SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	India (IN)
Food Product Category	Fish and Seafood Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0302 – 0309, 1604/1605

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**	Fish and seafood products are eligible to be exported from Singapore to India.
2	**Importing country authority**	According to the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been established to regulate the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of food. In pursuant to the Livestock Importation Act 1898, India Central Government has created the Department of Fisheries (DOF) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to regulate the importation of livestock and livestock products (including fish and seafood products). The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is responsible for the promotion and facilitation of exports and imports.
3	**Pre-export approvals by importing country**	**Establishments** Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2021 states that foreign food manufacturing facilities of specified categories of food products and desirous to export such article of food to India shall register with FSSAI before exporting to India. The registration is one-time and there is no expiry on the validity of registered food manufacturers. Such food categories include:

		- Milk and milk products (including infant formula) - Meat and meat products (including poultry, fish, and their products) - Egg powder - Infant food - Nutraceuticals **Remarks:** Manufacturers of highly processed fishery products such as oyster sauce do not require establishment registration. FSSAI has also published the format for registration of foreign food manufacturing facilities in Order regarding requirement of registration of foreign food manufacturing facilities as per Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations 2021 (Oct 2022) under FSSAI Advisories/Orders. FSSAI has published in FSSAI ReFoM a list of foreign food manufacturers that have been successfully registered. There are some Singapore establishments approved under the category of fish and fish products. To be considered for listing by FSSAI, the establishment must meet India's regulations and standards before submitting their form online to SFA, who will then verify before recommending to FSSAI for final decision. Information and supporting documents to be submitted by the food manufacturer may include but not limited to the following: - Valid SFA license Name and HS Code of the products to be exported to India **Note**: For reference on HS Codes, please check the Indian Trade Clarification Harmonised System (ITC-HS) from https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/ **Importer-Exporter Code** Importer must obtain Importer Exporter Code (IEC) - a key business identification number which is mandatory for exports or imports - issued by DGFT before embarking on commercial trade. **Prohibited or Restricted Items**

		Importer must study the list of prohibited items and restricted items as published by DGFT before importing into India. Prohibited items cannot be imported into India under any circumstances. Restricted items must be licensed or authorized by DGFT before importing into India. **FSSAI License** According to the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 no person shall commence any food business unless he (the importer) possesses a valid license. Schedule 1 provides the list of food business (which include but not limited to "all importers importing food items including food ingredients and additives for commercial use") that are under the purview of Central Licensing Authority in FSSAI. **Sanitary Import Permit** According to the Procedure For Import Of Livestock Products, S.O. 2666 (E), the import of livestock products, which include eggs of all aquatic animals, shall be allowed only against a sanitary import permit that is issued by DOF to the importer. For information related to online application of sanitary import permit, see Sanitary Import Permit System. **Designated Point of Entries** High risk food products such as (i) milk and milk products, (ii) egg powder, (iii) **meat and meat products including poultry, fish, and their products**, (iv) foods for infant nutrition / infant foods, and (v) nutraceuticals, health supplements, foods for dietary uses, probiotic and prebiotic foods, foods for special medical purposes shall be imported through designated Indian ports. The list of designated ports is published in Import of high risk food products at specific ports under FSSAI Advisories/Orders. **Note**: The published list is dynamic and will be updated from time to time. **Import for 100% Export or Re-Export** Importer is required to undertake further declaration if the imported food consignment is meant for 100% export or re-export. See Advisory regarding import of food consignment for 100% export or re-export purpose (Oct 2023).

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<td>Export certificates for food</td>
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An Export Health Certificate issued by Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is required for each consignment of fish and seafood products. For exports that require an Export Health Certificate, you may forward import permit / conditions to SFA here.

Food Export Certificate
The current bilaterally agreed certification between SFA and DOF would continue to be valid. According to the agreement between SFA and DOF, the following sanitary attestations are required to be met in the Food Export Certificate for the re-export of fish and seafood products (without processing) from Singapore to India:

The product(s) are stored in a food premises licensed by or registered with SFA
There is no processing in Singapore and the product(s) primary packaging remains unchanged; and
The product(s) have been handled and stored under appropriate temperature controls and hygienic conditions to protect from contamination by pests, chemical, physical or microbiological contaminants.
Samples have been tested with the following result/s:
The raw frozen/cooked products have been tested for the following:

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<tr><td>Total Bacteria Count (TPC) at 37 ^{o}C</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Total E. coli count (< 20 gm)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Coagulase positive Staphylococci (< 100/ gm)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Salmonella, V. Cholerae, Kanagawa positive V. parahaemoluticus (Absent/ 25 g)</td><td></td></tr>
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The product(s) are fit for human consumption.

Health Certificate
In addition, starting from 1 January 2023, a Health Certificate requested by FSSAI would also be required. The following sanitary attestations are required to be met in the Health Certificate for the export of fish and seafood products from Singapore to India:

Were manufactured at (an) establishment(s) that has/have been approved by, or otherwise determined to be in good regulatory standing with the competent Authority in the exporting country.

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		• Complies with the standards of Fish and Fish Products as specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. • Prepared, packed, held, and transported prior to export under good hygienic conditions and an effective food safety control, implemented within the context of HACCP systems where appropriate and in accordance with the requirements specified in Schedule 4, as applicable, of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 (India) and such other guidelines as specified from time to time under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006. • Conforms to the microbiological requirements specified in Appendix 'B' of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. • Does not contain drug/ antibiotics / mycotoxins/ pesticides/ heavy metal residues etc., above the limits prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins, and Residues) Regulations, 2011. • Contains only those food additives as specified in Appendix 'A' of Food Safety and Standard (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and within the limits specified. • Regular inspection / monitoring of checks in accordance with FSS Act, 2006, rules and Regulations made thereunder and as per the criteria specified by FSSAI. **Remarks:** The applicable list of fish and seafood products and corresponding HS codes which are subject to this FSSAI Health Certificate is published in Requirement of Health Certificate accompanied with the import of food consignments under FSSAI Advisories/Orders. Standard Conditions for Import of Fish and Fishery Products states the general conditions for the issuance of export certificate by the competent authority of the exporting country for consignment which includes but not limited to the following: - Processed seafood (standard condition #5) - Fish oil (standard condition #6) - Canned fishery products (standard condition #15) - Fresh/chilled and iced fish (standard condition #18)

5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood products to India must meet all their regulations and standards including the Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR). The following links are provided as a guide: **(1) Pesticide Residues** Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 stipulates limit requirements for pesticide residues and insecticides in food. In addition, the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS) publishes the list of pesticides (Mar 2024) which are banned, refused registration and restricted use. **(2) Antibiotics and Veterinary Drug Residues** Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 stipulates limit requirements for antibiotics and other pharma-cologically active substances in food. **(3) Contaminants and Toxins** Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 stipulates limit requirements for metal contaminants, crop contaminants and natural toxic substances, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), biotoxins, and other contaminants in food. **(4) Microorganisms** Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 stipulates microbiological requirements in food in Appendix B (page 757 of 887 onwards). **(5) Food Additives** Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 stipulates definitions, application principles, specifications, and standards of food additives in Chapter 3. **(6) Restriction on Sales**

		Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 stipulates restrictions on radiation processing of food as well as restrictions on use of flavouring agents. **(7) Product Standards** Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 stipulates product standards for fish and seafood products, including frozen shrimp, frozen lobsters, frozen squid, frozen finfish, frozen fish fillets, salted fish/dried salted fish, canned fishery products, smoked fishery products, sardine oil, fish sauce, quick-frozen fish sticks (breaded or battered), and others in Chapter 2. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023 have particularly specified standards for Basmati rice while Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023 have particularly specified standard of millets.
6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling** Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 stipulates regulations for packaging and labelling of foods. Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 contains general requirements of pre-packaged foods as well as labelling requirements of pre-packaged foods (name of food, list of ingredients, nutritional information, declaration regarding vegetarian and non-vegetarian, declaration of food additives, declaration of name and complete address, FSSAI logo and license number, net quantity, retail sale price and consumer care details as per Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, lot/code/batch identification, date marking, labelling of imported food, country of origin for imported foods, instructions for use, and declaration regarding food allergen). For example, eggs are non-vegetarian products and should be declared non-vegetarian. Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 requires imported food to comply with standards for packaging and labelling. The Authorised Officer shall reject the consignment not complying with the

		provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 at the visual inspection and no sample shall be drawn from the consignment. **(2) Advertising and Claims** Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claiming) Regulations, 2018 stipulates regulations for general principles for claims and advertisements, regulations for nutrition claims (nutrient content claim or nutrient comparative claim), regulations for non-addition claims, regulations for health claims (including nutrient function claims), regulations for claims related to dietary guidelines or healthy diets, regulations for conditional claims, and regulations for prohibited claims. **(3) Packaging and Marking Requirements** Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 stipulates general requirements of food packaging materials, specific requirements for primary food packaging, as well as requirement for specific migration limits of substances from various types of packaging materials intended to be in contact with articles of food.
7	**Other information**	**(1) India's Import Clearance** FSSAI has an online system for clearance of food imports, Food Import Clearance System (FICS), which is seamlessly integrated with Customs ICE-GATE (Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway) for trade facilitation. Selective sampling & testing of food articles on basis of risk profiling done by FSSAI is implemented at Customs ICEGATE. **(2) India's Import Procedures** FSSAI's Manual for Food Imports provides a guiding document for importers for better understanding of clearance process of imported food consignments by FSSAI. **(3) WTO Import Licensing Procedures** India's legislation and notifications **(4) USDA Gain Reports and Analysis** India FAIRS Country Report provides guidelines on India's food import regulations to American exporters.

		India FSSAI Issues Clarification for Microbial Testing Requirements for Imported Food Products provides clarifications to Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017. **(5) Contact Information** See the list of FSSAI's authorised officers who are based in different offices. See the point of entries for import of food items with authorised officers. See the directory of DAHD officers.

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