

SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Food Product Category	Meat and Meat Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0201 - 0210, 1501-1503, 1506, 1516, 1518, 1601 - 1602

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, chilled and frozen, meat is not eligible for export from Singapore to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Heat-treated processed meat products are eligible for export from Singapore to the UAE.
2	Importing country authority	Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCAE) is responsible for establishing and enforcing food safety regulations. MOCCAE regulates veterinary and plant quarantine issues for domestic agriculture and manages import regulations of live animals, plants and seeds, fisheries, and raw agricultural commodities. The UAE Municipality (Dubai Municipality, Abu Dhabi Municipality, and Sharjah City Municipality) are the principal bodies that oversees the importation process for agricultural goods. It is in-charge of port inspection, testing, label approval, and the release of shipments. The imported foods are examined at the entry port and released after they comply with the import permit and the necessary technical attestations. Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MOIAT) is responsible for issuing national standards and regulations through technical committees and specialised working groups. UAE standard specifications may be purchased online via its Standards Store. MOIAT will also adopt GCC Standardization Organisation (GSO) standards to ensure regional alignment and compliance with best practices. GSO standard specifications may be purchased online via its Standards Store.

		UAE is a member of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, commonly referred to as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It is a regional, intergovernmental political and economic union that consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. GCC countries are also members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and are bound by the agreed obligations.
3	Pre-export approvals by the importing country	Products Product listing is required for meat and meat products exported from Singapore to the UAE. Foods imported into the UAE should be registered by importers through an electronic food registration portal commonly referred to as “ZAD”. This system enrolls all food items prior to sale in the UAE and verifies product compliance with the country’s food laws. The registration process requires UAE importers to apply online and provide a copy of the product’s label, packaging, and official certificate from a competent authority from the country of origin. Once the product is officially registered in ZAD, the importer may apply for an import permit and commence shipment. Please refer to the ZAD Portal User Manual. When exporting meat products to the UAE, such food must be processed to ensure the inactivation of - avian influenza virus in accordance with Article 10.4.24 of the WOAH Terrestrial Code - foot and mouth disease virus in accordance with Article 8.8.34. of the WOAH Terrestrial Code Establishments The UAE requires registration of foreign food establishments exporting certain categories of food, including meat and its products, under the National Guide to the Registration of Regulatory Authorities and Food Establishments Outside the United Arab Emirates. The official implementation date for this registration service has yet to be fully determined. There are also business resources for food traders and establishments. To begin, slaughterhouses (including meat shredding and storage facilities) outside of the UAE must be approved by MOCCAE before exporting fresh livestock meat and poultry meat to the UAE. The List of Approved Slaughterhouses from Countries which are Allowed to Export Meats and Poultry Meats to UAE lays down the details of permitted establishments and conditions. Interested slaughterhouses may apply for registration via the service of Issue Accreditation for a Slaughterhouse Outside the UAE.

		Importer – Permit Importers must obtain a valid import permit of animal products and byproducts from MOCCA. There will be a service fee of 100AED to request permission to import the consignment, and 500AED to request for the release of the consignment. The following documents are required for the release of the consignment: - Certificate of Origin (COO) - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Certificate for products and by-products of endangered plants and animals - Customs Declaration/Manifest showing the consignment data - Bill of Lading (BL) or Airway Bill (AWB) showing the delivery data - Packing list of contents or commercial invoice It is also necessary to provide the following additional documents for the release of animal-based consignment: - For consignments of non-treated (fresh) animal products and by-products: veterinary health certificate issued by the competent veterinary authority and in accordance with the approved models. - For the consignments of treated (processed) animal products and by-products: export certificate (indicating the type of treatment: thermal, chemical or salts) issued by the competent authority. Importer – Label Registration Before any food item can be imported into the UAE, the food item and its label needs to be registered by the importer with the Food Safety Department, Government of Dubai to “Apply to Register and Assess a Food Item.” The supporting documents for label registration include but not limited to label of the food item to be assessed and registered and product photo. Please note that different packaging for the same food item (i.e. difference in weight) are considered different food items and must be registered separately. There are also Dubai Municipality services to support the importer to “Apply to Transfer Food Consignment from and to Dubai” and “Apply to Release of Imported Food Consignments for Dubai Local Market.”
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4	Export certificates for food	(1) Health Certificate An Export Health Certificate issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is required for each consignment. For exports that require an Export Health Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to SFA here. According to the GCC Guide for Control on Imported Foods, the Health Certificate issued by the competent authority in Singapore shall comply with requirements of UAE and carries the following information: - The meat and/or meat product is in conformity with the requirements of Gulf Countries Council (GCC); - The source of meat shall meet the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) International Standards which are related to fitness for human consumption; - Animals have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse that is approved by the GCC authorities and is under the supervision of the Competent Authority of exporting country; - The meat is produced from animals that have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by the Competent Authority, in accordance with requirements of GCC; - The meat and/or meat product is handled in accordance with the requirements of GCC, at an establishment that has been subjected to inspections by the Competent Authority and implements a food safety management system based on HACCP principles or an equivalent system; Good veterinary practice has been applied in use of veterinary drug and agriculture chemicals in live animals, and any residues in meat comply with requirements of GCC; - The meat and meat product originates from animals that have not been slaughtered for the purpose of disease eradication/control; The meat and meat product has not been derived from animals fed with processed animal protein, excluding fish meal, according to the requirements of GCC. (2) Certificate of Origin According to International Trade Administrative, United States Department of Commerce, Import Requirements and Documentation, Certificate of Origin is required with each shipment. (3) Supporting Documentation for Any Labeled Claims According to GCC Guide For Control On Imported Foods, supporting documentation for any labeled claims (nutrition claims, health claims, and other claims) as required. Nutrition and health claims for food shall only be
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		acceptable, if claim and wording has been approved by internationally recognized scientific bodies (i.e. scientific journals). (4) Other Certificates (To be Arranged by the Manufacturer) Under <i>Required Documents</i>, any other certificates required by the Food Safety Department, as a result of any emerging global developments or according to local decisions, include but not limited to: - Free of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) test report certificate - Free of Avian Flu test report certificate - Free of Dioxin test report certificate - Free of heavy metals (such as Nitrofurans and Malachite Green) test report certificate - Certificate of not feeding farmed fish on animal protein fodder - Certificate of proof for organic food products - Free of radiation test report certificate - Health, nutrition, or other certificates when necessary (5) Halal Certificate Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS) is accredited by GCC Accreditation Centre in accordance with GSO 2055-2:2021 for certain food manufactured products acceptable to United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Yemen. The scope of halal accreditation did not include slaughtering animals. Under the UAE Halal System Directory (Registered Halal Certification Bodies), MUIS is also listed as a registered halal certification body.
5	Regulations and standards	Interested exporters who wish to export meat and meat products to the UAE must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: (1) Pesticide Residues According to UAE.S MRL 1:2024 - Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides in Agricultural and Food Products, the MRLs for pesticides and extraneous residues shall not exceed the levels specified in the Codex Alimentarius (Codex) database. If data on a specific pesticide or product is not available in the Codex database, reference shall be made to the European Union legislation list. If no residue limit data is available for any

	pesticide in the aforementioned lists, a reference limit of 0.01 mg/kg shall be adopted for compliance purposes. The technical regulation for pesticide residues is available in Cabinet Resolution No. 116 of 2024 On the Technical Regulations for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides in Agricultural And Food Products. (2) Veterinary Drug Residues According to UAE.S GSO 2481:2021 - Maximum Residues Limits of Veterinary Drugs in Food, veterinary drugs residues are residues of substances which may occur in food commodities of animal origin resulting from the use of veterinary drugs. Those include the parent compounds and/or their metabolites as well as residues of associated impurities of the veterinary drugs concerned. The technical regulation for veterinary drug residues in food of animal origin is available in GSO 2481:2021 - Maximum Residues Limits of Veterinary Drugs in Food. (3) Food Additives According to UAE 192:2019 + AMD1 2023:2023 - Additives Permitted for Use in Foodstuffs, it determines the conditions and terms that should be followed upon using additives in the foods. Codex-approved food additives with correlating food classifications are permitted within the UAE at the maximum limits identified. In the absence of a Codex reference, the UAE allows reference to the European Union legislation list. The technical regulations for food additives are available in GSO 2500:2022 - Additives Allowed to Be Used in Foodstuffs and Annex GSO 2500:2022 / AMD1:2023 - Additives Allowed to Be Used in Foodstuffs. (4) Contaminants and Toxins According to UAE.S GSO 193:2021 - Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed, a contaminant is any substance not intentionally added to food or feed for food producing animals, which is present in such food or feed as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or feed, or as a result of environmental contamination. The term does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs, and other extraneous matters. The technical regulation for contaminants and toxins in food and feed is available in GSO 193:2021 - Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed and Final Draft GSO on Contaminants and Toxins in Food along with Final Draft GSO on MRLs for Heavy Metals in Food. (5) Microorganisms
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		According to UAE.S 1016:2017 - Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs, microbiological criteria specify the limits for food products intended for human consumption and for food ingredients used in food industry. The technical regulation for microbiological standards of food products is available in GSO 1016:2015 - Microbiological Standards for Commodities and Foodstuffs. (6) Product Standards Imported meat and meat products shall also meet the relevant requirements of the following product standards: GSO 13496:2024 - Meat and Meat Products - Detection of Colouring Substances GSO 2204:2024 - Pressed Meat Treated with Brine and Heat Treated GSO 1816:2024 - Minced Meat and Minced Poultry Meat GSO 504:2024 - Canned Beef and Corneid GSO 814:2023 - Prepared Meat - Sausage GSO 2300:2022 - Chilled and Frozen Marinated Meat GSO 996:2021 - Fresh, Chilled and Frozen Livestock Meat GSO 948:2021 - Beef Burger GSO 322:2016 - Chilled Chicken GSO 986:2015 - Frozen Chickens GSO 2203:2012 - Packaged Meat Containing Vegetables and Sauce GSO 2036:2010 - Meat Products: Pastrami GSO 1924:2009 - Dried Meat GSO 21:2021 - Hygienic Regulations for Food Plants and Their Personnel Imported halal food shall also meet the relevant requirements of the following halal standards: GSO 2652:2021 - Halal Packaging - General Guideline GSO 2055-3:2021 - Halal Products - Part 3: General Requirements for Halal Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies GSO 2055-2:2021 - Halal Products - Part 2: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies GSO 2055-2:2021/AMD1:2024 - Halal Products - Part 2: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies GSO 2055-1:2015 - Halal Food - Part 1: General Requirements
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6	Labelling, packaging and marking requirements	(1) Labelling UAE.S 9:2019 - Labeling of Prepackaged Foodstuffs and GSO 2406:2025 - Guidelines on Labelling of Food Products specify the labelling requirements for pre-packaged food that are presented in their final form to the customer. The following information shall be marked on the label: Name of the product; List of ingredients, including all food additives used and the allergy information; Nutrition information; Net weight and/or gross weight; Name and address of the manufacturer; Country of origin; Production and expiration dates (refer to GSO 150-1:2013 - Shelf Life of Food Products - Part 1: Mandatory Shelf Life and Annexes GSO 150-1:2013/AMD 1:2015 as well as GSO 150-1:2013/AMD 2:2022); Storage and mode of use instructions (if any). For the language on the label, if bilingual labels are used, one of the languages must be Arabic (e.g., Arabic/English). Final Draft GSO on Labelling of Food Allergens on Prepackaged Food specifies the labelling requirements for food allergens. GSO 2233:2025 - Requirements of Nutritional Labelling along with GSO 2333:2022 - Requirements for Health and Nutrition Claims on Food Products and GSO 2750:2024 - Nutritional Labelling Guide for Prepackaged Food Products require mandatory disclosure of nutritional information. The following nutritional information shall be declared on the labels of prepackaged food intended for direct consumption or after heating: The nutritive value of the prepackaged foodstuff to including energy, protein, carbohydrate (e.g. dietary carbohydrate and dietary fibers), fats, saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, sodium, total sugars, added sugar and polyols (if any); The energy value and the amount of nutrients shall be expressed per 100 g or per 100 ml or per serving specified by the manufacturer; The energy values shall be declared in international units (gram, mg, µg, IU) and kilocalories; The nutrient content to be shown as a percentage of the Nutrient Reference Value (NRV). Below is a standard nutrition label format based on GSO 2233:2025 - Requirements of Nutritional Labelling for reference:
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الحقائق التغذوية	
عدد الحصص في العبوة 8	
حجم الحصة	2/3 كوب (70) غرام
الكمية لكل حصة أو 100 مل أو 100 غرام	
السعرات الحرارية	286
* نسبة الاحتياج اليومي %	
الدهون الكلية 10 غرام	14%
الدهون المشبعة 2 غرام	10%
الدهون المتحولة 0 غرام	
الكوليسترول 0 ملغرام	0%
الصوديوم 200 ملغرام	10%
الكربوهيدرات الكلية 42 غرام	16%
الألياف الغذائية 5 غرام	18%
السكريات الكلية 12 غرام	
يتضمن 10 غرام سكر مضاف	20%
**البوليولات 5 غرام	
بروتين 4 غرام	
*تتأثر نسبة الاحتياج اليومي على المنتجات في الحصة الواحدة مبنية على نظام غذائي يحتوي على 2000 سعرة حرارية.	

The Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (ADQCC) and Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC) have announced the [Nutri-Mark](#), a front-of-pack nutritional grading label, to be effective tentatively June 2025. The letter grade system (A to E) with corresponding color code (green to red) will start to apply to dairy, bread, cooking oil, and children's foods. [UAE.S 5034:2018 - Nutritional Labelling of Pre-packed Products Using Traffic Light Colours](#) also supports the development of front-of-pack nutrition labels.

Labelling of GM foods shall be in accordance with [GSO 2142:2011 - General Requirements for Genetically Modified Processed Food and Feed](#) and [Final Draft GSO on General Requirements for Genetically Modified Processed Food and Feed](#).

(2) Packaging and Marking Requirements

All packages used for food packaging should be food grade and in accordance with the following standards:

[GSO 1193:2023 - Polyethylene Bags for Food Packaging Applications](#)

		GSO 839:2021 - Food Packages - Part 1: General Requirements GSO 1863:2021 - Food packages - Part 2: Plastic Package - General Requirements GSO 2545:2021 - Recycled Plastic Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food GSO 2231:2012 - General Requirements for the Materials Intended to Come into Contact with Food
7	Other information	GCC Guide for Control on Imported Foods and GCC Guide for Imported Food Control and its Implementation Mechanisms govern food imports into the UAE. UAE's Dubai Customs publishes Customer Guide. International Trade Administration, United States Department of Commerce also provides more information on standards for trade including MOIAT's contact. (1) Customs Required Documents The following documents are also required along with the shipment for customs clearance purposes: - Permit delivery; - Commercial license/Commercial register in the relevant field that includes an activity of importation of foodstuffs, general trade or import permission specially for the imported products in the consignment issued by the concerned authorities; - List of Contents of the packing list issued by the producer indicating the container filling date, the types and quantities of food items, along with production and expiry dates for each item or dispatch; - Temperature records for frozen and chilled meat and meat products. (2) Transportation – Certificate of Fitness for Transport Vehicle Exporter, shipping agency or officially recognized third party in the country of origin or country of export should be able to provide evidence that assures the fitness of the vehicle used for transporting food and proves the suitability to transport the exported food. The temperature records are kept throughout the whole trip for chilled and frozen foods. (3) Reserve Notification and Detention of Consignment Where a consignment of food is found to be non-compliant with GCC requirements, the authority will issue a reserve notification that states the reason for the reservation and the product will be detained under official control.

		Situations where consignments will be detained include: Absence of a list of contents; Incompatibility of food items described in the certificate with those in the consignment; Absence of original copy of required health certificate and/or reference number of electronic health certificate; The required health certificate being dated before the production date of the food; The health certificate being issued after the date of shipment of the food; The food production date being before the date of the Halal slaughter certificate; Broken or changed security seals/locks prior to official inspection; Evidence of any fraudulent certification. (4) WTO Import Licensing Procedures United Arab Emirates' legislation and notifications United Arab Emirates' participation in WTO (5) USDA Gain Reports United Arab Emirates FAIRS Country Report provides guidelines on UAE food import regulations for American exporters.
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