SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Philippines (PH)
Food Product Category	Fish and Seafood Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0301 - 0309, 1504, 1603-1605

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 for export from Singapore to Philippines. Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products (Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195, Series of 1999) states the rules and conditions on the import fish and seafood products.
2	**Importing country authority**	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) are the competent authorities in-charge of regulating the import of fish and seafood products into Philippines. FDA is primarily responsible for regulating processed fish and seafood products while DoA and BFAR are responsible for regulating fresh/chilled/frozen fish. 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** No establishment listing is required for fish and seafood products exported from Singapore to Philippines. **Importers (for fresh and/or processed food)** Importers of fresh fish and/or seafood products 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). - Obtain the Certificate of the Necessity to Import as an importer in line with Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products. - Secure the Permit to Import from BFAQ prior to importation. **Importers (for processed food)** Importers must comply 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 fish and seafood 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.

		Section 10 of Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products states that the following conditions must be met for the issuance of Health Certificate: 1) The fishery products originated from Singapore and were manufactured at an establishment licensed by SFA. 2) The fishery products were handled, processed, packed, stored, and transported under sanitary conditions. 3) The fishery products were not found to contain any pathogenic bacteria, harmful substances and foreign substances regulated in the Philippines. 4) The fishery products meet veterinary requirements and are fit for human consumption. 5) Fish and fishery products meet the quality of fresh fish prior to freezing and are graded accordingly to size. 6) Fish and fishery products were subject to visual inspection for parasite check. Fish infested with parasites were removed from the batch. 7) Frozen fishery products must be kept and maintained at -18°C or lower during transport. The Health Certificate shall be supported with the following laboratory test results, which shall not exceed for the indicator organisms, such as - Total viable count – < 5 x 10^5 CFU/g - *Escherichia coli* – < 10 CFU/g - *Salmonella* – Absent in 25g - *Shigella* – Absent - *Vibrio cholerae* – Absent - Histamine – < 20mg/100g (for species belonging to Scombridae and Clupeidae) **Other Certificates (Submitted by the Importer)** Section 11 of Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products states that authorities will require the following documents from registered importer: a) Bureau of Customs Entry Declaration; b) Issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Certificate for the release of the imported fishery product; d) Certificate of Origin; e) Bill of Lading. Upon arrival, imported fish and fishery products shall be subject to the following inspection requirements (including documentation check, physical examination, and microbiological analysis).
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood 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 fish are as follows: - PNS/BAFS 66:2020 Fish and fishery products – Milkfish – Fresh chilled and fresh frozen applies to milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) prepared and marketed in Philippines as chilled or frozen, intended for human consumption. - PNS/BAFS 67:2020 Fish and fishery products – Tilapia – Live, fresh chilled and fresh frozen applies to tilapia (any species belonging to the family Cichlidae) prepared and marketed in Philippines as live, chilled or frozen, intended for human consumption. - PNS/BAFS 73:2021 Fish and fishery products – Grouper – Live, fresh chilled or fresh frozen applies to grouper (any species belonging to sub-family Epinephelinae of the family Serranidae) prepared and marketed in Philippines as live, fresh chilled or fresh frozen, either whole or gutted.
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. **(2)Other requirements**

		In accordance with Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products, the following information shall be displayed on the package and accompanying documents (such as Health Certificate): - Country or origin written out in full - Species of fish/fishery products weights and contents - Address of supplier - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) inspection stamp mark **Packaging** In accordance with Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products, fish and fishery products must be packed under hygienic conditions to preclude contamination from lubricants, oils, fuels or any hazardous substances. Packaging materials shall not impair the sensory attributes of the fishery products and shall not transmit harmful substances. Packaging materials used for fresh fish held under ice should be provided with adequate drainage for melted water. 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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