SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
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 for export from Singapore to United Arab Emirates (UAE).
2	**Importing country authority**	Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCAE) is responsible for establishing and enforcing food safety regulations. MOCCAE regulates veterinary and plant quarantine issues for domestic agriculture and manages import regulations of live animals, plants and seeds, fisheries, and raw agricultural commodities. The UAE Municipality (Dubai Municipality, Abu Dhabi Municipality, and Sharjah City Municipality) are the principal bodies that oversees the importation process for agricultural goods. It is in-charge of port inspection, testing, label approval, and the release of shipments. The imported foods are examined at the entry port and released after they comply with the import permit and the necessary technical attestations. UAE is a member of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, commonly referred to as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It is a regional, intergovernmental political and economic union that consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. GCC countries are also members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and are bound by the agreed obligations.

3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Products** Product listing is required for fish and seafood products exported from Singapore to the UAE. Foods imported into the UAE should be registered by importers through an electronic food registration portal commonly referred to as "ZAD". This system enrolls all food items prior to sale in the UAE and verifies product compliance with the country's food laws. The registration process requires UAE importers to apply online and provide a copy of the product's label, packaging, and official certificate from a competent authority from the country of origin. Once the product is officially registered in ZAD, the importer may apply for an import permit and commence shipment. Please refer to the ZAD Portal User Manual. **Establishments** No establishment listing is required for fish and seafood products exported from Singapore to the UAE. **Importer – Permit** Importers must obtain a valid import permit from MOCCAE for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance. There will be a service fee of 100AED to request for permission to import the consignment, and 500AED to request for the release of the consignment. The following documents are required for the release of the consignment: - Certificate of Origin (COO) - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Certificate for products and by-products of endangered plants and animals - Customs Declaration/Manifest showing the consignment data - Bill of Lading (BL) or Airway Bill (AWB) showing the delivery data - Packing list of contents or commercial invoice It is also necessary to provide the following additional documents for the release of animal-based consignment: - For consignments of non-treated (fresh) animal products and by-products: veterinary health certificate issued by the competent veterinary authority and in accordance with the approved models.

		- For the consignments of treated (processed) animal products and by-products: export certificate (indicating the type of treatment: thermal, chemical or salts) issued by the competent authority. **Importer – Label Registration** Before any food item can be imported into the UAE, the food item and its label needs to be registered by the importer with the Food Safety Department, Government of Dubai via Apply to Register and Assess a Food Item. The supporting documents for label registration include but not limited to label of the food item to be assessed and registered and product photo. Please note that different packaging for the same food item (i.e difference in weight) are considered different food items and must be registered separately. The Food Import Re-Export Services (FIRS) supports importer to Apply to Transfer Food Consignment to and from Other Emirates and Apply to Release Imported Food Consignments for Sale in the Local Market.
4	**Export certificates for food**	**(1) Health Certificate** 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. According to the GCC Guide for Control on Imported Foods, the Health Certificate issued by the competent authority in Singapore shall comply with requirements of UAE and carries the following information: - The products of aquatic animal origin are in conformity with the requirements of GCC; - The products of aquatic animal origin are derived from non-toxic species that do not cause any sign of disease; - Where aquatic animals are grown in farms or aquaculture production areas, hygiene requirements are under the control of the Competent Authority; - The products of aquatic animal origin shall meet the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) International Standards which related to fitness for human consumption; - The feed for aquatic animals is produced in compliance with GMP & HACCP principles or its equivalent and is free from any physical, chemical or biological contaminants that are prohibited internationally; - The cultured aquatic animals have not been fed with feed containing animal protein excluding fish meal from different species than the cultured one;

		- The products of aquatic animal origin shall be processed in accordance with requirements of GCC, at an establishment that has been subjected to inspection by the Competent Authority and implements a food safety management system based on HACCP principles or an equivalent system. **(2) Certificate of Origin** According to International Trade Administrative, United States Department of Commerce, Import Requirements and Documentation, Certificate of Origin is required with each shipment. **(3) Supporting Documentation for Any Labeled Claims** According to GCC Guide For Control On Imported Foods, supporting documentation for any labeled claims (nutrition claims, health claims, and other claims) as required. Nutrition and health claims for food shall only be acceptable, if claim and wording has been approved by internationally recognized scientific bodies (i.e. scientific journals). **(4) Other Certificates (To be Arranged by the Manufacturer)** Under *Required Documents*, any other certificates required by the Food Safety Department, as a result of any emerging global developments or according to local decisions, include but not limited to: - Free of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) test report certificate - Free of Avian Flu test report certificate - Free of Dioxin test report certificate - Free of heavy metals (such as Nitrofurans and Malachite Green) test report certificate - Certificate of not feeding farmed fish on animal protein fodder - Certificate of proof for organic food products - Free of radiation test report certificate - Health, nutrition, or other certificates when necessary
5	**Regulations and standards**	GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) is a Regional Standardization Organization (RSO). Food standards and regulations are established within the GSO. GCC standards and regulations may be purchased online. Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood products to UAE must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide:

		(1) Pesticide Residues According to GSO 382:2021 - Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products, pesticide residue refers to any specified substances in food, agricultural commodities, or animal feed resulting from the use of a pesticide. It also includes residues from unknown or unavoidable sources (e.g., environmental). Pesticide residues in agricultural commodities shall not exceed the limits mentioned in the tables available in GSO 382:2021 - Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products. **(2) Veterinary Drug Residues** According to GSO 2481:2021 - Maximum Residues Limits of Veterinary Drugs in Food, veterinary drugs residues are residues of substances which may occur in food commodities of animal origin resulting from the use of veterinary drugs. Those include the parent compounds and/or their metabolites as well as residues of associated impurities of the veterinary drug concerned. Veterinary drugs residues in food of animal origin shall not exceed the limits mentioned in the tables available in GSO 2481:2021 - Maximum Residues Limits of Veterinary Drugs in Food. **(3) Food Additives** According to GSO 2500:2022 - Additives Permitted for Use in Food Stuffs, food additive is any substance not normally consumed as a food by itself and not normally used as a typical ingredient of the food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for a technological (including organoleptic) purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food results, or may be reasonably expected to result (directly or indirectly), in it or its byproducts becoming a component of or otherwise affecting the characteristics of such foods. Food to which additives are allowed, food to which additives are not allowed, and maximum permissible limits for food additives are all provided in GSO 2500:2022 - Additives Permitted for Use in Food Stuffs. In addition, GSO 2500:2022/Amd1:2023 Additives Permitted For Use In Food Stuffs supplements the Gulf Technical Regulation GSO 2500. **(4) Contaminants and Toxins**

		According to GSO 193:2021 - Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed, a contaminant is any substance not intentionally added to food or feed for food producing animals, which is present in such food or feed as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or feed, or as a result of environmental contamination. The term does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs, and other extraneous matter. Contaminants and toxins in food and feed shall not exceed the maximum limits provided in GSO 193:2021 - Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed. **(5) Microorganisms** According to GSO 1016:2015 - Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs, microbiological criteria specify the maximum limit of microorganisms in food. The content of microorganisms in food shall not exceed the limits provided in GSO 1016:2015 - Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs. **(6) Product Standards** Imported fish and seafood products shall also meet the relevant requirements of the following product standards: GSO 1750:2023 - Canned Sardines GSO 270:2021 - Smoked Fish, Smoke Flavoured Fish and Smoke Dried Fish GSO 380:2021 - Chilled Fish GSO 1753:2021 - Frozen Fish GSO 2043:2010 - Frozen Fish Fillet Blocks GSO 1920:2009 - Salted Fish GSO 1387:2002 - Fish Burger GSO 2575:2021 - Labeling of Chilled Frozen Fish, Frozen Fish Fillets Products and Frozen, Chilled Crustaceans GSO 21:2021 - Hygienic Regulations for Food Plants and Their Personnel GSO 150-1:2013/Amd 2:2022 - Expiration Dates for Food Products - Part 1: Mandatory Expiration Dates
6	**Labelling, packaging and**	**(1) Labelling**

	marking requirements	GSO 9:2022 - Labelling of Pre-packaged Food Stuffs specifies the labelling requirements for pre-packaged food. Each food label shall contain the following information of chilled and frozen fish and seafood products in Arabic, and must be approved before distribution in UAE. i. Name and shape of the product; ii. Type and species; iii. The additives are arranged in descending order according to proportion, if any; iv. Net weight without coated by ice layer with metric system; v. Method of transportation, handling and storing; vi. Country of origin; vii. Name and address of manufacturer; viii. Storage temperature; ix. Date of production and validity duration in a non-symbolic manner (month - year) for frozen, (day - month - year) for chilled. GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling requires mandatory disclosure of nutritional information. The following nutritional information shall be declared on the labels of prepackaged food intended for direct consumption or after heating: The nutritive value of the prepackaged foodstuff to including energy, protein, carbohydrate (e.g. dietary carbohydrate and dietary fibers), fats, saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, sodium, total sugars, and added sugar; The energy value and the amount of nutrients shall be expressed per 100 g or per 100 ml or per serving specified by the manufacturer; The information shall be declared in international units (gram, mg, µg, IU) and kilocalories for energy values. If GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling specifies the Nutrient Reference Value (NRV) of nutrients, information related to the NRV shall be expressed in percentage. GSO 2333:2022 - Requirements for Health and Nutrition Claims on Food Products stipulates the requirements for nutrients and health claims in food labels. The following figure shows the nutrition label format provided by GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling for reference:

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container

Serving size **2/3 cup (55g)**

Amount per serving

Calories **230**

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 8g	**10%**
Saturated Fat 1g	**5%**
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	**0%**
Sodium 160mg	**7%**
Total Carbohydrate 37g	**13%**
Dietary Fiber 4g	**14%**
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	**20%**
Protein 3g	

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

حقائق تغذوية

عدد الحصص في العبوة 8

حجم الحصة 3/2كوب (55غرام)

الكمية لكل حصة أي 100 مل أو 100 غرام

السعرات الحرارية 230

	* نسبة الاحتياج اليومي %
الدهون الكلية 8 غرام	%10
دهون مشبعة 1 غرام	%5
دهون متحولة 0 غرام	
كوليسترول 0 ملغرام	%0
صوديوم 160 ملغرام	%7
الكربوهيدرات الكلية 37 غرام	%13
الألياف الغذائية 4 غرام	
سكريات كلية 12 غرام	
يتضمن 10 غرام سكر مضاف	%20
بروتين 3 غرام	

* تدل نسبة الاحتياج اليومي على المغذيات في الحصة الواحدة مبنية على نظام غذائي محتوى على 2000 سعرة حرارية .

Labelling of GM foods shall be in accordance with GSO 2142:2011 - General Requirements for Genetically Modified Processed Food and Feed. GSO 9:2022 - Labelling of Pre-packaged Food Stuffs specifies that all irradiated food and food ingredients must be identified on the package label and display the Radiation International Code.

(2) Packaging and Marking Requirements

All packages used for food packaging should be food grade and in accordance with the following standards:

GSO 1193:2023 - Polyethylene Bags for Food Packaging Applications

GSO 839:2021 - Food Packages - Part 1: General Requirements

GSO 1863:2021 - Food packages - Part 2: Plastic package – General requirements

GSO 2545:2021 - Recycled Plastic Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food

GSO 2231:2012 - General Requirements for the Materials Intended to Come into Contact with Food

7	**Other information**	You may refer to the GCC Guide for Control on Imported Foods for more information on imports to the UAE. UAE's Dubai Customs has also published Customer Guide. **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** United Arab Emirates' legislation and notifications **(1) Customs Required Documents** The following documents are also required along with the shipment for customs clearance purposes: i. Permit delivery; ii. Commercial license/Commercial register in the relevant field that includes an activity of importation of foodstuffs, general trade or import permission specially for the imported products in the consignment issued by the concerned authorities; iii. List of Contents of the packing list issued by the producer indicating the container filling date, the types and quantities of food items, along with production and expiry dates for each item or dispatch; iv. Temperature records for frozen and chilled fish and seafood products. **(2) Transportation – Certificate of Fitness for Transport Vehicle** Exporter, shipping agency or officially recognized third party in the country of origin or country of export should be able to provide evidence that assures the fitness of the vehicle used for transporting food and proves the suitability to transport the exported food. The temperature records are kept throughout the whole trip for chilled and frozen foods. **(3) Reserve Notification and Detention of Consignment** Where a consignment of food is found to be non-compliant with GCC requirements, the authority will issue a reserve notification that states the reason for the reservation and the product will be detained under official control. Situations where consignments will be detained include: Absence of a list of contents; Incompatibility of food items described in the certificate with those in the consignment; Absence of original copy of required health certificate and/or reference number of electronic health certificate; The required health certificate being dated

		before the production date of the food; The health certificate being issued after the date of shipment of the food; The food production date being before the date of the Halal slaughter certificate; Broken or changed security seals/locks prior to official inspection; Evidence of any fraudulent certification.

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