SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	United Kingdom (UK)
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**	Following the United Kingdom (UK)'s departure from the European Union (EU), foods exported to Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) shall comply with UK regulations. The UK and EU have formally adopted a new Brexit Windsor Framework to alter the policy paper on The Northern Ireland Protocol for the entry of certain agriculture retail food into Northern Ireland from Great Britain. EU import requirements and rules on plant animal health will continue to fully apply in Northern Ireland. Fruits and vegetables are eligible for export from Singapore to UK.
2	**Importing country authority**	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the UK Central Competent Authority for international trade in agri-food products. Defra is also the Competent Authority for policy, regulation and assurance related to animal health, animal welfare and plant health controls in England, as well as certain elements of feed and food law such as veterinary residue monitoring and GMOs. Within the UK the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have devolved powers and responsibilities in relation to food, the environment and agriculture including policy, regulation and assurance relating to animal health, animal welfare and plant health controls. Veterinary medicine monitoring is devolved in Northern Ireland. Such relevant bodies are as follows

		• Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Department (EERAD) in **Wales.** • Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in **Northern Ireland.** • Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate (ARE) in **Scotland.** The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of DEFRA, and also works on behalf of the Scottish and Welsh governments. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is responsible to DEFRA and has responsibility for food, farming, fisheries, and forestry in Northern Ireland. The Food Standards Authority (FSA) is the Central Competent Authority for food and feed safety and hygiene in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is the Competent Authority in Scotland for food and feed safety and hygiene. The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) under Chemicals Regulation Directorate, Health, and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for the regulation of pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels).
3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Products** The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 governs the import conditions of plants and plant products. Retained EU Regulation 2019/2072 establishes some conditions including protective measures against pests of plants. The Official Controls (Imports of High Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793) Regulations set rules rules concerning the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures applicable to certain food and feed of non-animal origin entering Great Britain. Singapore is not in the list of third countries. **Establishments** No establishment listing is required for fruits and vegetables exported from Singapore to the EU.

		Importers For imports into Great Britain, importers should refer to the - Guidance on import plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and particularly the Guidance on import requirements for plants, plant produce and products - Guidance to add a new plant variety to the national list and particularly the Guidance on plant species: variety list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Guidance on fresh fruit and vegetable marketing standards In general, importers should work out the following tasks: - Register with Procedure for Electronic Application for Certificates from the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (PEACH) - Register with Rural Payment Agency (RPA) to become importer of UK Agricultural Policy (UKAP) goods - Apply for import license to import agricultural products into UK - Notify enforcement agencies of incoming consignment of agricultural products through Procedure for Electronic Application for Certificates from the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (PEACH) using an existing UK Government Gateway account - Import through authorised Border Control Post (BCP) in UK and Points of Entry (PoE) in Northern Ireland because different BCPs and PoE are approved to inspect and clear different food products - Check Guidance on Border Target Operating Mode (BTOM) import risk category and related rules for plant and plant products to be imported from non-EU countries (including Singapore) to Great Britian, and particularly the prohibited commodities, from 30 April 2024. All goods in the high and medium risk categories require a Phytosanitary Certificate and pre-notification.
4	**Export certificates for food**	**Phytosanitary Certificate** 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. The UK Chief Plant Health Officer has issued letters to all International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) official contact points as published here.

		Retained EU Regulation 2016/2031 stipulates the protective measures against pests of plants. In particular, Chapter VI Section 1 states that the phytosanitary certificate required for the introduction of plants, plant products and other objects into UK shall be a document, issued by a third country, which fulfils the necessary conditions and certifies specific requirements. Retained EU Regulation 2019/2072 stipulates the protective measures on UK quarantine pests, protected zone quarantine pests, and UK regulated non-quarantine pests. It also provides the list of plants and plant products originating from third countries whose introduction into UK do not require phytosanitary certificate (as listed in Annex XI) or require phytosanitary certificate (as listed in Annex XII). The accompanying phytosanitary certificate must guarantee that such plants and plant products are: a) properly inspected; b) free from quarantine pests, within the requirements for regulated non-quarantine pests and practically free from other pests; and c) in line with the plant health requirements. In addition, Annex XI Part C provides the list of plants (namely pineapple, banana, coconut, durian, and dates, etc.) which do not require phytosanitary certificate. The published list of unregulated plants and plant products which do not need to go through any plant health controls (including phytosanitary certificate) is the latest decision.
5	**Regulations and standards**	In 2018, the UK enacted the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, under which the UK government converts existing EU laws into UK laws (also known as retained EU Regulations) and incorporates them into the UK legislation framework. UK laws including those originating from the EU can be found here. Interested exporters who wish to export fruits and vegetables to UK must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1) General Principles** The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health) Regulations 2019 gives UK officials the authority to exercise the function of enforcement and execution in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields for the protection of public health. With the implementation of the Border Target Operating Model since August 2023, The Official Controls (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024 institutionalise the changes.

		The Food Safety Act 1990 provides the framework for all food legislation in the England, Wales and Scotland, while The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 applies in Northern Ireland. This act stipulates violations related to safety, quality, and label, and states the responsibilities of companies that produce, handle, and sell food to ensure consumer safety. Retained EU Regulation 178/2002 lays down rules for the performance of UK official controls and other official activities by the competent authorities. Retained EU Regulation 2017/625 lays down specific rules of the official organization controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption; and on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. **(2) Food Hygiene** The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006, The Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 permit the enforcement of Retained EU Hygiene Regulations. Retained EU Regulation 852/2004 lays down general rules for food business operators on the hygiene of foodstuffs. This Regulation shall apply to all stages of production, processing, and distribution of food. In particular, Chapter IV Article 10 states the requirements that are relevant to imported food. Retained EU Regulation 853/2004 lays down specific rules on the hygiene of foodstuffs of animal origin for food business operators. They shall apply to unprocessed and processed products of animal origin. In particular, Chapter II Article 6 states the obligations of food business operators concerning imported food on products of animal origin. Such products must be imported from third country of dispatch listed and approved by UK. **(3) Microbiological Criteria** Retained EU Regulation 2073/2005 lays down the microbiological criteria for certain microorganisms and the implementing rules to be complied with by food business operators when implementing the general and specific hygiene measures referred to in Article 4 of Retained EU Regulation 852/2004.

		(4) Contaminants The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013, The Contaminants in Food (Wales) Regulations 2013, The Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and The Contaminants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 stipulate the controls on contaminants. Retained EU Regulation 1881/2006 sets the maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs. Food with levels of contaminants higher than those specified in the Annex to this Regulation shall not be sold in the market. The maximum levels shall apply to the edible part of food concerned. **(5) Veterinary Drug Residues** Not applicable **(6) Pesticide Residues** The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, and The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 stipulate the controls on pesticide residue. Retained EU Regulation 396/2005 establishes the maximum levels of pesticide residues (MRL) in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin or parts covered by Annex I. In particular, Chapter III Article 18 declares the default MRL to be 0.01 mg/kg for those products for which no specific MRL is set out in Annexes II or III or for active substances not listed in Annex IV. The GB MRL statutory Register allows users to search for information on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in food products. **(7) Food Additives** The Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents (England) Regulations 2013, The Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents (Wales) Regulations 2013, The Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and The Food Additives, Flavourings, Enzymes and Extraction Solvents Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 stipulate the controls on food additives.

		Retained EU Regulation 1333/2008 lays down rules on food additives used in foods. Retained EU Regulation 1332/2008 lays down rules on food enzymes used in foods, including such enzymes used as processing aids. Retained Regulation 1334/2008 lays down rules on flavouring and food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods. Retained EU Regulation 1925/2006 establishes the harmonized requirements on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods. Retained EU Directive 2009/32/EC establishes the extraction solvents used or intended for use in the production of food and food ingredients. The Food Additives, Food Flavourings and Novel Foods (Authorisations) (England) Regulations 2023, The Food Additives, Food Flavourings and Novel Foods (Authorisations) (Scotland) Regulations 2023, The Food Additives, Food Flavourings, and Novel Foods (Authorisations) and Food and Feed (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2023 make amendments to Regulations 1333/2008 and 1334/2008.
6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling** The Food Information Regulations 2014, The Food Information (Wales) Regulations 2014, The Food Information (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and The Food Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 stipulate the controls on labelling and marking of prepacked food. Retained EU Regulation 1169/2011 establishes food labelling requirements. Chapter IV Section 1 Article 9 states the list of mandatory particulars to be included in the food label. Article 13 states the presentation of mandatory particulars which include font size. Section 2 Article 26 states that the country of origin or place of provenance must be indicated for meat failing within the Combined Nomenclature codes as listed in Annex XI. Section 3 Article 30 states the content of the mandatory nutrition declaration to be included in the food label. Food Standards Agency and Food & Drink Federation have respectively published allergen labelling guidance and guidance on change management of allergen information for prepacked food products. Retained EU Regulation 1924/2006 establishes the harmonized requirements on use of nutrition and health claims on foods. Retained EU Regulation 432/2012 establishes a list of permitted health claims made on foods. The Great Britain nutrition and health claims (NHC) register which should be used in conjunction with the

		Guidance on nutrition and health claims on foods allows user to check for information on all authorised and rejected nutrition and health claims. DEFRA is consulting on proposals to introduce fairer food labelling to provide consumers with clearer information on where food comes food and how its produced. **(2) Packaging materials** The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) Regulations 2012, The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Wales) Regulations 2012, The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Scotland) Regulations 2012, and The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 stipulate controls on food packaging materials. Retained EU Regulation 1935/2004 stipulates the requirements for materials and articles, including active and intelligent food contact materials, which in their finished state are intended to be or already in contact with food. In particular, Article 5 states that specific measures may be adopted or amended for the groups of materials and articles listed in Annex I. Such specific measures include but not limited to the following: - Retained EU Regulation 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, - Retained EU Regulation 282/2008 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods, - Retained EU Regulation 1895/2005 on the restriction of use of certain epoxy derivatives in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, - Retained EU Directive 2007/42/EC of relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, - Retained EU Directive 94/62/EC lays down measures aimed at preventing the production of packaging waste and as additional fundamental principles at recovering packaging waste, and - Retained EU Directive 84/500/EEC on the approximation of laws relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. **(3) Identification marking**

		Retained EU Regulation 853/2004 lays down specific rules on the hygiene of foodstuffs of animal origin for food business operators. In particular, Article 5 states that products of animal origin must be affixed with identification marks in compliance with Section 1 of Annex II.
7	**Other information**	**(1) Import Information for Plants and Plant Products** The first point of contact for enquiries related to imports of plant products should be Animal and Plant Health Agency imports@apha.gov.uk. Import Information Notes are available in Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Vet Gateway. The UK Chief Plant Health Officer has issued letters to all International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) official contact points as published here. For imports into Great Britain, importers should refer to the - Guidance on import plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and particularly the Guidance on import requirements for plants, plant produce and products - Guidance to add a new plant variety to the national list and particularly the Guidance on plant species: variety list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Guidance on fresh fruit and vegetable marketing standards For imports into Northern Ireland, importers should refer to the information on import and export of plants. **(2) Other Import Information** For more information on the taxes related to the import of food, please see the following: - Import, export and customs for businesses: detailed information - UK Integrated Online Tariff - Northern Ireland Online Tariff For more information on the procedures related to the import of food, please see the following: - Import, export and distribution of food (see Services, as well as Guidance and regulation) - Business guidance on imports and exports

		- Imports of Non-Animal Origin Products For more information on the application guidance related to the import of regulated products, please see the following: - Regulated products application guidance **(3) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Contact Points** DEFRA trade secretariat TradeSecretariat@defra.gov.uk serves as the UK centralised contact point for all queries relating to trade agreement implementation in agri-food sectors across animal health, plant health and food and feed safety. DEFRA SPS Committee Secretariat uksps.secretariat@defra.gov.uk manages and runs all SPS committees and SPS input into wider trade committees. **(4) WTO Import Licensing Procedures** United Kingdom' legislation and notifications

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