

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
ON THE DRAFT FOOD (AMENDMENT NO. X) REGULATIONS 2022
- DELETION OF STANDARDS OF IDENTITY (PHASE 1) -**

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The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) initiated a public consultation from 15 March 2022 to 16 May 2022 on the draft Food (Amendment No. X) Regulations 2022 concerning the deletion of 59 standards of identity from the Food Regulations (Phase 1)¹. Concurrently, trading partners and interested parties were notified via World Trade Organisation (WTO) TBT notification G/TBT/N/SGP/64 during the same period.

At the close of the public consultation exercise and WTO notification period, SFA received comments from four respondents, all of whom did not object to the deletion of the 59 standards of identity. SFA's replies to the respondents are summarised in Table 1.

SFA appreciates the time taken by all parties to submit feedback and comments which contribute to the decision-making process. The amendments are targeted to come into effect in the fourth quarter of 2022. We would like to encourage all parties to actively participate in future calls for comments.

¹ Refer to the ANNEX for the list of standards of identity to be deleted in Phase 1.

TABLE 1

A. Comments on references to use in the absence of standards of identity	SFA’s response
<p>1. Two respondents sought advice and clarification on suitable references to use, in the absence of the standards of identity, for checking compliance of their raw materials or for product formulation.</p>	<p>The proposed deletion of the standards of identity does not affect food safety. All food products imported, manufactured, and sold in Singapore must comply with prevailing food safety provisions, such as use of food additives and maximum limits for incidental constituents, as well as relevant labelling requirements that are specified under the Food Regulations. For matters relating to food safety regulatory standards, the industry can refer to SFA’s website for details on regulatory limits.</p> <p>Although the standards of identity will be deleted, the industry continues to be responsible for ensuring that the name or product descriptor as labelled is accurate and sufficient to reflect the true nature and contents of the prepacked food; and to ensure that the food does not carry claims or suggestions that are false, misleading or deceptive, or are likely to create an erroneous impression regarding the value, merit or safety of the food.</p> <p>SFA has stated in the document “Response to Comments Received From the Public Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Food Regulations to Delete Standards of Identity” that the industry may refer to any of the following for guidance on product formulation, quality criteria and other product issues not related to food safety:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commodity standards (which are essentially standards of identity) established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission • Relevant Singapore Standards or industry standards • Standards of identity in the country of origin (for imported products); • Standards of identity in the country that they intend to export the products to
<p>B. Comments on deletion of Phase 2 standards of identity</p>	
<p>2. One respondent sought clarification if the deletion of standards of identity for whisky would fall under Phase 2.</p> <p>3. Another respondent sought clarification on which standards of identity would be retained and which would be deleted in Phase 2</p> <p>4. The same respondent commented that certain products such as distilled spirits do not have a Codex standard and often face contradictory national standards in the country of origin. The respondent would like to know how SFA would address such issues.</p>	<p>Standards of identity are currently specified under Regulations 39 to 260 of the Food Regulations. SFA plans to delete these standards of identity from the Food Regulations in two Phases. Only those standards of identity that are needed for food safety reasons, or to support the policies that have an impact on public health will continue to remain in the Food Regulations. 59 standards of identity (refer to ANNEX I) will be deleted in Phase 1. The remaining standards of identity will be deleted in Phase 2, tentatively targeted for 2023. The deletion of standards for whiskies, distilled spirits and other alcoholic drinks will come under Phase 2.</p> <p>The proposed deletion of the standards of identity does not compromise food safety. Food businesses continue to be responsible for ensuring that the name or product descriptor as labelled is accurate and sufficient to reflect the true nature and contents of the prepacked food product (including alcoholic beverages); and to ensure that the food does not carry claims or suggestions that are false, misleading or deceptive,</p>

	<p>or are likely to create an erroneous impression regarding the value, merit or safety of the food. SFA has the power to take regulatory action should there be non-compliance with the regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Product names for wines and spirits products, among others, may qualify to be protected as geographical indications (GIs) under the Geographical Indications Act. Where protected, rights holders may undertake the relevant enforcement measures against unauthorised use. For more information about the nature and protection of GIs in Singapore, please refer to the Intellectual Property of Singapore website at: https://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/geographical-indications.</p>
<p>C. Comments on whether Regulation 109 on Labelling of Milk will be deleted</p>	
<p>5. One respondent enquired if Regulation 109 on Labelling of Milk would be deleted.</p>	<p>The deletion of standards of identity will not affect Regulation 109 of the Food Regulations, which is on the labelling of milk and milk products required under Regulations 101(2), 102(2), 103(3) and 104(2). These labelling requirements will be retained for food safety reasons, as they provide information to the effect that the respective products are not suitable for the feeding of infants.</p>
<p>D. Comments on the impact of the deletion of standards of identity on the Labelling and Advertising Requirements for “Nutri-Grade Beverages” sold in Singapore</p>	
<p>6. One respondent sought clarification on the impact of the deletion of standards of identity, in particular</p>	<p>The deletion of standards of identity from the Food Regulations will not affect the implementation of the new</p>

<p>Regulation 184 on Labelling of Non-alcoholic Drinks, on the Ministry of Health/Health Promotion Board's new regulations on Labelling and Advertising Requirements for "Nutri-Grade Beverages" sold in Singapore.</p>	<p>regulations 184A to 184F on Labelling and Advertising Requirements for "Nutri-Grade Beverages" sold in Singapore as these regulations are required to support the policies that have an impact on public health.</p> <p>The new regulations 184A to 184F have been gazetted under the Food (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2021 on 30 December 2021 and will come into operation on 30 December 2022.</p>
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ANNEX – STANDARDS OF IDENTITY TO BE DELETED IN PHASE 1

Regulations to be deleted	
43	Protein-increased flour
44	Corn flour
45	Rice flour
46	Tapioca flour
50	Fruit bread
51	Rye bread
52	Milk bread
70	Meat paste or pate
76	Fish paste
77	Fish cakes and fish balls
80	Coconut oil
81	Corn oil
82	Cottonseed oil
83	Groundnut oil
84	Olive oil
85	Safflower oil
86	Sesame oil
87	Soya bean oil
88	Sunflower seed oil
108	Whey
214	Aniseed (Jintan manis)
215	Caraway seed (Jintan)
216	Greater Cardamon (Kepulaga Besar) or Lesser Cardamon (Kepulaga Kecil)
217	Celery seed (Biji Seladeri)
218	Chilli
219	Cinnamon (Kayu Manis)
220	Cloves (Bunga Cengkih)
221	Coriander (Ketumbar)
222	Cumin seed (Jintan Putih)
223	Black Cumin (Jintan Hitam)
224	Dill seed (Adas Manis)
225	Fennel fruit or seeds (Adas Pedas)
226	Fenugreek (Halba)
227	Ginger
228	Mace (Jaitree) (Bunga Pala)
229	Mustard seed (Biji Sawi)
230	Prepared mustard
231	Nutmeg (Buah Pala)
232	Black pepper or pepper corn

Regulations to be deleted
233 White pepper
234 Star anise (Bunga Pekak)
235 Tumeric (Kunyit)
236 Curry powder
237 Almond essence
238 Ginger essence
239 Lemon essence
240 Lemon oil
241 Orange essence
242 Peppermint essence
243 Rose essence
244 Vanilla extract
245 Flavouring essences
246 Monosodium glutamate
249 Low-calorie food
255 Agar
257 Edible gelatin
258 Fish crackers
259 Prawn crackers
260 Rice