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Report Highlights:

The report provides information on the regulations and procedures for the importation of food and agricultural products from the United States to Singapore. Updates include the Food (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that came into effect July 31, 2022. The amendments make changes to the Food Regulations to allow the usage of Pathogen Reduction Treatments (PRTs) on raw meat. Also added to the Food Regulations is the Seventeenth Schedule that lists approved PRTs and their maximum permitted levels.

DISCLAIMER:

This report was prepared by the OAA/FAS Singapore for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate, either because policies have changed since its preparation or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY

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Executive Summary

Singapore's highly import dependent food industry is driven by robust consumer spending, high disposable incomes, and intense urbanization. The country's trade and regulatory policies are focused on ensuring consistent foreign supply of safe, high-quality food and agricultural products. The Singapore Food Agency (SFA), a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, is responsible for all food-related regulations in the country. Established on April 1, 2019, SFA oversees food safety and food security matters in Singapore.

SFA's Food Regulations, under the Sale of Food Act, provide detailed information on Singapore's guidelines governing imported food and agricultural products. All imported and locally produced food, beverage, and edible agricultural products (including food ingredients) are required to adhere with the prevailing requirements in these statutes.

Of particular interest to the U.S. meat industry are the Food (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that came into effect as of July 31, 2022. The amendments make changes to the Food Regulations to allow the usage of Pathogen Reduction Treatments (PRTs) on raw meat. Also added to the Food Regulations is the Seventeenth Schedule that lists approved PRTs and their maximum permitted levels. The new PRT regulations will help to expand market access for U.S. meat products into Singapore, especially for beef and beef products.

Section I: Food Laws

As there is very little local agricultural production, Singapore is highly dependent on imports for its food requirements. As a result, Singapore's food laws, policies and enforcement practices are focused on ensuring consistent foreign supply of safe food and agricultural products for the country. While Singapore can be strict on sanitary and phytosanitary issues, the country maintains a generally liberal and open trade system. In general, Singapore does not impose quotas and tariffs on imported food and agricultural products (except tobacco and alcoholic beverages).



The SFA took over all food-related regulatory responsibilities from the defunct Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) in April 2019. At the same time, a National Center for Food Science (NCFS) was established under SFA to consolidate the food laboratory capabilities of AVA. All of AVA's animal related functions (including animal and wildlife management) have been transferred to the Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS) of the National Parks Board (NParks), under the Ministry of National Development (MND).

SFA has adopted AVA's science-based risk analysis and management approach based on international standards such as those under Codex Alimentarius and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Legislation

SFA administers several statutes, including the Singapore Food Agency Act of 2019 (Act 11 of 2019, enacted to establish the SFA), the Feeding Stuffs Act (Chapter 105), the Fisheries Act (Chapter 111), the Sale of Food Act (Chapter 283), the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act (Chapter 349A), the Environmental

Public Health Act, and the Infectious Disease Act and all respective subsidiary legislation. All imported and locally produced food, beverages, and agricultural products are governed by SFA's laws and regulations.

Perhaps the most important statute for U.S. exporters is the Sale of Food Act (Chapter 283) which ensures that *"food for sale is safe and suitable for human consumption and to promote public health, for ensuring the provision of information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices and for preventing misleading conduct in connection with the sale of food"*. The Sale of Food Act's subsidiary legislation includes the following:

- Food Regulations (regulations under the Sale of Food Act)
- Sale of Food (Appeal to Minister — Prescribed Period) Regulations 2018
- Sale of Food (Composition of Offences) Regulations
- Sale of Food (Fees) Regulations
- Sale of Food (Non-Retail Food Business) Regulations
- Sale of Food (Exemption for Non-Retail Food Business) Order 2018

Within the Sale of Food Act, the Food Regulations provide detailed information on Singapore's guidelines governing imported food and agricultural products. All imported and locally produced food, beverage, and edible agricultural products (including food ingredients) are required to adhere with the prevailing requirements in these statutes.

The Food Regulations contain specific provisions on the following:

- General requirements for labeling (regulation no. 5)
- Exemptions from general requirements for labeling/regulation 5 (regulation no.6)
- Containers to be labeled (regulation no. 7)
- Hampers to be labeled (regulation no. 8)
- Nutrition information panels (regulation no. 8a)
- Prohibition on false or misleading statements, etc., on labels (regulation no. 9)
- Exceptions from prohibitions on claims on labels (regulation no. 9a)
- Limitations on making particular statements or claims on labels (regulation no. 9b)
- Date-marking (Regulation no. 10)
- Removal, etc., of date-marking prohibited (regulation no. 10a)
- Claims as to presence of vitamins and minerals (regulation no. 11)
- Misleading statements in advertisements (regulation no.12)
- Imported food to be registered (regulation no. 14)
- Food additives (regulations nos.15 to 28)
- Incidental constituents in food (regulations nos. 29 to 35)
- Mineral hydrocarbons (regulation no. 36)
- Containers for food (regulation no. 37)
- Irradiated food (regulation no. 38)