

The Director General of DVS may at any time when deemed necessary, suspend the importation of the Products either temporarily or permanently in the event of disease outbreaks or suspected disease outbreaks or in case of importation in contravention of the above regulations.

# Malaysian Protocol for the Halal Meat and Poultry Productions (the "Protocols")

The Protocols issued by JAKIM is applicable to any establishment/abattoir which intends to export poultry meat and products to Malaysia under the Animals Act. The establishment/abattoir is required to be approved by both the DVS and JAKIM. Upon approval of both departments, the establishment/abattoir (including any poultry processing plant) will be listed in the Malaysian approved plants list on the DVS website.

Should the carcasses and Products not comply with the requirements of the Protocols, these carcasses and Products shall be considered as non-halal conformance and shall be removed from the

halal system and shall be processed in another establishment or processed after the completion of all halal carcass processes.

# Trade Descriptions Act 2011 (the "TDA")

The TDA prohibits false trade descriptions and false or misleading statements, conduct and practices in relation to the supply of goods and is administered by the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism (the "MDTCC").

No person shall make any false representation by any means that any goods supplied by him are of a kind supplied to or approved by any person including any government or government department or agency or any international body or agency whether in Malaysia or abroad. Any body corporate that contravenes this shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding RM500,000 and for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding RM1,000,000.

In addition, where any body corporate:

- (a) applies a false trade description to any goods;
- (b) supplies or offers to supply any goods to which a false trade description is applied; or
- (c) exposes for supply or has in his possession, custody or control for supply any goods to which a false trade description is applied,

it shall have committed an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding RM250,000. For a second or subsequent offence, the fine shall not exceed RM500,000.

TDA further provides that if the person committing an offence under the act is a body corporate, any person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a director, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or was purporting to act in any such capacity or was in any manner or to any extent responsible for the management of any of the affairs of the body corporate or was assisting in such management:

- (a) may be charged severally or jointly in the same proceedings with the body corporate; and
- (b) if the body corporate is found guilty of the offence, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence unless, having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all circumstances, he proves:
  - (i) that the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance; and
  - (ii) that he had taken all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

The Trade Descriptions (Certification and Marking of Halal) Order 2011 (the "Order") issued under the TDA provides that all imported food and goods marketed in Malaysia shall not be described as halal unless the imported food and goods are certified as halal by the foreign halal certification body recognised by JAKIM. Any body corporate that violates the Order is guilty of an offence and upon conviction may be fined up to RM200,000, and for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding RM500,000. The importer or manufacturer of the food and goods which have been certified as halal by the foreign halal certification body recognised by JAKIM shall mark on the said food and goods, the name of the said certification body. Pursuant to the Order, the Shandong Halal Certification Service is a recognised Foreign Halal Certification Body.

Under to the Trade Descriptions (Definition of Halal) Order 2011 issued under the TDA, any person who supplies or offers to supply any food through any representation or act which is likely to mislead or confuse any person that the food is halal or can be consumed by a Muslim commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding RM5,000,000, and for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding RM10,000,000.

# Food Act 1983 (the "Food Act")

The Food Act governs the food safety and quality control, including standards, hygiene, import and export, advertisement and accreditation of laboratories. The objective is to protect the public from health hazards and fraud in the preparation, labelling, sale and use of foods and for other related matters.

The Food Act applies to all foods, including every article imported which are sold or represented for use as food or drink for human consumption or which enters into or is used in the composition, preparation, preservation, of any food or drink.

Under the Food Act, any person who:

- (a) where a standard has been prescribed for any food, prepares, packages, labels or advertises any food which does not comply with that standard, in such a manner that it is likely to be mistaken for food of the prescribed standard, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to fine not exceeding RM10,000 or to both;
- (b) prepares, packages, labels or sells any food in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive as regards its character, nature, value, substance, quality, composition, merit or safety, strength, purity, weight, origin, age or proportion or in contravention of any regulation made under the Food Act commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to fine not exceeding RM10,000 or to both; and
- (c) prepares or sells any food that has in or upon it any substance which is poisonous, harmful or otherwise injurious to health commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or to both.

# Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties Act 1993 (the "CADDA")

Malaysia's international rights and obligations in the area of countervailing and anti-dumping are governed by her membership in the World Trade Organisation (the "WTO") and of the WTO Agreements on Anti-Dumping and Subsidies & Countervailing Measures. The administrative body in Malaysia in relation to this area is the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (the "MITI").

The CADDA addresses the investigation and determination of subsidies being provided on, and the dumping of, merchandise imported into Malaysia, the imposition of countervailing and antidumping duties to offset such subsidies or dumping, and other matters connected therewith.

The Malaysian Government may initiate an investigation to determine the existence, degree and effect of any alleged subsidy and/or dumping upon the submission of a written petition by or on behalf of the domestic industry producing the like product. The Malaysian Government may, in special circumstances, initiate a countervailing and/or anti-dumping duty investigation on its own

accord without having received a written petition if it has sufficient evidence of each of the matters listed above. Evidence of both subsidy and/or dumping and injury shall be considered simultaneously in the decision whether to initiate an investigation and after that during the course of the investigation, starting on a date not later than the earliest date the provisional measures may be applied.

# Trademarks Act 2019 (the "TMA")

The TMA governs the registration of trademarks. Any person who claims to be the bona fide proprietor of a trademark may apply to register the trademark if the person is using or intends to use the trademark, or has authorised or intends to authorise another person to use the trademark, in the course of trade. "Trademark" is defined in the TMA to mean any sign capable of being represented graphically which is capable of distinguishing goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertakings. Trademarks created in languages other than English or Malay require prior certified translation and transliteration before registration.

## **KOREA**

# **Maintenance of Food Safety**

For the sake of maintenance of food safety, Korea has quite detailed and strict requirements in force for the approval of food importation. As for the processed poultry products being imported into Korea, the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control (the "Special Act") partially amended as the Act No. 16716 on 3 December 2019 and entered into force on 4 June 2020 shall apply prevailingly, and then the Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act (the "Control Act") amended as the Act No. 17091 and entered into force on 24 March 2020 shall apply. Should there be any issue that has not been stipulated under the foregoing Acts, then the other relevant acts such as the Food Sanitation Act amended as the Act No. 17091 and entered into force on 24 March 2020 and the Framework Act on Food Safety partially amended as the Act No. 15708 and entered into force on 12 June 2018 shall be applicable.

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (the "MFDS") is a Korean government agency responsible for enforcing the food safety regulations. The MFDS, upon its discretion, promulgates public notices as to the standards for assessment of harm, evaluation procedures, specific importation sanitary control requirements, which also shall apply to the importation of the processed poultry products into Korea.

First of all, Article 11(3) of the Special Act and the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-28, States (Regions) Permitted for Importation of Livestock Products and Importation Hygiene Requirements (the "MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-28") prescribe the types of livestock products, importation of which into Korea is permitted, per each foreign state and the respective importation hygiene requirements.

In particular, pursuant to Article 3 and the Attached Table of the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-28, the importation of processed livestock products from the PRC into Korea is permitted only for the processed poultry products that were subjected to the thermal processing for more than 30 minutes at the core temperature 70°C, more than 5 minutes at 75°C, or more than 1 minute at 80°C.

Article 4 of the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-28 provides the hygiene requirements for the overall imported livestock products, which include, inter alia, that the exporting state's hygiene

inspection shall attest the products are fit for human consumption and that the products are in compliance with the relevant sanitary control, inspection and processing regulations of Korea especially in relation to the harmful residue (e.g., antimicrobial, agricultural pesticides, hormonal substance, heavy metal and radioactive matter), the pathogenic microorganism (e.g., salmonella, staphylococcus aureus, clostridium perfringens, Listeria monocytogenes, and enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli) and the food itself.

According to Article 5 of the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-28, the importation of the processed poultry products from the PRC to Korea is only allowed if the PRC government as the exporting state has duly inspected whether the relevant products are in compliance with all such hygiene requirements and then issued the exportation hygiene certificate (or, the health certificate) as mutually arranged by the Korean government and the PRC government.

Furthermore, the Attached Table 1 of the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-19, Method and Standard for On-Site Due Diligence at Foreign Manufacturing Sites and Foreign Processing Facilities (the "MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-19"), which was promulgated as per the Special Act sets forth the general hygiene requirements applicable to the foreign manufacturing sites' environments, operational sites, food processing facilities, ingredients, manufacturing, processing, storages, inspections, employees, and other equipment. The Minister of the MFDS may order to conduct the on-site inspections, following the prior consultation with the exporting state government and the relevant foreign manufacturing sites in accordance with the Article 6 of the Special Act and the MFDS Public Notice No. 2020-19, so as to inspect whether the hygiene requirements are satisfied in good order. Should there be any rejection of, interference with or avoidance of such due diligence, and/or should the MFDS find the products imported from the foreign manufacturing sites potentially harmful as a result of such due diligence, the MFDS may take an importation cessation measure against the products manufactured at the foreign manufacturing sites.

Besides the foregoing, the hygiene requirements for the processed livestock products imported from the PRC to Korea might be further arranged as per mutual negotiation between the Korean government and the PRC government.

In the meantime, Article 15-2 of the Control Act stipulates that if any livestock products that have been butchered, handled, processed, packed, distributed and/or sold in a certain state or region are proven to be 'harmful' or acknowledged to be potentially 'harmful', an importation and/or sale of such livestock products may be prohibited. Article 2.6 of the Food Sanitation Act defines being 'harmful' hereinabove as having a detrimental factor that is inherent in food, food additives, appliances, containers or packages and that may cause harm or be likely to cause harm to human health.

Under Article 33-2(1) of the Control Act, the MFDS must conduct a risk assessment on any potentially harmful livestock products, and any such products determined to contain harmful elements may be prohibited from being imported into Korea. Also, while the risk assessment is pending, the MFDS may impose a temporary import ban after deliberation by the Livestock Product Sanitation Deliberative Committee if it is determined that prompt measures are necessary to protect the health of the public.

Furthermore, the Control Act prohibits the importation of livestock products which have been prohibited from being imported, are not declared or otherwise unauthorised to be imported, or have expired.

On the other hand, if toxic or harmful substances are found in food products based on the inspection carried out in accordance with Article 21(1) of the Special Act, the importation of such products into Korea will be immediately prohibited. If a notice of nonconforming product is received after the inspection under the Special Act, the importer must return the imported food to the exporting state or export it to another state, or with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (the "MAFRA"), convert it into feed or completely dispose of it pursuant to Article 34(1) of the Enforcement Rules of the Special Act.

# **Prevention of Contagious Diseases of Domestic Animals**

The processed poultry products fall under the category of the specified quarantine item as set out in Article 31 of the Act on Prevention of Contagious Diseases of Domestic Animals (the "Prevention Act") partially amended as the Act No. 16780 on 11 December 2019 and entered into force on 11 June 2020 and Article 31(1) of the Enforcement Rules of the Prevention Act. Thus, the processed poultry products are subject to the quarantine and importation restrictions of Korea for the sake of prevention of occurrence or spread of contagious diseases of domestic animals.

Pursuant to Article 32 of the Prevention Act and the MAFRA Public Notice No. 2020-36, Import Prohibition Regions for Specified Quarantine Items, importations from the PRC to Korea is only permitted for the heat-processed poultry products.

Article 34(2) of the Prevention Act and the Attached Table 1 of the MAFRA Public Notice No. 2016-113, Import Sanitation Conditions for Heated Poultry Products from China, stipulates sanitation conditions for heat-processed poultry products exported from the PRC to Korea.

Conditions include that the PRC must classify Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Velogenic Viscerotropic Newcastle Disease as diseases that require mandatory reporting, periodically monitor the diseases, and implement appropriate quarantine policies in case any of the diseases arises in the PRC. Furthermore, conditions relating to the location, facility and treatment methods of poultry farms, slaughterhouses, processing plants and heat treatment facilities in respect of the manufacture of exported livestock products are set out in detail. In addition, it is stipulated that residues causing public health hazards should not exceed the limit imposed by Korean regulations, food poisoning bacteria such as Salmonella, Staphylococcus aureus, Enteritis Vibrio, Clostridium, Perfringens, Listeria, Monocytogenes, Escherichia coli, O157, H7 should not be detected, and ingredients such as ionising radiation or UV treatment and broiler meat, which adversely affect the composition or nature of poultry meat, should not be administered.

The export quarantine certificate issued by the PRC government's veterinarian prior to shipment for export of processed meat products from the PRC to Korea must accurately state whether all of the above conditions have been met.

If all the conditions set forth in the Prevention Act, its sub-statutes, and the MAFRA's public notices are not satisfied, for example if products are exported without the above export quarantine certificate, the importation of such products into Korea will be prohibited. In such case, the product may be returned to the exporter under Article 33 of the Prevention Act, and if such a return may interfere with livestock disease control or is determined to be impossible, it may be processed by other safe methods such as incineration or burial.

#### **Consumer Protection**

Under Article 2 of the Consumer Basic Act which was amended as Act No. 16178 on 31 December 2018 and came into force on 1 July 2019, importers who import, distribute or sell their goods to Korea, as well as those who manufacture or process the goods, fall under business operators who are subject to the Consumer Basic Act and the nationality of the business operator is not relevant. Therefore, even if the exporter does not directly carry on any business within the Korea, the exporter should use efforts to protect consumers in Korea and actively cooperate with the consumer protection policy implemented by the Korean government and local governments.

In addition, manufacturers who manufacture and process meat products bear liability for their products, even if they are exporters who do not directly carry on any business within Korea, pursuant to the Product Liability Act which was partially amended as Act No. 14764 on 18 April 2017 and came into force on 19 April 2018. In this case, the product liability refers to the liability of manufacturers for damages to life, body or property caused by defective products.

In other words, if (i) processed meat products are manufactured and processed differently than originally intended, regardless of whether the exporter has fulfilled the manufacturing and processing precautionary obligations, or (ii) the exporter fails to provide a reasonable explanation, instruction, warning or other indication, although they could reduce or avoid the damage or risk that could be caused by the processed meat products, or (iii) they lack the normally expected level of safety, such that the consumer who consumed the processed meat products suffered life or physical damages, such damages should be indemnified.

However, under Article 3(2) of the Product Liability Act, if the exporter was aware of the defect in the processed meat product but caused serious damage to life or body as a result of not taking necessary measures with respect to the defect, the exporter must indemnify the amount prescribed by the court to the extent that the amount does not exceed three times the actual damage caused.

#### **Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties**

Korea is a member of the WTO. The Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT 1994 (the "WTO Antidumping Agreement"), which is a part of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation came into force in Korea on 1 January 1995 after the approval of the General Assembly on 16 December 1994. Thus, the WTO Antidumping Agreement is currently in effect in Korea.

The Customs Act, which was partially amended on 31 December 2018 by Act No. 16093 and came into force on 1 July 2019 reflects most of the standards and procedures associated with investigations, decisions and impositions of the WTO Antidumping Agreement. The Korea Trade Commission is in charge of investigating and evaluating damages to domestic industries caused by dumping or importing unfairly subsidised foreign goods and proposing anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, and safeguard measures to the Ministry of Strategy and Finance.

Since the PRC joined the WTO in 2001, if Chinese goods are imported to Korea below normal price and there is actual damage to Korean industry, the WTO Antidumping Agreement will apply and such goods may be subject to antidumping duties as provided in Article 51 and below of the Customs Act.

Furthermore, if goods that are indirectly subsidised in respect of their manufacture, production or export in the PRC are exported to Korea and there is actual damage to Korean industry, such goods may be subject to countervailing duties in accordance with Article 57 and below of the Customs Act.

#### **MONGOLIA**

### **Mongolian Legislation on Food**

Mongolia adopted its initial Food Law in January 1995 (the "1995 Food Law"). The 1995 Food Law was the principal legislation providing for standards applicable to the production and sale of food products in Mongolia from April 1995 through October 1999. In 1999, the Mongolian Parliament enacted a new Food Law (the "1999 Food Law"), superseding and replacing the 1995 Food Law. Under the 1999 Food Law, individuals and legal persons could import food products upon complying with the relevant requirements provided for in such law and related regulatory standards promulgated thereunder.

On 20 December 2012, the Mongolian Parliament enacted a new Food Law (the "2012 Food Law"), superseding and replacing the 1999 Food Law. The 2012 Food Law became effective on 1 March 2013. The 2012 Food Law provides that food products may be imported into Mongolia only by a legal person registered in Mongolia. The stated objectives of the legislators at the time was that these amendments and the resulting 2012 Food Law were to more strictly regulate the importation of food products and to raise the awareness of food safety responsibilities.

At the same time as adopting the 2012 Food Law, the Mongolian Parliament enacted a new food safety law (the "Food Safety Law") which law also came into effect on 1 March 2013. The Food Safety Law is a separate law that regulates food safety matters at all stages of food production, including at the time of import into Mongolia. The import of food products must comply with the general safety requirements of the Food Safety Law, including but not limited to, packaging and labelling requirements, submission to a risk-based inspection of all imported food products, maintenance of certain food safety indicators at the required levels, and the storage of food products in compliance with required conditions.

## **Mongolian Legislation on Food Imports**

In addition to the 2012 Food Law and the Food Safety Law, the import of food products into Mongolia is regulated under the Customs Law of Mongolia adopted on 20 May 2008 (the "Customs Law") and the Law on Cross Border Quarantine Inspection of Animals and Plants, and Animal and Plant Raw Materials and Products enacted on 28 November 2002 (the "Quarantine Law").

Under the Customs Law, the General Customs Authority of Mongolia, a subordinate agency of the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia (the "Customs Authority"), conducts customs control over all food products crossing the customs border of Mongolia. The Customs Authority is the office where customs clearances are made and import procedures are determined in regard to food products.

Under the Quarantine Law, the General Agency for Specialised Inspection, a subordinate agency of the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia (the "Specialised Inspection Agency"), conducts quarantine control over food products crossing the customs border of Mongolia. The Specialised Inspection Agency is the office that inspects imported food products and issues permission in regard to such importation.

In addition to the laws set forth above, the requirements of Mongolian National Standard MNS 0703:2014 (General Technical Requirements — Poultry Products) which became effective on 8 December 2014 apply to the import of poultry products. The MNS 0703:2014 provides a set of requirements covering the preparation and classification of poultry products, quality, physical and chemical indicators, and packaging and storage requirements.

The labelling requirements applicable to food products are regulated under the Food Safety Law and Mongolian National Standard MNS 6648:2016 (Requirements for Labelling of Packaged Food Products) which became effective on 1 January 2018. In this connection, product labels must be non-detachable from the product, clear and legible to the customer, and contain all the requisite information including product name, manufacturer's information, weight, serial number, and use by date, storage period and conditions, ingredients and nutritional content, direction of use and potential side effects. Information on the labels of imported food products must be in Mongolian, English or Russian.

## **Permissions to Import**

Prior to importation, an "import declaration" must be obtained from the Specialised Inspection Agency upon request by the legal person importing the food products based on the lodgment of requisite documentations including an application, registration certificate of the legal person, and a copy of the relevant sales agreement. The "import declaration" is granted for a period of up to six months and is applicable only to the requested quantity of products. A new "import declaration" must be obtained upon its expiration or an increase in the declared quantity. Customs clearance is made based on the "import declaration".

At importation, an "import certificate" in regard to the particular shipment must also be obtained from a quarantine officer of the Specialised Inspection Agency at the customs border (the "Quarantine Officer"). The Quarantine Officer grants the import certificate permitting import of the food products with reference to the "import declaration" and based on an inspection of the food products. The import certificate serves as confirmation that the imported food products underwent the requisite food inspection and have been deemed safe for import and sale within the territory of Mongolia.

## **Customs Clearance**

Under the Customs Law, poultry raw materials/products are perishable goods requiring special storage and transportation conditions. Poultry products must be transported at a specific temperature by refrigerated trucks or containers equipped with an adequate cooling system. The Customs Authority conducts customs inspections of such food products and the relevant documentation based on the "import declaration". Pursuant to the Customs Law, perishable goods are subject to an expedited clearance procedure where the goods can be cleared without lodging all necessary customs documentation on the condition that such documentation will be filed at a later date. In this connection, the importing legal person confirms in writing that the missing customs documentation will be lodged within a period stated by the Customs Authority. Customs and other taxes and duties, however, are to be paid by the importing legal person in advance.

# **SINGAPORE**

## **Food Importation Requirements**

Overseas food establishments looking to export their products to Singapore are not required to obtain any specific licence or permit insofar as their activities are limited to exporting and do not extend to importing, as the importer is responsible for ensuring that the food imports comply with the relevant requirements. However, there are certain regulations that need to be complied with before foreign food exports can be imported and sold by local distributors.

# **Singapore Food Agency**

The Singapore Food Agency (the "SFA") is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, which oversees food safety standards in Singapore. One of the primary functions of the SFA is to support the assessment of the safety of food imported into Singapore by ensuring that it complies with Singapore food standards. All food and food products entering Singapore must originate from sources approved by the SFA. The relevant legislation that the SFA administers in relation to the import of poultry meat products is the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act.

# Wholesome Meat and Fish Act (Chapter 349A, 2000 REV ED)

The Wholesome Meat and Fish Act (the "Act") requires any person who imports any meat product or fish product into Singapore to apply for a licence from the Director-General, Food Administration (the "Director-General"). In addition, any licensee who imports any meat products or fish products for sale, supply or distribution in Singapore must, among other things, obtain a permit from the Director-General for each consignment of meat products or fish products imported by him, and the import of each consignment must be conducted in accordance with the terms of the permit.

Although the Act does not expressly stipulate the requirements to be met by foreign food exporters, the Act is relevant to exporters to the extent that importers of meat products or fish products are only permitted to deal with foreign food exporters that meet certain Singapore food safety standard requirements. Meat and meat products exported by foreign food exporters to Singapore must satisfy the requirements under the guidelines formulated by the SFA in accordance with the administration of the Act.

# Accreditation by the SFA

As at the Latest Practicable Date, accreditation will need to be done at three levels:

- a) Accreditation of the exporting country: Meat and meat products may only be imported from approved sources. The SFA has approved the import of poultry products from China; however, as at the Latest Practicable Date, only heat-treated poultry products are permitted to be imported from China.
- b) Accreditation of the exporting establishment: Overseas food establishments located in countries approved by the SFA are required to obtain accreditation from the SFA to export meat and meat products to Singapore. The application for the accreditation of the food establishment needs to be submitted through the competent authority of the exporting country, which will verify and endorse the submission prior to forwarding the application to the SFA for review. If the review is satisfactory, the SFA may conduct an inspection visit to the exporting country and the food establishment before granting approval to the establishment to export to Singapore. Establishments that have obtained accreditation from the SFA will be listed on the Accredited Overseas Meat and Egg Processing Establishment online database maintained by the SFA.
- c) Accreditation of the product: After the exporting establishment has been approved by the SFA, it will have to apply to the SFA to obtain approval for the specific product to be exported. The application must include product-related information, and is required to be verified and endorsed by the competent authority of the exporting country, before it is forwarded to the SFA for assessment.

# **Veterinary Conditions**

Under the guidelines set out by the SFA for the importation of poultry and poultry products, as at the Latest Practicable Date, poultry exporters are required to ensure that:

- the country/zone has been free from highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenicity avian influenza of the H5 and H7 subtypes for the past three months prior to export, or the products have been subjected to heat treatment that is sufficient for inactivation of avian influenza virus in accordance with OIE guidelines;
- b) the meat has been derived from animals which were born and bred in the country of origin since birth;
- the meat has been derived from animals which have passed ante-mortem and postmortem inspection carried out by veterinarians or meat inspectors under the direct supervision of government veterinarians, and which have been found to be free from infectious and contagious diseases;
- d) the meat has been derived from animals which were slaughtered, processed, packed and stored under sanitary conditions under official veterinary supervision in establishments approved by the Director-General for export to Singapore;
- e) the meat has not been treated with chemical preservatives or other substances injurious to health; and
- f) the meat has been inspected and found fit for human consumption and every precaution must be taken to prevent contamination prior to export.

#### **Health Certificate**

As at the Latest Practicable Date, each consignment of meat and meat products exported to Singapore must be accompanied by an import permit issued by the SFA, and a veterinary health certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country, to certify that the imports comply with Singapore's animal health and food safety requirements.

# Food Regulations (Chapter 283, Regulation 1, 2005 REV ED)

The Food Regulations (the "Regulations") set out permissible limits of food additives, minerals and nutrient supplements, and also specify particular requirements that various foods must comply with. Every package of imported food must bear a label, marked on or securely attached in a prominent and conspicuous position to the package, containing such particulars, statements, information and words in English as may be required under the Regulations.