

13 March 2023

Traders of Infant Cereal Products

Dear Sir/Madam

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW VOLUNTARY SCHEME FOR PRE-IMPORT CONTROL OF INFANT CEREAL PRODUCTS**

SFA will be introducing a new set of pre-import control measures for infant cereal products as a voluntary scheme with effect from **27 March 2023**.

2 The new set of pre-import control measures focus on upstream controls at the manufacturing stage to ensure the food safety of infant cereal products. Importers who are able to conduct supplier verification checks to ensure that the import conditions are met, may register their supplier with SFA under the voluntary scheme. Importers under the voluntary scheme will be exempted from submission of laboratory reports of Aflatoxin B1 testing for every consignment during import permit application. Instead, they are allowed to maintain their own records of the supplier verification checks for periodic checks by SFA.

	Current pre-import control measures	New pre-import control measures (Voluntary Scheme)
Import conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Products are manufactured in an establishment regulated by the competent authority in exporting country</li> <li>ii. Products are processed under hygienic and sanitary conditions</li> <li>iii. Products tested to be free of Aflatoxin B1</li> <li>iv. Products comply with Sale of Food Act and the Food Regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Products are manufactured in an establishment regulated by the competent authority in exporting country</li> <li>ii. <b>The manufacturer of the products has in place a food safety management and assurance programme that ensures that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Products are processed under hygienic and sanitary conditions</li> <li>b) Products comply with Sale of Food Act and the Food Regulations. This must be supported by relevant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		testing and monitoring, including for Aflatoxin B1.
Supplier verification	i. Verify that the products have met the above import conditions prior to import	i. Verify that the products have met the above import conditions prior to import <b>ii. Register suppliers with SFA</b>
Documentary submission for application of import permit	i. Documentary proof that the imported products are manufactured in a premise regulated by the competent authority (one-time submission) ii. Laboratory report of Aflatoxin B1 for every consignment	<i>*Supplier verification should be done on a regular basis with documentations to support. Supplier documentation and laboratory reports need not be submitted, but must be properly maintained and may subject to checks by SFA</i>

3 Importers may refer to the template supplier verification checklist (Annex A) as a guidance for your supplier verification checks.

4 Importers who are able to meet the requirements under the voluntary scheme may submit your supplier registration details via the form in the link or the QR code provided below. The following information is required to register your supplier:

- a) Supplier's details (country of origin, establishment name, number, address)
- b) List of products imported into Singapore from the supplier (brand, product description, packing size)
- c) Supporting documents of supplier verification checks

Supplier registration form:



<https://go.gov.sg/supplier-registration-infantcereal>

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5 Upon successful supplier registration, SFA will issue a unique supplier establishment code to you. For each import of infant cereal products, the supplier establishment code must be declared in your cargo clearance permit under the CA/SC Code 1 field.

6 Importers under the voluntary scheme shall maintain the documentation records of your supplier verification checks, as they may be subject to SFA's checks. For subsequent amendments or changes in the supplier details (eg. change in supplier name, address and list of products), importers are required to send the updates to: [www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback](http://www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback).

7 You may refer to the list of frequently asked questions (Annex B) or contact SFA if you require any further clarifications: [www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback](http://www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback)

Risk Management and Surveillance Department  
Joint Operations Division  
Singapore Food Agency

*Encl: Annex A – Template Supplier Verification Checklist  
Annex B – Frequently Asked Questions*

*This is a computer-generated letter and no signature is required*

## ANNEX A – Template Supplier Verification Checklist (1/2)

### Template Supplier Verification Checklist for Infant Cereal Products

Supplier Details	
Name of Supplier:	
Supplier Establishment Code (issued by SFA):	
Establishment Address:	
Country of Origin:	
List of products imported in this consignment:	

Checklist			
Import Conditions	Yes	No	Documentary proof obtained (Examples in Annex)
i. Products are manufactured in an establishment regulated by the competent authority in exporting country.			
ii. The manufacturer of the products has in place a food safety management and assurance programme that ensures that:			
a) Products are processed under hygienic and sanitary conditions			
b) Products comply with Sale of Food Act and the Food Regulations. This must be supported by relevant testing and monitoring, including for Aflatoxin B1.			

*\* Supplier can refer to manufacturer/ producer or consolidator. If the supplier is not the manufacturer/ producer of the imported food, the importer should ensure that relevant information is obtained either directly from the manufacturer/ producer or confirmation through the consolidator.*

Verified by:	
Name of verifier and designation:	
Company name:	
Date of verification:	
Signature and company stamp:	

## ANNEX A – Template Supplier Verification Checklist (2/2)

### *Examples of acceptable documentary proof:*

<b>Import Conditions</b>	<b>Examples of supporting documents for verification checks (not exhaustive)</b>
i. Products are manufactured in an establishment regulated by the competent authority in the exporting country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licence or permit of the supplier and manufacturer, from the relevant competent authority in the exporting country</li> <li>• Health certificate issued by the relevant competent authority in the exporting country</li> </ul>
iii. The manufacturer of the products has in place a food safety management and assurance programme that ensures that: a) Products are processed under hygienic and sanitary conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety management system (FSMS) (e.g. HACCP plan)</li> <li>• Certification to international standards of FSMS (eg. ISO 22000, FSSC 22000, BRC)</li> <li>• Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)</li> <li>• Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure (SSOP)</li> <li>• Audit report(s) of the establishment</li> </ul>
b) Products comply with Sale of Food Act and the Food Regulations. This must be supported by relevant testing and monitoring, including for Aflatoxin B1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboratory testing programme (e.g. raw material and/or final product), including the parameters and frequency</li> <li>• Pre-export testing report</li> </ul>

## **ANNEX B – Frequently asked questions (1/2)**

### **1. Can I still import infant cereal products if I am unable to meet the requirements under the new set of pre-import control measures?**

The new set of pre-import control measures is introduced as a voluntary scheme. Importers who are able to meet the requirements and register their suppliers with SFA under the voluntary scheme will be exempted from Aflatoxin B1 testing for every consignment. If you are currently not able to fulfil the requirements of the voluntary scheme, you are encouraged to start working with your suppliers on the upstream control measures to meet the requirements. In the meantime, you may continue to import infant cereal products under the current import requirement with Aflatoxin B1 testing and submission of lab report for every imported consignment.

### **2. Is the supplier registration a one-time registration, or is there a validity period?**

The registration is once-off and there is currently no expiry for the supplier registration. Importers are required to update SFA on changes in the supplier details (eg. change in supplier name, address and list of products) via: [www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback](http://www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback).

### **3. How long should I keep the documentation records of supplier verification checks?**

Importers are to keep the documentation records of supplier verification checks for three years. The records are to be provided upon request during SFA's checks.

### **4. For the manufacturing testing programme, how often does SFA require the testing to be done?**

SFA does not stipulate the frequency of the testing programme. The importers should discuss with their suppliers to determine the sampling methods, frequency and number of samples taken based on their assessment. The testing programme must include testing for Aflatoxin B1.

### **5. What are the minimum documentary requirements for supplier verification?**

SFA does not stipulate the minimum documentary requirements for supplier verification. The list of examples of supporting documents provided by SFA serves as a guide and is not an exhaustive list. Importers may request for at least one or more relevant supporting documents from the suppliers to verify that the suppliers are able to meet the import conditions.

## **ANNEX B – Frequently asked questions (2/2)**

### **6. Will the new set of pre-import control measures eventually be rolled out as a mandatory requirement?**

While there are currently no plans to roll out the new set of pre-import control measures as a mandatory requirement, we encourage importers to come on board the voluntary scheme. Upstream checks at supplier level could prevent non-compliant products from reaching Singapore, thereby providing better food safety assurance to consumers and minimizes possibility of rejected consignments and recalls following import which reduces the risk of monetary loss for importers.