SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	China, Hong Kong SAR (HK)
Food Product Category	Milk and Dairy Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0401 – 0406, 22029910

The information in this document has been compiled and provided by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA). SFA emphasises that importers and exporters have the responsibility to find out the import requirements of destination countries/regions/markets. Exporters are advised to confirm with their importers on the import requirements and eligibility of their product before exporting.

SN	Sub-header	Details
1	**Product eligibility / ineligibility**	Dairy products are eligible for export from Singapore to Hong Kong. Hong Kong stipulates that the manufacturing source of imported milk, milk beverages and cream shall be approved by the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the approval certificate of the FEHD shall be obtained before the import of products.
2	**Importing country authority**	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is the competent authority in regulating foods (including imported food) in Hong Kong. FEHD is responsible for implementing territory-wide policies of food safety control and enforcing the food legislation. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) is an establishment under the FEHD that is mainly responsible for the implementation of food safety supervision, and negotiation with overseas competent authorities. FEHD is responsible for issuing import license before import; At the time of import, FEHD carries out sampling inspection at the port, such as detecting the fungal toxins and microbiological content of the product; After importing, FEHD is responsible for day-to-day sampling inspection, problem investigation and recall of food. In addition, when the products are imported, the customs clearance of the products is supervised by the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department. In general, all cargoes imported into HK via air, land and sea are subject to customs control which is done primarily through inspection of documents such as manifests.

3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Products and Source of Manufacture** The Milk Regulation (Cap.132AQ) requires any milk or milk beverage or cream to be imported into HK from a source of manufacture that has been approved by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene. Before importing these food products into Hong Kong, importers need to apply to the Food Import & Export Section of the Centre for Food Safety through on-line system at Food Trade Portal (FTP) website or paper-mode application and provide the following information either in English or Chinese or accompanied by a verified translation in either English or Chinese: • (a)Copy of valid registration certificate of the product's manufacturing plant issued by a competent authority of the place of origin of food; • (b)Supply certificate issued by the manufacturer certifying that it is the direct supplier of the product, together with the manufacturing flowchart showing details of the production facilities, heat-treatment method, etc.; • (c)Test report on the quality of water used in the manufacturing plant for food production, including results of coliform bacteria and free residual chlorine levels; • (d)Test report showing the chemical composition of the product; • (e)Test report showing the microbiological quality of the product; (f)Declaration by the manufacturer on the shelf-life of the product; • (g)Sample of empty container of the product; • (h)Full clear pictures of the product package (showing clearly the brand name, product name, ingredients, heat-treatment method, name and address of the manufacturer, name and address of the importer); • (i)Specimen of certificate issued by a competent authority of the place of origin of food certifying the product has been subject to appropriate heat-treatment, has been handled, processed and packed under satisfactory hygienic conditions, meets specific quality standards and is fit for human consumption; in case legal reference is quoted in the certificate, a copy of the original text of the relevant legislation shall be attached. • In addition to the information and documents listed above, this Department may require the applicant to provide supplementary information and documents depending on individual circumstances. • The importer permission is valid for one year from the date of issue. Application for renewal shall be submitted on-line through FTP website or in writing by Application Form No. FEHB 291 to the Centre

		for Food Safety of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong by hand or post only within three months before expiry. Special attention is drawn as late applications will be not accepted. • Notes on Application for Import Permission: Applicable to New Application/Addition of Products to Existing Import Permission for Milk and Milk Beverages/Cream/Frozen Confections. **Import Registration** The Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) requires the food importers and food distributors in Hong Kong to register with FEHD and to maintain food movement record.
4	**Export certificates for food**	The documents that need to be submitted during the import permit application include the sanitary certificate samples issued by the competent authority of the origin of food. In the product customs clearance, it is necessary to submit an official health certificate, and the format of the health certificate needs to be consistent with the sanitary certificate samples. An Export Health Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is required for each consignment. For exports that require an Export Health Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to SFA here.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export dairy products to Hong Kong must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1) General regulations** The main provisions of Part V (Food and Drugs) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) includes general protection for purchasers of food and drugs; offences in connection with the sale, etc. of unfit food or drugs; regulations as to composition of food, etc; regulations as to food and drugs hygiene; examination and seizure and marking or destruction of foods. At present, most of the regulations in Hong Kong are formulated in accordance with the principles of the Ordinance. **(2) Food additives**

		Hong Kong currently has three regulations for specific types of food additives, including Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Cap. 132H), Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Cap. 132U), Preservatives in Food Regulation (Cap. 132BD). Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Cap. 132H) specifies that restriction on use of colouring matter other than permitted colouring matter. Schedule 1 is Permitted Colouring Matter; Schedule 2 is Labelling of Colouring Matter and Colouring and Flavouring Compounds. Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Cap. 132U) sets out restrictive provisions on the sale and use of sweeteners. No person shall sell, consign or deliver or import any food intended for human consumption containing any sweetener which is not specified in the Schedule. Preservatives in Food Regulation (Cap. 132BD) contains provisions for restrictions on sale of food containing food additive. Schedule 1 of Preservatives in Food Regulation (Cap. 132BD) shows the foods that can be added with food additives and the types and quantities of food additives in each case. The regulation specifies food classification or sub classification, permitted food additives (International coding system number, name description), maximum permitted content (parts per million, unless otherwise specified), and notes. Schedule 2 of the regulation provides for special requirements for the labelling of food containing preservatives or antioxidants and a statement of the excess permitted preservatives in food. For the use of preservatives in food, refer to Preservatives and Antioxidants User Guidelines. In addition, CFS has sought public consultation and arranged technical meeting regarding the Proposed Amendments to Preservatives in Food Regulation since May 2023. Part III Additives in Certain Milk Products of Schedule 1 of Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) also states the maximum levels of specified food additives in certain dairy products. For other food additives, CFS informed that there is no specific law in Hong Kong to regulate the ingredients of food (such as stabilizer, thickener, etc.) or set the maximum permitted content. The food manufacturer should determine the related use of the formula and ingredients used in its products, and add food additives to the related food based on "Good Manufacturing Practice" and ensure that food is suitable for people.

		(3) Contaminants Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) stipulates the limit of heavy metal pollutants in food. The regulation consists of two parts, including Part 1 interpretation and Part 2 maximum level of metal in food. Mineral Oil in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AR) stipulates the prohibition of sale of food containing mineral oil and the conditions for exemption from prohibition. **(4) Toxins** Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) stipulates the maximum concentration of certain 40 substances (including acid hydrolysed vegetable proteins) present in specified foods as well as 7 prohibited substances. **(5) Pesticide residues** Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) specifies the pesticide residue limits in milk. **(6) Veterinary drug residues** Public Health (Animals And Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation (Cap. 139N) stipulates the veterinary drug residue limits in food animals. There are four schedules, namely Schedule 1 Prohibited Chemicals; Schedule 2 Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for Tissues of Food Animals; Schedule 3 Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) In Milk; Schedule 4 Identification of Food Animals. **(7) Product regulations** Part II Composition of Milk And Milk Products of Schedule 1 of Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) stipulates the product identity of milk and milk products. Milk Regulation (Cap.132AQ) stipulates the restriction on sale of imported milk or milk beverage. Dried Milk Regulations (Cap. 132R) stipulates the composition and description of dried milk and labelling of containers of dried milk.

6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling** Article 61 of Part V (Food and Drugs) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) clearly stipulates that food labels shall not make false statements or mislead consumers. Labels that mislead others in terms of food diet or nutritional value are misleading in terms of food quality. Therefore, please ensure the authenticity and accuracy of food labels. The specific regulation on food labeling in Hong Kong is Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W), including the labeling regulations on product name, ingredient list, nutrition label, infant nutrition label, etc. The regulation has eight schedules, of which relating to milk and milk products include: Schedule 1 Part IA Good Manufacturing Practice (Part II Composition of Milk and Milk Products; Part III Additives in Certain Milk Products; Part IV Energy and Nutritional Composition of Infant Formulae); Schedule 2 Marking and Labelling of Foods and Drugs; Schedule 3 Marking and Labelling of Prepackaged Foods; Schedule 4 Items Exempt From Schedule 3; Schedule 5 Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim; Schedule 6 Items Exempt From Part 1 of Schedule 5; Schedule 7 Nutrient Reference Values for Different Nutrients for Purpose of Nutrition Labelling; Schedule 8 Conditions for Nutrient Content Claim. In particular, CFS has published materials (including new labelling requirements) that any prepackaged food containing fully hydrogenated oil must be indicated accordingly. According to the requirements of the regulation, the marking or labelling of prepackaged food for purposes of this Schedule shall either be in English or Chinese or in both languages. If both the English and Chinese languages are used in the labelling or marking of prepackaged food, the name of the food and the list of ingredients shall appear in both languages, but otherwise the requirements of this Schedule need only be met in one of those languages. The mandatory labelling contents for food include: i)Name or designation; ii)List of ingredients; iii)“best before” or “use by” date; iv)Statement of special conditions for storage or instructions for use; v)Name and address of manufacturer or packer; vi)Count, weight or volume.

		Prepackaged food shall be legibly marked or labelled with a list of nutrients setting out: (a)the energy value of the food; (b)the content of the following nutrients contained in the food: (i)protein; (ii)available carbohydrates; (iii)total fat; (iv)saturated fatty acids; (v)trans fatty acids; (vi)sodium; (vii)sugars; and (c)if applicable, the content of any other nutrient contained in the food for which a nutrition claim is made on the label of, or in any advertisement for, the food. Special labeling requirements for dairy products are specified in Schedule 2 of Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W), including separated milk, skimmed milk, partly skimmed milk, reconstituted milk, cream and other products. **(2) Food packaging materials** According to CFS's reply, the safety of consumer goods (including tableware, kitchenware and food containers) generally supplied to private use or consumption in Hong Kong is regulated by the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance (Cap. 456). According to the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance (Cap. 456), any person importing, manufacturing or supplying consumer goods should comply with the general safety requirements, otherwise it is an offence. In addition, the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) stipulates that all food sold in Hong Kong must be suitable for human consumption. It is also an offence to sell food that is not suitable for human consumption due to contamination by food contact materials. The CFS has published write-ups on food contact materials for the industry to refer to How To Use Plastic Food Packaging and Containers Safely? and Safe use of PET disposable Bottles.
7	**Other information**	**For more details:** Cargo Clearance can query the relevant requirements of the goods clearance. The purpose of Guide to Import of Milk and Milk Beverages into HK is to provide general guidance for importers who wish to import milk or milk beverages into Hong Kong. **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Hong Kong, China's legislation and notifications

		USDA GAIN Report Hong Kong FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual provides guidelines on Hong Kong's food import regulations to American exporters. **Resources & Contact** Hong Kong e-Legislation (HKeL) is the official database of Hong Kong legislation. It provides free online access to current and past versions of consolidated legislation dating back to 30 June 1997 and PDF copies marked "verified copy" have official legal status. Different searching and viewing modes are available to facilitate access to law. The database is maintained by the Department of Justice. If the consultation is related to the import and export license, please contact the Food Import & Export Section (Tel: 2867 5577) or 1823 Government Hotline. Enquiries may also be sent to the e-mail address: fsc@fehd.gov.hk or by fax at 2521 4784.

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