SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Maldives (MV)
Food Product Category	Fish and Seafood Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0302 - 0309, 1604/1605

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**	Fish and seafood products are eligible to be exported from Singapore to Maldives.
2	**Importing country authority**	The Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) under the Ministry of Health (MOH) is the main institution responsible for the inspection of imported food. The safety of fresh food imported to Maldives at seaports and airport is controlled by International Border Health Unit of Health Protection Agency (HPA). The safety of fishery, agricultural production, livestock, and post-harvest production is controlled majorly by Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MOFA) and MFDA. For fishery, Fisheries Division of MOFA is responsible for the registration, licensing, and monitoring of fishing vessels, which has to be renewed every year, as well as the issuance of catch certificates. The Fisheries Division also implements several national standards on fisheries, by adopting Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) standards on fisheries and fisheries products.
3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Establishments** No establishment listing is required for fish and seafood products exported from Singapore to Maldives. **Importers**

		Importers should be aware of the inspection measures carried out by authorities at the place of destination. National Food Safety Policy (2017-2026) issued by MFDA states that inspection by the International Border Health Unit is performed for labelling, expiry date, and ingredients of packaged and processed food. **Import license** According to Maldives Export, Import and Re-Export Regulation (2012/R-34), any party wishing to import goods into Maldives for commercial purposes must be registered with Maldives Customs Service. As per Maldives Export/Import Law (No: 31/79), all goods imported are subject to a Revenue Fee of MRF 1 for every MRF 100 worth the value of goods imported. According to Import Prohibited & Restricted Items, importation of live fish requires prior permit approval from Port Health.
4	**Export certificates for food**	**Free Sale Certificate** A Free Sale Certificate (food) may be requested by the importer as evidence that the food product for export meets Singapore's food safety regulations.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood products to Maldives must meet all their regulations and standards. According to the National Food Safety Policy (2017-2026) issued by MFDA, attempts have been made by Maldives to harmonize legislation between trading countries by adopting several Codex standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1) Pesticide Residues** Codex Pesticides Residues in Food Online Database contains Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides and Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits adopted by Codex. The foods listed shall not contain more than the MRL or EMRL (in mg/kg) of the pesticide residue (defined in each individual case in the definition of residue) at (a) the point of entry into a country or (b) at the point of entry into trade channels within a country. This maximum limit shall not be exceeded at any time thereafter.

		(2) Veterinary Drug Residues Codex Veterinary Drug Residue in Food Online Database contains Codex maximum residue limits for veterinary drug residue limits adopted by Codex. In the database a user can obtain information on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) for residues of veterinary drugs in foods. The database also allows to search for veterinary drugs within a functional class. **(3) Contaminants and Toxins** According to Codex Standards in the WHO South-East Asia Region issued by WHO, Maldives adopts Codex standards for the supervision of contaminants and toxins in food. General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995) contains the main principles which are recommended by Codex in dealing with contaminants and toxins in food and feed and lists the maximum levels and associated sampling plans of contaminants and natural toxicants in food and feed which are recommended by the Codex to be applied to commodities moving in international trade. **(4) Microorganisms** The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods (CXG 21-1997). **(5) Food Additives** According to Codex Standards in the WHO South-East Asia Region issued by WHO, Maldives adopts Codex standards for the supervision of food additives used in food. According to General Standard for Food Additives (CXS 192-1995), only the food additives listed herein are recognized as suitable for use in foods in conformance with the provisions of this Standard. Database of Specifications for Flavourings provides the most recent specifications for flavourings evaluated by JECFA. **(6) Product Standards** Imported fish and seafood products shall also meet the relevant requirements of the following: • National Standard for Carbon Monoxide Treated Fish (MFDA-FCD STAN 03-2017) • National Standard for Fish Treated with Carbon Monoxide (MFDA-FCD STAN 03-2017) Rev 2. – 2021

6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling** MFDA-FCD-STAN-4-2014: National Standard for Labelling Prepackaged Food which adopts Codex Standards applies to the labelling of all pre-packaged foods to be offered as such to the consumer or catering purposes and to certain aspects relating to the presentation thereof. The standard states that pre-packaged food shall not be described or presented on any label or in any labelling in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect. The labelling in pre-packaged food is required in Dhivehi or English. If language on the original label is not in Dhivehi or English, a supplementary label containing mandatory information is required in either Dhivehi or English and approved by MFDA. The following are mandatory in the label: - Name of the food - List of ingredients (except single ingredient foods) - Processing aids and carry-over of food additives - Net contents and drained weight - Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, exporter, or vendor of the food - Country of origin - Lot Identification - Date marking and storage instructions - Instructions for use Chapter 5. Additional Mandatory Requirements of the National Standard for Labelling Prepackaged Food sets out additional labelling requirements for specific products that are organic or genetically modified. According to the National Standard for Carbon Monoxide Treated Fish, carbon monoxide treated fresh-chilled fish and fresh-frozen fish must adhere to specific requirements for labelling.

		According to Codex Standards in the WHO South-East Asia Region issued by WHO, Maldives has adopted Codex guidelines on nutrition and health claims and nutrition labeling. General Guidelines on Claims (CXG 1-1979) relate to claims made for a food irrespective of whether or not the food is covered by an individual Codex standard. Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CXG 23-1997) relate to the use of nutrition and health claims in food labelling and, where required by the authorities having jurisdiction, in advertising. Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985) recommend procedures for the nutrition labelling of foods and apply to the nutrition labelling of all foods. **(2) Packaging Materials** Standard for classification of Biodegradable Plastic Bags 2012 is the standard for classifying biodegradable plastic bags in the Maldives. Bags intended for food packaging shall not contain any material that would negatively affect the food. According to the National Standard for Carbon Monoxide Treated Fish, such products shall be packaged in appropriate food grade containers. Packaging can be done individually or in bulk.
7	**Other information**	**Food Transportation** Standard for Transport, Handling and Storage of Food specifies precautions for the safe handling of food and its distribution, transportation and storage, and procedures for maintaining food quality. **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Maldives' legislation and notifications **Contact Information** Ministry of Health (MOH)

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