SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Viet Nam (VN)
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**	Fruits & Vegetables and their products are eligible for export from Singapore to Vietnam. Vietnam implements strict access management for imported terrestrial animal products, aquatic animal products and plant products used as foods. According to Article 14 of Chapter 5 of the 15/2018/ND-CP (also known as Decree 15/2018) "Implementation of food safety law", imported terrestrial animal products, aquatic animal products and plant products used as foods must originate from countries or regions that have a food safety control system complying with Vietnam's regulations, and shall be signed and published by Vietnam's competent authority on the list of registered countries exporting of plant origin products to Vietnam. Singapore is included in the countries that can export plants and plant origin foods to Vietnam announced by the Plant Protection Department (PPD).
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. The Plant Protection Department under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for pre-

		import inspection, quarantine and safety check of fruits and vegetables; 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 fruits and vegetables; General Department of Vietnam Customs is responsible for checking the plant quarantine certificates of fruits and vegetables at the time of import.
3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**GRANT CERTIFICATE OF FOOD QUALITY SAFETY** 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. **Food safety self-declaration and announcement of conformity with food safety regulations** According to the provisions of Vietnam's 55/2010/QH12 "Law on food safety" 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. **(1) Application for handling food safety self-declaration**. The procedures and material requirements involved in application for handling food safety self-declaration are as follows: (a) Inspect the food products at the national institute of food safety control designated by the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vietnam Ministry of Health and the Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade or in a laboratory in compliance with ISO 17025; (b) Fill out the application form for food safety self-declaration in accordance with the template in the annex of the 15/2018/ND-CP (also known as Decree 15/2018) "Implementation of food safety law", (c) Provide the product label pictures; (d) Submit the product safety indicator results (results within 12 months), the label pictures, and the application form for food safety self-declaration to the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade;

		(e) The relevant competent authority will issue a food safety self-declaration certificate to the food enterprise within 7 working days. **<u>(2) Application for handling announcement of conformity with food safety regulations</u>**. The procedures and material requirements involved in application for announcement of conformity with food safety regulations are as follows: (a) Inspect the food products at the national institute of food safety control designated by the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vietnam Ministry of Health and the Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade or in a laboratory in compliance with ISO 17025; (b) Fill out the application form for announcement of conformity with food safety regulations in accordance with Template 2 in Annex 1 of the "Detailed regulations on the implementation of certain articles of the food safety law"; (c) The certificate of free sale, certificate of exportation or health certificate issued by the relevant government agency of the country of origin/exporting country, which must undergo consular legalization (must be stamped by the consulate of the exporting country in Vietnam); (d) The detailed information table of the products; (e) The product samples; (f) The product labels; (g) HACCP or ISO 22000 certificate of equivalence (if any); (h) The importer's business license (the business license for operating or producing food products) and the food production license of the production enterprise; (i) Submit all the above materials, samples and product safety indicator results (results within 12 months) to the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vietnam Ministry of Health and the Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade; (j) Generally, the relevant agency will issue an announcement of conformity with food safety regulations within 7 working days. If additional information is needed, the relevant agency will contact the importer within one week. **Establishments**

		Vietnam does not require that production enterprises exporting fruits & vegetables to Vietnam need to obtain a license from Vietnam. Exporting enterprises only need to provide a certificate of registration/license from the competent authority of Singapore (to prove that the exporting enterprises are subject to regulatory supervision). **Import quarantine & inspection** Vietnam requires foodstuffs of fruits & vegetables to be registered for import quarantine and food safety inspection prior to importation to Vietnam. 30/2014/TT-BNNPTNT specifies the list of articles subject to pest risk analysis and plant quarantine. These products will be subject to the inspection and quarantine of Plant Protection Department, and they can only be sold in Vietnam market after passing the inspection and quarantine. 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**	**Phytosanitary Certificate** A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Parks Board (NParks) is required for each consignment. For exports that require a Phytosanitary Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to NParks here. **Certificate of satisfaction of food safety regulations** Each lot of imported goods of plant 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.

		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.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fruits and vegetables to VN must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1)Pesticide residues** 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. **(2)Veterinary drug residues** NA **(3)Contaminants** In Vietnam, contaminants mainly involve metal contaminants and radioactive contaminants, and their specific limit requirements are specified in different regulations. In the QCVN 8-2011/BYT "", the limit requirements for arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methylmercury and tin in various foods are specified by 6 tables. Also, the test methods of various heavy metal contaminants are introduced therein, mainly involving Vietnam TCVN standards and AOAC related methods. 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 involve two categories of foods: other foods and foods for infants under 12 months. **(4)Mycotoxins** Vietnam's requirements for mycotoxins in foods are mainly reflected in the 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. **(5)Microorganisms** In Vietnam, the limit of microbial contamination in foods mainly involves regulation QCVN 8-1:2011/BYT "National standards for microbial contamination in foods" . 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. **(6)Food additives and nutrients** 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 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.

		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. **(7)Genetically modified food** Vietnam has published a list of genetically modified organisms that can be used as food. The list lists genetically modified foods that are allowed for commercial use, including corn, soybean, rapeseed oil, sugar beet, etc. In Vietnam, research and development activities related to the creation, analysis and testing of GMOs and their products are currently only allowed in GMO research laboratories approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The "Regulations on the safety management of products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs)" specifies that genetically modified organisms used for foods must obtain a written certificate of qualification for use issued by the Vietnam Ministry of Health. The review and assessment of the qualification certificate is mainly based on the consideration of safety risks: the written certification materials of application for the qualification of food use have been reviewed by the genetically modified food safety committee, and it is believed that such GMOs do not pose uncontrollable risks to human health; or at least 5 developed countries allow them to be used for foods, and no risks have been found in these countries. Producers and traders of GMOs and their products must ensure that: 1) the GMO has been granted a qualification for food use in writing, or has been included in the list of GMOs eligible for food use (except for being revoked); 2) they comply with the provisions of laws and regulations related to the food production and trading law. Currently, the Vietnam Ministry of Health has published a list of GMOs that can be used for foods. At present, Vietnam's laws and regulations on genetically modified foods mainly include the "Ordinances on the implementation of the food safety law", the "National regulations on the safety management of genetically modified organisms and their products", the 108/2011/ND-CP "Amendment to certain provisions of Regulation 69/2010/ND-CP", and the 45/2015/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BKHCN "Ordinances on the labelling of genetically modified prepackaged foods" and so on.

		(8)Irradiated food Vietnam allows irradiation of fruits and vegetables. Irradiated food shall meet the requirements of "Ordinances on the implementation of the food safety law" and the 3616/2004/QD-BYT "Ordinances on health and safety of irradiated foods". In Vietnam, the irradiated food is regulated by the Food Safety Authority under the Ministry of Health. Only under the written approval of the Food Safety Authority, the food irradiation enterprise can carry out the corresponding business. Not all foods are allowed to be irradiated. Article 9 of the "Ordinances on health and safety of irradiated foods" stipulates a list of irradiated foods and their maximum absorbed dose requirements. According to the different purposes of irradiation, the food irradiation process shall ensure that the absorbed dose of each kind of food does not exceed the limit specified in this regulation. **(9)Product specifications** Vietnam has formulated a number of product-related regulations specific for vegetables and fruits as follows: - TCVN 10926:2015 Green beans - Storage and refigerated transport - TCVN 10925:2015 Melons - Cold storage and refrigerated transport - TCVN 10924:2015 Root vegetables - Cold storage and refrigerated transport - TCVN 10919:2015 Pickled fruits and vegetable - TCVN 10394:2014 Canned vegetables For more product-related standards, please refer to: https://vanbanphapluat.co/linh-vuc/nong-nghiep?l=tieu-chuan-viet-nam
6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1)Labelling** 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.

		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: i) the original label of food refers to the label of food manufacturers on food packaging for the first time. For imported products, it is the original foreign label. 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. 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. 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. According to 45/2015/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BKHCN "Ordinances on the labelling of genetically modified prepackaged foods", if the content of genetically modified ingredients in foods exceeds 5%, the word "biếnđổi gen" (GM) must be labelled next to the name of the genetically modified ingredient, and its content shall be indicated. Article 10 of 3616/2004/QD-BYT "Ordinances on health and safety of irradiated foods" stipulates that the label of irradiated food must be marked with the words "Thực phẩm chiếu xạ" (irradiated food) or may be labelled with a mark that identifies irradiated food. However, such provision only applies to foods, rather than product

		raw materials, and products containing irradiated raw materials are not required to label the irradiated food mark. The label of fruits and vegetables and their products should not only meet the requirements of the above general label regulations, but also meet the label requirements of product specifications. **(2)Packaging and marking requirements** 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. The Vietnam Ministry of Health issued the 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 materials.
7	**Other information**	**Customs inspection** Regulations of 08/2015/ND-CP stipulate 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. **Disposal of non-conforming imported product** 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. **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Viet Nam's legislation and notifications **ASEAN resources on prepared / processed foods** Regulation - Viet Nam (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 Report and Analysis** Vietnam FAIRS Annual Country Report provides guidelines on Vietnam's food import regulations to American exporters 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 **Import Procedures** 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. 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. 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*

Disclaimer: SFA is providing this document for information purposes only. While care has been expended in the preparation of this report, SFA makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this document. Appropriate professional advice should be obtained before relying on or acting on any of the information contained in this document, and neither SFA nor any of its officers, employees or agents shall be held liable for any loss or damage, whether direct or indirect, as a result of any improper or incorrect use of the information in this document.