SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
Food Product Category	Fruits & Vegetables & Their Products
Product Code	HS Codes: 0701 - 0714, 0801 - 0814, 2001 - 2008

The information in this document has been compiled and provided by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA). SFA emphasises that importers and exporters are responsible to know the import requirements. 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**	Fruits and vegetables are not eligible for export from Singapore to Saudi Arabia. With reference to the published list of food establishments eligible to export to KSA, there are no approved establishments eligible for export frozen and processed vegetables and their products from Singapore to KSA. Import from establishments, which are not granted SFDA's approval, shall only be permitted if the requirements stated in paragraph 1.2 under article 6 of Conditions and Requirements for Importing Food to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are met.
2	**Importing country authority**	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) is the competent authority regulating the import of fruits and vegetables to Saudi Arabia. SFDA will establish and enforce regulations and standards related to processed food, seafood, fresh produce, and processed animal feed. The imported fruits and vegetable products are examined at the border inspection posts (BIPs) by SFDA's Operation Sector inspectors and samples may be taken for laboratory analysis. Saudi Arabia 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 frozen and processed fruits and vegetables and their products exported from Singapore to Saudi Arabia. SFDA will publish the list of registered foods for export to KSA. Food imported into KSA shall be registered by importers through SFDA's E-Services E-Account. The registration process requires importers to apply online and provide the following information on the imported food products: - HS, bar (If there is no bar, fill in "0".) - Picture of the product and product label Other information mentioned in FAQ (What are the controls according to product registration fields?). Importers are required to re-register the products when there are changes in the product formulations or labels. You can also learn more about the food registration system through FAQ. **Establishments** Establishment listing is required for frozen and processed fruits and vegetables and their products as well as agricultural crops (rice) from Singapore to Saudi Arabia. SFDA will publish the list of food establishments eligible to export to KSA. Establishments that wish to export to KSA are required to complete their application through SFA to SFDA. You may download and fill in the "Form to Update the List of Approved Establishments for Processed Vegetables, Fruits, Grains and Agricultural Corps" from SFDA's website and forward the form to SFA here. Please note the following: - This review will take time. - An on-site inspection by SFDA may be required and the establishment will be required to pay an inspection fee of 27000SAR (approximately S$10,000) to SFDA. This inspection fee is non-refundable. - Registered establishments may be subject to periodic audits or inspections by SFDA to ensure compliance to their regulations and standards.

		All foreign establishments that intend to export foods to Saudi Arabia shall be registered via the Food Registration System.
4	**Export certificates for food**	**(1) Phytosanitary Certificate** A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Parks Board (NParks) is required for each consignment of fruits and vegetables For exports that require a Phytosanitary Certificate, you may forward the import permit / conditions to NParks here. Appendix 1 of the Conditions and Requirements for Importing Food to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia states the general phytosanitary health attestations and format. For import of fruits and vegetable products, the following general health attestation must be met: - Plants, plant products or other regulated articles have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures, and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing country and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the GCC countries, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests. **(2) 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) is required. Nutrition and health claims for food shall only be acceptable if claim and wording has been approved by internationally recognized scientific bodies (like scientific journals). Health and nutrition claims are required to be evaluated by SFDA through Application for Health and Nutrition Claim Evaluation Form. Guideline for Submitting a Claim Evaluation Request provides an overview on the process of submitting evaluation request of a health and nutrition claim. According to GSO 9:2022 - Labelling of Pre-packaged Food Stuffs, when any logo is used to claim the food to be a product of special quality or organic product, this must be substantiated by supporting documents.
5	**Regulations and standards**	GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) is a Regional Standardization Organization (RSO). Food standards and regulations are established within the GSO. GCC standards and regulations may be purchased online.

		Interested exporters who wish to export fruit and vegetable products to Saudi Arabia must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1) Pesticide Residues** According to GSO 382:2021 - Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products, pesticide residue refers to any specified substances in food, agricultural commodities, or animal feed resulting from the use of a pesticide. It also includes residues from unknown or unavoidable sources (e.g., environmental). Pesticide residues in agricultural commodities shall not exceed the limits mentioned in the tables available in GSO 382:2021 - Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products. **(2) Food Additives** According to GSO 2500:2022 - Additives Permitted for Use in Food Stuffs, food additive is any substance not normally consumed as a food by itself and not normally used as a typical ingredient of the food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for a technological (including organoleptic) purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food results, or may be reasonably expected to result (directly or indirectly), in it or its byproducts becoming a component of or otherwise affecting the characteristics of such foods. Food to which additives are allowed, food to which additives are not allowed, and maximum permissible limits for food additives are all provided in GSO 2500:2022 - Additives Permitted for Use in Food Stuffs. In addition, GSO 2500:2022/Amd1:2023 Additives Permitted For Use In Food Stuffs supplements the Gulf Technical Regulation GSO 2500. **(3) Contaminants and Toxins** According to 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 matter. Contaminants and toxins in food and feed shall not exceed the maximum limits provided in GSO 193:2021 - Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed.

		(4) Microorganisms According to GSO 1016:2015 - Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs, microbiological criteria specify the maximum limit of microorganisms in food. The content of microorganisms in food shall not exceed the limits provided in GSO 1016:2015 - Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs. **(5) Product Standards** Imported fruit and vegetable and their products shall also meet the relevant requirements of the following product standards: GSO 2212:2023 - Fermented Soybean Paste GSO 1989:2022 - Kiwi Fruit GSO 640:2021 - Jam, Jellies, and Marmalade GSO 2432:2021 - Ground Paprika Red Pepper (Paprika) - Specifications GSO 2464:2021 - Fresh Okra Frozen GSO 874:2016 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetables - Sampling GSO 873:2015 - Peaches - Guide to Cold Storage GSO 1134:2015 - Pear - Cold Storage GSO 1975:2015 - Fresh Tomatoes GSO 1991-1:2015 - Vegetables - Nomenclature - First List GSO 1991-2:2015 - Vegetables - Nomenclature - Part 2: Second List GSO 2131:2015 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - Avocado GSO 2457:2015 - Pomegranates GSO 6664:2015 - Cranberries and Blueberries - Cold Storage GSO 464: 2014 - Fruits and Vegetables and Derived Products - Table Grapes GSO 1927:2014 - Vegetables, Fruits and their Products - Guava GSO 2399:2014 - Vegetables, Fruits and Derived Products - Longans GSO 2401:2014 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Products - Pineapple GSO 2402:2014 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Products - Papaya GSO 2430:2014 - Sweet Cassava GSO 2433:2014 - Baby Corn

		GSO 2436:2014 - Vegetables, Fruits, and their Products - Turnip Brassica Rapa GSO 2137:2011 - Dried Dill GSO 2038:2010 - Vegetables, Fruits, and Derived Products - Fresh Figs GSO 2040:2010 - Vegetables, Fruits and Derived Products - Fresh Spinach GSO 2044:2010 - Cabbage GSO 2045:2010 - Lettuce GSO 1972:2009 - Limes GSO 1987:2009 - Mango GSO 1991:2009 - Bananas GSO 6661:2009 - Fresh Vegetables and Fruits - Arrangements for Packing and Ground Transport GSO Codex Stan 204:2008 - Fresh Fruits - Mangosteens GSO Codex Stan 225:2008 - Fresh Vegetables - Asparagus GSO 1862:2008 - Fresh Pineapples - Storage and Transport GSO 1868:2008 - Frozen French Fried Potatoes GSO 1878:2008 - Ginger GSO Codex Stan 38:2007 - Edible Fungi and Fungus Products GSO 1029:2000 - Fresh Potatoes GSO 1033:2000 - Vegetable Marrow GSO 1036:2000 - Beans GSO 1037:2000 - Fresh Sweet Pepper GSO 1038:2000 - Carrots GSO 1039:2000 - Melons GSO 225:1994 - Cold Storage for Oranges GSO 466:1994 - Pears GSO 124:1990 - General Requirements for Boxes of Fresh Vegetables and Fruits GSO 125:1990 - Methods for Sampling Fresh Fruits and Vegetables GSO 21:2021 - Hygienic Regulations for Food Plants and Their Personnel GSO ISO 7563:2014 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Vocabulary GSO 150-1:2013/Amd 2:2022 - Expiration Dates for Food Products - Part 1: Mandatory Expiration Dates GSO 1694:2005 - General Principals of Food Hygiene

		GSO ISO 7558:2002 - Guide to the Prepacking of Fruits and Vegetables GSO 123:1990 - General Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling** GSO 9:2022 - Labelling of Pre-packaged Food Stuffs specifies the labelling requirements for pre-packaged food. 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; Storage and mode of use instructions (if any). For language on the label, if bilingual labels are used, one of the languages must be Arabic (e.g., Arabic/English). GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling requires 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, and added sugar; 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 information shall be declared in international units (gram, mg, µg, IU) and kilocalories for energy values. If GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling specifies the Nutrient Reference Value (NRV) of nutrients, information related to the NRV shall be expressed in percentage. GSO 2333:2022 - Requirements for Health and Nutrition Claims on Food Products stipulates the requirements for nutrients and health claims in food labels. The following figure shows the nutrition label format provided by GSO 2233:2021 - Requirements of Nutritional Labeling for reference:

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container

Serving size **2/3 cup (55g)**

Amount per serving

Calories **230**

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 8g	**10%**
Saturated Fat 1g	**5%**
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	**0%**
Sodium 160mg	**7%**
Total Carbohydrate 37g	**13%**
Dietary Fiber 4g	**14%**
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	**20%**
Protein 3g	

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

حقائق تغذوية

عدد الحصص في العبوة 8

حجم الحصة 3/2كوب (55غرام)

الكمية لكل حصة أو 100 مل أو 100 غرام

السعرات الحرارية 230

* نسبة الاحتياج اليومي %	
%10	**الدهون الكلية** 8 غرام
%5	دهون مشبعة 1 غرام
	دهون متحولة 0 غرام
%0	**كوليسترول** 0 ملغرام
%7	**صوديوم** 160 ملغرام
%13	**الكربوهيدرات الكلية** 37 غرام
	الألياف الغذائية 4 غرام
	سكريات كلية 12 غرام
%20	يتضمن 10 غرام سكر مضاف
	بروتين 3 غرام

* تدل نسبة الاحتياج اليومي على المغذيات في الحصة الواحدة مبنية على نظام غذائي محتوى على 2000 سعرة حرارية .

Labelling of GM foods shall be in accordance with GSO 2142:2011 - General Requirements for Genetically Modified Processed Food and Feed. GSO 9:2022 - Labelling of Pre-packaged Food Stuffs specifies that all irradiated food and food ingredients must be identified on the package label and display the Radiation International Code.

(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**	You may refer to the GCC Guide for Control on Imported Foods for more information on imports to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority has also published Rules of Customs Procedures. **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Saudi Arabia's legislation and notifications **(1) Customs Required Documents** The following documents are also required along with the shipment for customs clearance purposes: i. Permit delivery; ii. 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; iii. 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; iv. Temperature records where required. **(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.

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