

SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Philippines (PH)
Food Product Category	Meat and Meat Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0201-0210, 1501-1503, 1506, 1601-1603

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	Fresh meat is not eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. According to The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 9296), fresh meat refers to the hot, cold, frozen or thawed meat, including minimally processed meat, such as hot blanching and natural surface flavouring. Food products – chilled or frozen, containing raw or unprocessed meat products – are again not eligible for exports. Only fully processed pork meat products are eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. To avoid doubt, other processed meat (such as beef, mutton, and poultry etc.) products are not eligible for export from Singapore to Philippines. - Pork and processed pork products including pork meat and pork skin which were then temporarily banned (FDA Order No. 2023-0790) due to veterinary conditions (suspected to be affected by African Swine Fever) have been lifted since Dec 2023 (Memorandum Order No. 74, series of 2023) and upheld since Feb 2024 (FDA Order No. 2023-0790-A). The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 9296) and Act Amendment of The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 10536) state the rules and regulations governing the evaluation of foreign meat establishments intending to export meat to Philippines.

2	Importing country authority	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) are the competent authorities in-charge of regulating import of meat and meat products into Philippines. FDA is primarily responsible for regulating processed meat products while DoA and BAI are responsible for regulating fresh meat. Imported food must comply with the Food Safety Act of 2013 and Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10611 (Joint DA-DOH Administrative Order No. 2015-0007).
3	Pre-export approvals by the importing country	Products The import of meat and meat products is subject to Department of Agriculture Administrative Orders as well as Memorandum Orders. Establishments Establishment listing is required for fresh meat exported from Singapore to the Philippines. National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) maintains the list of accredited of meat establishments (namely, slaughterhouse, poultry dressing plant, cold storage warehouse, meat cutting plant, meat distribution centre, meat importers, meat establishment fabricators, meat establishment contractors, and meat establishment equipment suppliers). The list of accredited countries approved to export meat to the Philippines can be viewed here. Singapore is not in the list. Importers (for fresh and/or processed food) - Importers of fresh meat and/or meat products must - Comply with Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Agricultural and Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals, Veterinary Drugs and Biological Products into the Philippines (Administrative Circular No. 6, series of 2022). - Get registered as an importer in line with Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines (Administrative Order No. 26, series of 2005). - Meet requirements for the accreditation of animal products and by products. - Secure the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) from the BAI prior to importation.

	- Submit all prescribed documents to the Veterinary Quarantine Officer at the port of entry where the shipment will be subject to documentary verification and veterinary inspection. Importers (for processed food) Importers must comply with Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Agricultural and Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals, Veterinary Drugs and Biological Products into the Philippines (Administrative Circular No. 6, series of 2022). Importers must also register for the License to Operate (LTO) and the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) before importing processed food into Philippines. (1)License to Operate (LTO) Importers are required to first register their business in the E-portal system of the FDA to obtain a License to Operate (LTO) before importing into Philippines. Establishments which are verified to have obtained LTO are published here. LTO is a pre-requisite to obtain CPR. Requirements on operating license are detailed in Prescribing the Rules, Requirements and Procedures in the Application for License to Operate of Covered Health Product Establishments (Administrative Order No. 2024-0015) including for covered food business operators as well as Revised Guidelines on the Unified Licensing Requirements and Procedures (Administrative Order No. 2020-0017). (2)Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) Importers are also required to register their processed products in the E-portal system of the FDA to obtain a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) before importing into Philippines. Products which are verified to have obtained CPR are published here. Requirements on product registration are detailed in Rules and Regulations on Licensing of Food Establishments and Registration of Processed Foods, and Other Food Products, and for Other Purposes (Administrative Order No. 2014-29). Upcoming Pre-Border Technical Verification (PTV) and Cross-Border Electronic Invoicing (CEI) of All Imported Commodities The Philippines government is building a digital and integrated Customs system for all imported commodities, including agricultural products. Exporters must engage Philippines-accredited testing, inspection and
--	--

		certification (TIC) companies in the country of origin to check all commodities before exporting to the Philippines. Exporters must also register in the CEI system and issue e-invoices through the upcoming platform before exporting to the Philippines. The new regulatory Customs procedures are detailed in Implementing A Digital and Integrated System for the Pre-Border Technical Verification and Cross-Border Electronic Invoicing of All Import Commodities (Joint Administrative Order No. 001-2025).
4	Export certificates for food	An Export Health Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) may be required for each consignment. For exports that require an Export Health Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to SFA here. Otherwise, a Free Sale Certificate provides evidence that the food is fit for human consumption. Revised Guidelines in the Importation of Agricultural Products (Administrative Order No. 18, series of 2000) states that where an Import Permit (SPS Certificate) must be required prior to importation of agricultural products; live animals; plants; fishes; their products and by-products, such importation must be accompanied by a Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Health Certificate from the country of origin. Provision E, Section III of Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines states the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) (issued by BAI to the importer) will form the basis of the Health Certificate (to be issued by the National Veterinary Administration or equivalent competent authority of the exporting country). Depending on the VQC, the following conditions must be met for the issuance of Health Certificate: 1) The meat products originated from Singapore and were manufactured at an establishment licensed by SFA. 2) The raw meat were legally imported into Singapore from SFA-approved sources. 3) The raw meat were accompanied by an official veterinary certificate from the competent authority of the country of origin certifying that the meat was derived from food animals that passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and found to be free from dangerous communicable animal diseases. 4) The raw meat had been duly inspected on arrival in Singapore by SFA inspectors and found to be fit for human consumption. 5) The meat products were handled, processed, packed, stored, and transported under sanitary conditions. 6) The meat products do not contain ingredients injurious to health.

		7) The meat products meet veterinary requirements and are fit for human consumption.
5	Regulations and standards	Interested exporters who wish to export meat and meat products to Philippines must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: (1)Food Additives Updated list of food additives (Bureau Circular No. 2006-016) and <i>draft</i> Revised Guidelines on Food Additives and Processing Aids respectively provides a list of permitted food additives and prescribes upcoming guidelines for their use and application in foods distributed in Philippines whether locally manufactured or imported. In addition, the FDA has established regulatory requirements for some food additives: - Prohibited Artificial Sweeteners (B-6.2 Food Additives & Preservatives) (Administrative Order No. 123, series of 1970) prohibit the use of artificial sweeteners. - Guidelines on the Use of Cyclamates (G/TBT/PHL/276) will soon repeal General Regulation Governing the Prohibition of the Use of Cyclamic Acid and its Salts (B-6.3 Food Additives and Preservatives) (Administrative Order No. 122, series of 1970) to regulate the use of cyclamates. (2)Fortification Implementing Rules and Regulations for the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 stipulates the types of staple food products that require mandatory fortification and the corresponding minimum and maximum levels of relevant nutrient fortification. Guidelines on Micronutrient Fortification of Processed Foods (Administrative Order No. 4-A, series of 1995) stipulate the basis for the rational addition of nutrients in processed foods and aims to avoid over-or-under fortification. (3)Microorganisms Guidelines on the Microbiological Requirements and Assessment of Certain Prepackaged Processed Food Products (FDA Circular No. 2022-012) repeals Revised Guidelines for the Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Processed Foods (FDA Circular No. 2013-010). The reference criteria for specific food commodities are stated in Tables 1 to 14.

	(4)Contaminants Adoption of the Codex Standards on Food Contaminants in Processed Food (FDA Circular No. 2010-008) stipulates that the adoption of current Codex Standards on Food Contaminants and subsequent amendments or revision thereto as basis in prescribing the maximum allowable limit of food contaminants in processed food. In particular, dairy products should be tested free of melamine as per Testing of Infant Formula and Other Milk Product for the Presence of Melamine (Bureau Circular No. 2008-004). (5)Pesticide Residues Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) has published the Philippine National Standards (Enter “pesticide” in the <i>Search</i> box to check for the relevant standards). There are specific standards on maximum residue limits in okra, pineapple, mango, banana, milled rice, and local crops. PNS/BAFS 292:2020 Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides on Selected Imported Crops stipulates the maximum residue limit of pesticides on apples, citrus fruits, grapes, longan, lychee, oranges, and pears. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is responsible for regulating the safe and appropriate use of fertilizer and pesticide (which includes determining the banned and restricted pesticides). The following resources were published as guides for fertilizer and pesticide handlers in their registration requirements: - Fertilizer Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines (Blue Book) - Pesticide Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines (Green Book) (6)Veterinary Drug Residues Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) has published the Philippine National Standards (Enter “veterinary” in the <i>Search</i> box to check for the relevant standards). PNS/BAFS 48:2022 Veterinary drug residues in food: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) stipulates the maximum residue limit of various veterinary drugs in corresponding animal tissues and species. (7)Traceability FDA is seeking draft for comments regarding Supplemental Guidelines on the Management and Conduct of Product Recall for Prepackaged Processed Food Products.
--	---

		(8)Product Standards Bureau of Philippine Standards and Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) have developed and published Philippine National Standards for food products, , including grading and classification. Some irradiation and organic standards for food are as follows: - PNS/BAFS 151:2015 Code of Practice for Radiation Processing of Food identifies the essential practices to be implemented to achieve effective radiation processing of food. - PNS/BAFS 07:2016 Organic Agriculture stipulates the minimum requirements for organic agriculture.
6	Labelling, packaging and marking requirements	Labelling (1)General requirements Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products (Administrative Order No. 2014-0030) and Addendum to Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products (Administrative Order No. 2014-0030-A) stipulate that labels of all prepackaged food products shall bear the following minimum mandatory information: Product name; Use of brand name; Complete list of ingredients; Net content and drained weight; Name and address of the manufacturer, re-packer, packer, importer, trader, and distributor; Lot identification; Storage conditions; Expiry Date; Food allergen information; Instructions for use; Nutrition facts. The language used for all information on the label shall be either in English or Filipino or a combination thereof. In the case of imported food products, labels where in the information are declared in a foreign language shall always carry the corresponding English translation. All information should be accurate, legible and must be contained in a single sticker. The sticker must be durable (cannot be easily removed from label or packaging). In particular, PNS/BAFS 384:2024 General Labelling Standard of Packaged Primary and Postharvest Foods sets the minimum labelling requirements appropriate for primary and postharvest foods made up in advance in retail and non-retail containers also referred to as packaged foods.

		Adoption of Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intakes as New Dietary Standard (FDA Circular No. 2023-009) requires all prepackaged processed food to use Recommended Energy/Nutrient Intake as the reference standard in nutrition labels. (2)Other requirements General Guidelines on Labelling of Meat and Meat Products (Administrative Order No. 21, series of 2010) stipulates general features and parts of the label, mandatory label information, and other label information. Section VII of Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines (Administrative Order No. 26, series of 2005) stipulates additional packing and labelling requirements. Packaging ASEAN General Guidelines for Food Contact Materials provides a reference on the general guidelines for food contact materials.
7	Other information	WTO Import Licensing Procedures Philippines' legislation and notifications Philippines' participation in WTO ASEAN resources on prepared / processed foods Regulation - Philippines (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 Reports Philippines FAIRS Country Report provides guidelines on Philippines' food import regulations to American exporters

		Philippines Enacted New Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Law for more agricultural and fishery products based on the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act (Republic Act No. 12022) For more details: Flowchart of General Import Procedures, Downloadable from Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR), CFRR Frequently Asked Questions, FDA Verification Portal Frequently Asked Questions, National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division Permit, Accreditation & Registration
--	--	---

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.