SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Philippines (PH)
Food Product Category	Fruits & Vegetables & Their Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0701-0714, 0801-0814, 2001-2008

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 fruits and vegetables are not eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. Processed fruit and vegetable products are eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Exportation of Plant Food (Department Circular No. 6, series of 2020) states the rules and conditions on the import of plant food.
2	**Importing country authority**	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) are the competent authorities in-charge of regulating import of fruit and vegetables and their products into Philippines. FDA is primarily responsible for regulating processed fruit and vegetable products while DoA and BPI are responsible for regulating fresh fruits and vegetables. 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**	**Establishments** Establishment listing is required for fresh fruits and vegetables exported from Singapore to Philippines. Section 10 of Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Exportation of Plant Food states that the BPI shall maintain a list of foreign companies or exporters provided by the competent authority of the exporting country. However, there is no publicly available list of approved companies or exporters of the exporting country.

		Under the tab "List of Allowable Plants/Planting Materials to Import" maintained by National Plant Quarantine Services Division (NPQSD), specific seedlings for propagation purpose are approved for exports from Singapore to Philippines. Under the tab "Updated List of Allowable Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" maintained by National Plant Quarantine Services Division (NPQSD), Singapore is not listed as a country for export of any fresh fruits and vegetables to Philippines. **Importers (for fresh food)** Importers of fresh fruits and vegetables 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). - Get registered as an importer in line with Guidelines on the Importation of Plants, Planting Materials, and Plant Products for Commercial Purposes (Department Circular No. 4, series of 2016). - Secure the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) with the NPQSD prior to importation. **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 fruit and vegetable 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**	**Phytosanitary Certificate (for fresh fruits and vegetables)** A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Parks Board (NParks) is required for each consignment of fresh fruits and vegetables. For exports that require a Phytosanitary Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to NParks here. **Free Sale Certificate (for processed fruit and vegetable products)** A Free Sale Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is required for each consignment of processed fruit and vegetable products. Section 12 of Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Exportation of Plant Food states that certification or equivalent type of assurance shall be identified during the process of determining equivalence of food safety regulatory system, especially inspection and certification system.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fruits and vegetables and their 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. Some specific regulations and standards for vegetables are as follows: - PNS/BAFS 26:2006 Fresh vegetables – Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) – Specification establishes a system of grading and classifying tomatoes.
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). 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

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