# SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

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| **Country of Origin** | Singapore (SG) |
| **Country of Destination** | Viet Nam (VN) |
| **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 |
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| 1 | **Product eligibility / ineligibility** | Fish and seafood products are eligible for export from Singapore to Vietnam.<br><br>Exporting countries are required to register for the list of countries and territories approved for export to Vietnam. Article 14 of Chapter 5 of 15/2018/ND-CP (also known as Decree 15/2018) "Implementation of food safety law", stipulates that the imported terrestrial animal products, aquatic animal products and plant products used as food shall originate from the countries or regions with food safety control system conforming to the laws and regulations of Vietnam, and shall be published by the competent authorities of Vietnam on the list of countries and regions that have signed the list of foods exported to Vietnam. The terrestrial animal products and aquatic animal products used as food must be produced by the production and operation institutions recognized by the competent authorities of Vietnam, which fully comply with the provisions of Vietnamese laws and regulations on food safety.<br><br>Vietnam has released a list of countries and their corresponding enterprises that are allowed to export seafood to Vietnam. Singapore is included in the list, so Singapore can export seafood products to Vietnam. |

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| **2** | **Importing country authority** | According to 13/2014/TTLT-BYT-BNNPTNT-BCT "Guidelines for national division of labor and joint management of food hygiene and safety", imported food are subject to joint management of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Health and General Department of Vietnam Customs.<br><br>The Fisheries Bureau and the Veterinary Bureau under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are respectively responsible for pre-import inspection, quarantine and safety check of live fish, fresh fish and seafood products; Vietnam Directorate of Market Surveillance under Ministry of Industry and Trade and Vietnam Food Administration under Ministry of Health are responsible for the post-import safety of fish and seafood products; General Department of Vietnam Customs is responsible for checking the health certificates of fish and seafood products at the time of import. |
| **3** | **Pre-export approvals by the importing country** | **GRANT CERTIFICATE OF FOOD QUALITY SAFETY**<br>Before importing, according to 55/2010/QH12 "Law on food safety", importers are required to, based on different product categories, apply to the corresponding supervision authorities (the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Industry and Trade) for handling the certificate of food health and safety qualified enterprise before importing foods, which is qualification licensing for importers.<br><br>**Food safety self-declaration and announcement of conformity with food safety regulations**<br>According to the provisions of Vietnam's 55/2010/QH12 "", all prepacked food must apply for the food certificates (both (1) food safety self-declaration and (2) announcement of conformity with food safety regulations) issued by the relevant government departments before going on the market, and the products can only be sold in Vietnam after they meet the inspection and quarantine standards. The certificate needs to be applied for by the importer.<br><br>**Products**<br>For fish and seafood products that are not included in the list, companies need to apply for registration with the Vietnamese authorities again, or consult the competent Vietnamese authorities on whether to export products not on the list to Vietnam. |

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| | | In addition to the above requirements, Vietnam has formulated special requirements for live aquatic products. Vietnam allows imports of live aquatic animals for human consumption if they are listed in the Appendix VIII of Government's Decree 26/2019 guiding the implementation of the Law on Fishery - the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade in Vietnam.<br><br>For the initial import of live aquatic animals that are not included in the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade, the live aquatic animal's environmental impacts must be evaluated by the Fisheries Bureau. According to MARD's Circular 25/2018 regulating risk assessment and granting import permit for live aquatic animals, importers must submit applications to DFISH for their evaluation.<br><br>**Establishments**<br>SFA is in the process of further clarifying with the Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development if overseas food of animal origin and overseas food derived from aquatic animals, specifically fresh chilled/frozen fish and processed fishery products, must be registered on the list of establishments eligible for export of foodstuffs of aquatic animal products (the list of countries and their corresponding enterprises that are allowed to export seafood to Vietnam).<br><br>According to Article 14 of Chapter 5 of the 15/2018/ND-CP (also known as Decree 15/2018) "Implementation of food safety law", exporters must be on "the list of countries and their corresponding enterprises that are allowed to export". If the exporter is not on the list, the exporter can apply to the relevant competent authority of the exporting country (that is Singapore Food Agency in Singapore's case) in accordance with 25/2016/TT-BNNPTNT and 35/2018/TT-BNNPTNT. After the exporter is inspected and qualified by SFA, SFA will notify the inspection results, and Vietnam will add satisfactory exporter to the list.<br><br>**Import quarantine & inspection**<br>Vietnam requires foodstuffs of aquatic animals and products to be registered for import quarantine and food safety inspection prior to importation to Vietnam. 25/2016/TT-BNNPTNT specifies the list of aquatic animals and products to be quarantined, including seafood. 35/2018/TT-BNNPTNT amending and supplementing 25/2016/TT-BNNPTNT, takes a risk-based management approach to quarantine and quality inspection, |

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| | | classifying terrestrial animal products into high-risk items and low-risk items with a revised sampling and testing scheme for each group. These products will be subject to the inspection and quarantine of Fisheries Bureau, and they can only be sold in Vietnam market after passing the inspection and quarantine.<br><br>Vietnam has also published a draft circular (xx/2024/TT-BYT), replacing circular 28/2021/TT-BYT, to promulgate the "list of imported foods, food additives, food packaging materials and containers to be inspected" at the border for food safety purpose. |
| **4** | **Export certificates for food** | An Export Health Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is required for each consignment. If there are consignments with specific import conditions, you may forward the import conditions to SFA here. SFA will determine if the conditions can be met for the issuance of certificate. Should Vietnam's prior agreement be required, this process can take several months to years.<br><br>**Certificate of satisfaction of food safety regulations**<br>Each lot of imported goods of animal origin must be accompanied by a certificate of satisfaction of food safety regulations issued by a competent agency of the exporting country (except for cases of aquatic products), as stipulated in the regulation of 15/2018/ND-CP (also known as Decree 15/2018) "Implementation of food safety law". When importers apply for food safety compliance certification, they need to submit Certificate of Export (Export Certificate) or Certificate of Health (Health Certificate) to ensure safety for users or be sold freely in the market.<br><br>But for food for health protection, food for medical nutrition, food for special diets and nutrition products for children up to 36 months of age, importers need to submit additional Certificate of Free Circulation (Certificate of Free Sale), HACCP or ISO 22000 certificate of equivalence.<br><br>**CITES certified**<br>For animals and animal products published in the list of rare and precious wild animals and plants (according to the laws of Vietnam or cited), enterprises need to provide CITES certified by enterprises. |
| **5** | **Regulations and** | Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood products to VN must meet all their regulations and |

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| | **standards** | standards. The following links are provided as a guide:<br><br>**(1)Pesticide residues**<br>In Vietnam, the maximum pesticide residues in food must comply with the specific requirements of 50/2016/TT-BYT "Maximum residue levels of pesticides in foods" issued by the Ministry of Health. According to this regulation, all domestic and imported foods must comply with the maximum residue levels of pesticides established by the regulation, specifically including the names of plant protection drugs (names of active substances), ADI values, substance to be tested for pesticide residue, food names, maximum residue levels and remarks, etc. In addition, Vietnam has also formulated a list of prohibited pesticides, which is mainly reflected in the "List of pesticides permitted and prohibited in Vietnam"; it defines a list of plant protection drugs prohibited in Vietnam, involving various types of pesticide substances such as fungicides and herbicides, etc.<br><br>**(2)Veterinary drug residues**<br>24/2013/TT-BYT "Maximum levels of residues of veterinary drugs in food" stipulate the maximum residue limit requirements in food, and stipulate the scope of application of the regulation and the regulatory and review institutions. According to the regulations, all domestic and imported veterinary drug residues in Vietnamese food shall meet the specific requirements of the regulation. The specific limited information is mainly reflected in the form of attached table, which mainly includes veterinary drug name, ADI value, main effective components, product type, MRL value and limited unit. In addition, the list of veterinary drugs prohibited for use in aquatic and terrestrial animals is set out in Appendix 2 of the list of veterinary drugs allowed to be circulated and prohibited in Vietnam issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.<br><br>**(3)Contaminants**<br>In Vietnam, contaminants mainly involve metal contaminants and radioactive contaminants, and their specific limit requirements are specified in different regulations.<br><br>In the QCVN 8-2:2011/BYT "National regulation on heavy metal contamination limit in foods", the limit requirements for arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methylmercury and tin in various foods are specified by 6 |

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| | | tables. Also, the test methods of various heavy metal contaminants are introduced therein, mainly involving Vietnam TCVN standards and AOAC related methods.<br><br>In the 17/2011/TT-BYT "Standard for radioactive nuclear contamination in foods", the limit requirements for radioactive contaminants in Vietnam's domestic and imported foods that may be contaminated by nuclear accidents are specified. Only the foods that meet the limit requirements of this standard can be imported to Vietnam. The limit requirements are listed in a schedule, which specifies the food names, radioisotopes, limit values and remarks. The standard mainly involves two categories of foods: other foods and foods for infants under 12 months.<br><br>**(4)Mycotoxins**<br>Vietnam's requirements for mycotoxins in foods are mainly stipulated in QCVN 8-1:2011/BYT "National regulations on mycotoxins contamination limits in foods", which mainly specifies the limit requirements for aflatoxins, ochratoxin A, patulin, deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and fumonisins in the form of six Tables. In addition, detection methods thereof are introduced where the AOAC methods are basically adopted.<br><br>**(5)Microorganisms**<br>In Vietnam, the limit of microbial contamination in foods mainly involves regulation 05/2012/TT-BYT "National standards for microbial contamination in foods" .<br><br>The 05/2012/TT-BYT "National standards for microbial contamination in foods" specifies the concrete limit requirements for microorganisms in eight categories of foods including dairy and dairy products, eggs and egg products, meat and meat products, seafood products and fishery products, nutrition products for children aged 0~36 months, fruits & vegetables and fruit & vegetable products, ice cream, as well as bottled natural mineral water, bottled drinking water and ready-to-drink ice water. In addition, it specifies the detection methods of related microorganisms, mainly related to the Vietnam TCVN standards, and some ISO methods. .<br><br>**(6)Food additives and nutrients**<br>This 2023 summary circular "consolidates regulations on management and use of food additives." It covers the labelling requirements for food additives. In addition, four annexes respectively stipulate: the list of food |

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| | | additives that are allowed to be used in foods (including INS number, additive name and function); the maximum level of additives in foods and the maximum level of food additives in foods not specified in CODEX STAN 192-1995; the list of food additives that must be used in accordance with GMP in corresponding foods; the list of food category and classification description.<br><br>The 44/2015/TT-BYT "Category of micronutrients used in foods" sets out management requirements for the use of micronutrients to supplement and enhance foods (requirements for placing on the market, labelling, use requirements, *etc.*), and provides a list of vitamins and minerals used in foods in the form of an Annex. This is common to all foods, if the food production companies need to use micronutrients, it should refer to this regulation.<br><br>**(7)Product specifications**<br>Vietnam has formulated several product-related regulations specific for fish and seafood products as follows:<br>- 82/2009/TT-BNNPTNT "Promulgation of national technical regulations on food hygiene and safety conditions in fisheries production"<br>- 08/2016/TT-BNNPTNT "Food safety monitoring regulations on agricultural, forestry and fishery products"<br>- 3824/QD-BNN-TCTS "Good Aquaculture Practices in Vietnam (VietGap)" |
| **6** | **Labelling, packaging and marking requirements** | **(1)Labelling**<br>Vietnam issued the 43/2017/ND-CP "Regulations on labeling of commodity" and 111/2021 ND-CP "Amending and supplementing Decree 43/2017/ND-CP". All goods circulated in the Vietnamese market, including the domestically produced and imported products, shall follow the requirements of such regulations on labelling and their related management.<br><br>According to the requirements of the above regulations, labels must be in Vietnamese and cover all mandatory contents. Food imported for consumption and circulation in the Vietnamese market must be labelled in either of the following ways:<br><br>i) the original label of food refers to the label of food manufacturers on food packaging for the first time. For |

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| | | imported products, it is the original foreign label.<br><br>ii)The additional label is to translate the mandatory content of the source language (foreign language) into Vietnamese and supplement the mandatory content missing from the original label (foreign language label). The contents can be included in a foreign language but must match the Vietnamese description, with their font size no larger than the relevant ones in Vietnamese.<br><br>The mandatory labelling contents for food include: i) Name of goods, ii) Name and address of the enterprise responsible for the goods; iii) Origin of goods; iv) Ingredient list; v) Net content; vi) Production date and expiration dates; vii) Food Safety Certificate No.; viii) Additional details in conformity with the nature of the goods prescribed in Appendix I of 43/2017/ND-CP and other relevant legal documents.<br><br>In addition, Vietnam has issued 29/2023/TT-BYT "Guidelines for the content and method of recording nutritional ingredients and nutritional values on food labels". It would be mandatory for prepackaged food imported into Vietnam to come with nutritional label (covering reference values for energy, protein, carbohydrates, fat, sodium, sugar, and etc. by 1 Jan 2026.<br><br>The label of fish and seafood products should not only meet the requirements of the above general label regulations, but also meet the label requirements of product specifications.<br><br>**(2)Packaging and marking requirements**<br>Article 18 under Section 3 of the 55/2010/QH12 "Law on food safety" of Vietnam stipulates food packaging containers shall comply with the following: food packaging containers shall not cause food contamination from other substances and do harm to human health; food packaging containers shall not contain any pathogenic microorganisms; food packaging containers shall not cause peculiar smell to foods.<br><br>The Vietnam Ministry of Health issued 34/2011/TT-BYT "Regulations on food contact packaging materials" and 35/2015/TT-BYT "Regulations on food contact glass, ceramic and porcelain packaging materials" as the specific regulatory requirements of Vietnam for food contact materials, which stipulate that food manufacturers and distributors have the responsibility to ensure the safety and compliance of food packaging |

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| | | materials. |
| **7** | **Other information** | **Customs inspection**<br>Regulations of 08/2015/ND-CP stipulates the customs procedures for imported goods and the detailed content of the inspection of goods. At present, the General Department of Vietnam Customs inspects imported goods in three forms, namely the green, yellow, and red channels. Each category reflects the different risk levels of food in the customs risk management system. Among them, the goods in the green channel can be exempted from detailed import information and no on-site inspection; for the goods in the yellow channel, the import information must be checked in detail, and the on-site inspection can be exempted.<br><br>**Disposal of non-conforming imported product**<br>According to the regulations of 128/2020/ND-CP and 102/2021/ND-CP, when unqualified products are found during the inspection of imported food, the General Department of Vietnam Customs will take corresponding measures for specific situations, mainly including three types. The first type: destroy the goods (if the substandard products are still in the warehouse); The second type: return to the seller. In this case, the seller shall bear the relevant return costs (if the substandard product is still in the warehouse and is intact); The third type: If the product has been sold in the market, the importer will accept severe penalties.<br><br>**WTO Import Licensing Procedures**<br>Viet Nam's legislation and notifications<br><br>**ASEAN resources on prepared / processed foods**<br>Regulation - Viet Nam (contains a comprehensive list of regulations, standards, and decrees in static PDF files)<br><br>**ASEAN Trade Repository**<br>ASEAN Member States' National Trade Repositories<br>Search Harmonised Standards in ASEAN<br><br>**USDA GAIN Report and Analysis** |

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| | | Vietnam FAIRS Annual Country Report provides guidelines on Vietnam's food import regulations to American exporters<br>Vietnam Releases Draft Circular Proposing Amendments to Existing Circulars Related to the Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and Terrestrial Animal Products provides highlights of notable amendments<br><br>**Import Procedures**<br>The Vietnam Trade Information Portal and corresponding Search Goods Measures provide specific and special import/export requirements and standards. For example, enter "animal products" in the keyword search tool and click search to retrieve relevant information on meat and meat products.<br><br>The Vietnam Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notification Authority and Enquiry Point provides notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on changes in sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.<br><br>The process of imported food mainly includes three links: supervision before import, supervision during import and supervision after import. |

*35/2018/TT-BNNPTNT

**Although this document has expired, it provides a historical record of the relevant specifications in English*

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