SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Philippines (PH)
Food Product Category	Meat and Meat Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0201-0210, 1501-1503, 1506, 1601-1603

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**	Fresh meat is not eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. Fresh meat refers to the hot, cold, frozen or thawed meat, including minimally processed meat, such as hot blanching and natural surface flavouring. Food products, be it chilled or frozen, containing raw / unprocessed meat products are again not eligible for exports. Only fully processed pork meat products are eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. - Pork and processed pork products including pork meat and pork skin which were then temporarily banned (FDA Order No. 2023-0790) due to veterinary conditions (suspected to be affected by African Swine Fever) have been lifted since Dec 2023 (Memorandum Order No. 74, series of 2023) and upheld since Feb 2024 (FDA Order No. 2023-0790-A). The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 10536) states the rules and regulations governing the evaluation of foreign meat establishments intending to export meat to Philippines.
2	**Importing country authority**	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) are the competent authorities in-charge of regulating import of meat and meat products into Philippines. FDA is primarily responsible for regulating processed meat products while DoA and BAI are responsible for regulating fresh meat. Imported food must comply with the Food Safety Act of 2013 and Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10611 (Joint DA-DOH Administrative Order No. 2015-0007).

3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Products** The import of meat and meat products is subject to Department of Agriculture Administrative Orders as well as Memorandum Orders. **Establishments** Establishment listing is required for fresh meat exported from Singapore to the Philippines. National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) maintains the list of different types of meat establishments. The list of accredited countries approved to export meat can be viewed here. Singapore is not in the list. **Importers (for fresh and/or processed food)** - Importers of fresh meat and/or meat products must - Comply with Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Agricultural and Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Producyts, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals, Veterinary Drugs and Biological Products into the Philippines (Administrative Circular No. 6, series of 2022). - Get registered as an importer in line with Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines (Department Circular No. 26, series of 2005). - Meet requirements for the accreditation of animal products and by products. - Secure the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) from the BAI prior to importation. - Submit all prescribed documents to the Veterinary Quarantine Officer at the port of entry where the shipment will be subject to documentary verification and veterinary inspection. **Importers (for processed food)** Importers must comply with Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Agricultural and Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals, Veterinary Drugs and Biological Products into the Philippines (Administrative Circular No. 6, series of 2022). Importers must also register for the License to Operate (LTO) and the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) before importing processed food into Philippines. **(1)License to Operate (LTO)**

		Importers are required to first register their business in the E-portal system of the FDA to obtain a License to Operate (LTO) before importing into Philippines. Establishments which are verified to have obtained the LTO are published here. Requirements on licensing are detailed in Administrative Order No. 2020-0017 on Revised Guidelines on the Unified Licensing Requirements and Procedures of the Food and Drug Administration. This LTO is a pre-requisite to obtain the CPR. **(2)Certificate of Product Registration (CPR)** Importers are also required to register processed meat products in the E-portal system of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to obtain the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) before importing into Philippines. Products which are verified to have obtained the CPR are published here. Requirements on the product registration are detailed in Administrative Order No. 2014-29 on Rules and Regulations on Licensing of Food Establishments and Registration of Processed Foods, and Other Food Products, and for Other Purposes.
4	**Export certificates for food**	An Export Health Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) may be required for each consignment. For exports that require an Export Health Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to SFA here. Otherwise, a Free Sale Certificate provides evidence that the food is fit for human consumption. Revised Guidelines In The Importation of Agricultural Products (Administrative Order No. 18, series of 2000) states that where an Import Permit (SPS Certificate) must be required prior to importation of agricultural products; live animals; plants; fishes; their products and by-products, such importation must be accompanied by a Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Health Certificate from the country of origin. Provision E, Section III of Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines states the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) (issued by BAI to the importer) will form the basis of the Health Certificate (to be issued by the National Veterinary Administration or equivalent competent authority of the exporting country). Depending on the VQC, the following conditions must be met for the issuance of Health Certificate: 1) The meat products originated from Singapore and were manufactured at an establishment licensed by SFA. 2) The raw meat were legally imported into Singapore from SFA-approved sources.

		3) The raw meat were accompanied by an official veterinary certificate from the competent authority of the country of origin certifying that the meat was derived from food animals that passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and found to be free from dangerous communicable animal diseases. 4) The raw meat had been duly inspected on arrival in Singapore by SFA inspectors and found to be fit for human consumption. 5) The meat products were handled, processed, packed, stored, and transported under sanitary conditions. 6) The meat products do not contain ingredients injurious to health. 7) The meat products meet veterinary requirements and are fit for human consumption.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export meat and meat products to Philippines must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1)Food Additives** Updated list of food additives (Bureau Circular No. 2006-016) updates the list of permitted food additives and prescribes guidelines for their use and application in foods distributed in Philippines whether locally manufactured or imported. In addition, the FDA has established regulatory requirements for some food additives: - Prohibited Artificial Sweeteners (B-6.2 Food Additives & Preservatives) (Administrative Order No. 125, series of 1970) prohibit the use of artificial sweeteners. - Guidelines on the Use of Cyclamates (G/TBT/PHL/276) will soon repeal General Regulation Governing the Prohibition of the Use of Cyclamic Acid and its Salts (B-6.3 Food Additives and Preservatives) (Administrative Order No. 122, series of 1970) to regulate the use of cyclamates. **(2)Fortification** Implementing Rules and Regulations for the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 stipulates the types of staple food products that require mandatory fortification and the corresponding minimum and maximum levels of relevant nutrient fortification. Guidelines on Micronutrient Fortification of Processed Foods (Administrative Order No. 4-A, series of 1995) stipulate the basis for the rational addition of nutrients in processed foods and aims to avoid over-or-under fortification.

		(3)Microorganisms Guidelines on the Microbiological Requirements and Assessment of Certain Prepackaged Processed Food Products (FDA Circular No. 2022-012) repeals Revised Guidelines for the Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Processed Foods (FDA Circular No. 2013-010). The reference criteria for specific food commodities are stated in Tables 1 to 14. **(4)Contaminants** Adoption of the Codex Standards on Food Contaminants in Processed Food (FDA Circular No. 2010-008) stipulates that the adoption of current Codex Standards on Food Contaminants and subsequent amendments or revision thereto as basis in prescribing the maximum allowable limit of food contaminants in processed food. In particular, dairy products should be tested free of melamine as per Testing of Infant Formula and Other Milk Product for the Presence of Melamine (Bureau Circular No. 2008-004). **(5)Pesticide Residues** Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) has published the Philippines National Standard (Enter "pesticide" in the Search box to check for the relevant standards). There are specific standards on maximum residue limits in okra, pineapple, mango, banana, milled rice, local crops and imported crops. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is responsible for regulating the safe and appropriate use of fertilizer and pesticide (which includes determining the banned and restricted pesticides). The following resources were published as guides for fertilizer and pesticide handlers in their registration requirements: - Fertilizer Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines (Blue Book) - Pesticide Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines (Green Book) **(6)Veterinary Drug Residues** Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) has published the Philippines National Standard (Enter "veterinary" in the Search box to check for the relevant standards). PNS/BAFS 48:2022 Veterinary drug residues in food: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) stipulates the maximum residue limit of various veterinary drugs in corresponding animal tissues and species. **(7)Traceability**

		FDA is seeking draft for comments regarding Supplemental Guidelines on the Managaement and conduct of Product Recall for Prepackaged Processed Food Products. **(8)Product Standards** Bureau of Philippine Standards and Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) have developed and published Philippines National Standards (PNS) for food products. Some irradiation and organic standards for food are as follows: - PNS/BAFS 151:2015 Code of Practice for Radiation Processing of Food identifies the essential practices to be implemented to achieve effective radiation processing of food. - PNS/BAFS 07:2016 Organic Agriculture stipulates the minimum requirements for organic agriculture.
6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**Labelling** **(1)General requirements** Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products (Administrative Order No. 2014-0030) and Addendum to Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products (Administrative Order No. 2014-0030-A) stipulate that labels of all prepackaged food products shall bear the following minimum mandatory information: Product name; Use of brand name; Complete list of ingredients; Net content and drained weight; Name and address of the manufacturer, repacker, packer, importer, trader, and distributor; Lot identification; Storage conditions; Expiry Date; Food allergen information; Instructions for use; Nutrition facts. The language used for all information on the label shall be either in English or Filipino or a combination thereof. In the case of imported food products, labels where in the information are declared in a foreign language shall always carry the corresponding English translation. All information should be accurate, legible and must be contained in a single sticker. The sticker must be durable (cannot be easily removed from label or packaging). **(2)Other requirements** General Guidelines On Labelling of Meat and Meat Products (Administrative Order No. 21, series of 2010) stipulates general features and parts of the label, mandatory label information, and other label information. Section VII of Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines stipulates additional packing and labelling requirements.

		Adoption of Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intakes as New Dietary Standard (FDA Circular No. 2023-009) requires all prepackaged processed food to use Recommended Energy/Nutrient Intake as the reference standard in nutrition labels. **Packaging** ASEAN General Guidelines for Food Contact Materials provides a reference on the general guidelines for food contact materials.
7	**Other information**	**WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Philippines's legislation and notifications **ASEAN resources on prepared / processed foods** Regulation - Philippines (contains a comprehensive list of regulations, standards, and decrees in static PDF files) **ASEAN Trade Repository** ASEAN Member States' National Trade Repositories Search Harmonised Standards in ASEAN **USDA Gain Reports** Philippines FAIRS Country Report provides guidelines on Phillipines' food import regulations to American exporters For more details: Flowchart of General Import Procedures, Food Safety Control System in the Philippines, FAIRS Country Report (Philippines), Downloadables from Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR), CFRR Frequently Asked Questions, FDA Verification Portal Frequently Asked Questions, National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division Permit, Accreditation & Registration

Disclaimer: SFA is providing this document for information purposes only. While care has been expended in the preparation of this report, SFA makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this document. Appropriate professional advice should be obtained before relying on or acting on any of the information contained in this document, and neither SFA nor any of its officers, employees or agents shall be held liable for any loss or damage, whether direct or indirect, as a result of any improper or incorrect use of the information in this document.