SFA Export Library Market Reports on Food Import Regulations and Standards

Country of Origin	Singapore (SG)
Country of Destination	South Korea (KR)
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**	Fresh fish (chilled and frozen) and processed seafood products are eligible for export from Singapore to South Korea.
2	**Importing country authority**	Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) is the competent authority in regulating the import of fish and seafood products to Korea. National Fisheries Quality Management Service (NFQS) under the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries (MOF) establishes import health requirements for the import of live aquatic animals as well as fish and seafood products for disease prevention and control.
3	**Pre-export approvals by the importing country**	**Product** According to the Aquatic Animal Disease Control Act, NFQS can place imported aquatic animals or things under import quarantine inspection based on import risk analysis. The types of aquatic products subject to quarantine are found here. **Importer** The importer must be registered with MFDS. The application can be submitted here. **Food Facility**

		Article 5 of Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control lay down the rules and procedures concerning the registration of foreign food facilities. And registration is according to their business types: - Agricultural products: farm, farm mixed facility, collection point - Fishery products: manufacturing/processing site, vessel, aquaculture For all food products (including aquatic products, such as fresh fish and processed seafood products) that are produced, manufactured, processed, treated, packaged, stored in a facility located abroad: ● the foreign food facilities must be registered by either foreign manufactures or Korean importers through Imported Food Information Maru (click on application for foreign food facility) before export can commence. For more information, please see Imported Food Safety particularly "Registration of foreign food facilities." Under General Guide >> Notice List, MSDF has also published the Revision of Easy-to-Understand Guide to the Registration of a Foreign Food Facility (March 2022). MFDS has published the list of registered foreign food facility. There are several Singaporean companies registered as a foreign food facility for various types of food including agricultural products, processed foods, apparatus or containers and package, fishery products, food additives, and health functional food. **Food Facility (Special Sanitary Control)** Article 12 of Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control lay down the rules and procedures concerning the registration of foreign establishment. For fish heads and edible part thereof, offal of edible fish and molluscs, which are subject to *special sanitary control*, ● the foreign food facilities must be registered through Singapore Food Agency to MFDS, and ● the sanitary control system of the exporting country must be deemed equivalent to that of Korea before export can commence. For more information, please see Imported Food Safety particularly "Import sanitation assessment for livestock products and food subject to special sanitation control and overseas on-site inspection for foreign establishments (food facilities)." MFDS has published the list of registered foreign food facility (tick the box on *foreign manufacturing establishment of food subject to special sanitation control*). There are some Singaporean companies registered as a foreign food facility for such fishery products.

		For new establishment of fish heads and edible part thereof that wishes to export to Korea and needs registration through the exporting government to MFDS, the documents required for registration include the following: • A document that the government of the exporting country regularly manages and supervises the relevant overseas workplace, or a checklist inspected by the government of the exporting country in accordance with the inspection standards determined and announced by the Minister of MFDS; • A copy of the license for the business of the relevant overseas workplace issued by the government of the exporting country; • In the case of overseas workplaces to which standards corresponding to food safety management system under the Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act are applied, a copy of the applicable operational standards and a copy of the work process showing critical control points; • If it is not an overseas workplace where standards corresponding to food safety management system under the Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act are applied, a copy of the sanitary management standards and a copy of the work process; • Other documents deemed necessary by the Minister of MFDS to ensure the safety of livestock products. Please note the following: • The documentary review will take time and may require on-site inspection by MFDS. • Registered food facilities and establishments are subject to periodic audits or inspections by MFDS to ensure compliance to their regulations and standards. • Once the foreign food facility is registered by MFDS, its registration is valid for 2 years. Renewal of registration shall be completed at least 7 days before the validity of registration expires. For more information, please see Imported Food Safety particularly "Proactive safety control measures for imported food."
4	**Export certificates for food**	**Export Certificate** Depending on the import conditions, 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 requirements to the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) here. **Import Declaration Materials**

		According to Article 27 of Enforcement Rule of The Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control [English version for reference only] the importer must prepare and submit the following documents when importing the foods: • Import Declaration form (including electronic version) • Printed packaging material (including wrapping paper) or documents recording the label contents • Photos of imported food (except live, refrigerated, and unpackaged aquatic products, agricultural products, forest products and meat in their natural state, etc.) • Imported foods must be accompanied by inspection report issued by inspection body in the following cases, including A. Foods imported for the first time or imported foods with new regulations or stricter requirements after the first import are usually inspected. B. Imported food returned from abroad. C. MFDS believes that such an inspection is needed. • For foods requiring non-GMO labelling, any of the following materials shall be provided: A. Distinguish circulating certificates. B. A certificate issued by the government of the producing country with the same effect as distinguish circulating certificates. C. The test report issued by the designated testing body in Korea to prove that the food is non-GMO food. • Include the statement of reasons for setting the expiration date as per Article 20, Clause 4 of Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control as highlighted in Article 27, Clause 4 of Enforcement Rule of The Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control. • Copy of business license and copy of product manufacturing report (only for raw materials imported for foreign exchange earning according to Foreign Trade Act or raw materials used for further production). • Halal food certification or halal animal product certification (where applicable). • Other documents that the Director of MFDS deems necessary. **Import Confirmation Certificate** After filing an import declaration of the relevant imported food with MFDS, importers may need to obtain the import confirmation certificate for certain consignment. According to Article 30 (Inspection, etc. of Imported Food, etc.) of Enforcement Rule of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control, when the Regional Office in MFDS receives an import declaration, he/she shall conduct an inspection of the imported food; if the results are appropriate, he/she shall issue a certificate of confirmation of an import declaration of imported food to a person who has made an import declaration.

		According to Article 31 (Conditional Import Inspection) of Enforcement Rule of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control, the Regional Office may issue a certificate of confirmation of an import declaration of the imported food including fresh foods such as live, fresh or refrigerated fishery products as well as fresh or refrigerated agricultural products. Refer to **Annex 1** for the list of aquatic animals or products subject to inspection. Based on the published Regulations on the Declaration and Inspection of Imported Food, etc., the Regional Office shall conduct an inspection in any of the following cases and issue an import certificate of confirmation if the results are satisfactory: ● Fishery products recognized as likely to cause food risks as per the attached Table 9 of the Enforcement Rule of The Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control. ● Puffer suspected of being caught in seas other than the East Sea, Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, and East China Sea together with the Certificate of Origin. ● Live fish, frozen products, and dried products.
5	**Regulations and standards**	Interested exporters who wish to export fish and seafood products to South Korea must meet all their regulations and standards. The following links are provided as a guide: **(1)Pesticide residues** Annex 4 of Food Code provides the pesticide residue standards in food. It includes the name of pesticide, the name of food, the definition of residue, and the maximum limit of pesticide, etc. South Korea has implemented a pesticide positive list system from 1 Jan 2019 for all agricultural products and processed food imported into Korea. Under the Positive List System, the uniform level rule (0.01 mg/kg or less) applies to all pesticides except for those for which Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are set in Korea in order to control pesticide residue. To search the pesticide of interest, please see pesticide information. **(2)Veterinary drug residues** Annex 5 of Food Code provides the veterinary drug residues standards in food. It includes the name of veterinary drugs, the name of food, the definition of residues, and the maximum limit of veterinary drugs, etc.

		South Korea plans to implement a veterinary drug positive list system from 1 Jan 2024 for only major livestock and fishery products of cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs and fish. Under the Positive List System, the uniform limit (0.01 mg/kg) applies to livestock and fishery products for which Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are not set in Korea. To search the veterinary drug of interest, please see veterinary drugs information. **(3)Contaminants** Section 3 of Chapter 2 Common Standards and Specific for General Foods of Food Code sets the chemical contamination limits in foods. The Food Code divides contaminants into nine categories, namely heavy metals, mycotoxins, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), benzopyrene, 3-MCPD (3-Monochloropropane-1,2-diol), melamine, shellfish toxins and maximum radioactivity. **(4) Mycotoxins** Section 3 of Chapter 2 of Food Code sets the mycotoxin contamination limits in foods. The mycotoxins are divided into total aflatoxin (the sum of B1, B2, G1 and G2), aflatoxin M1, patulin, fumonisin, and ochratoxin A, deoxynivalenol and zearalenone. **(5)Microorganisms** Section 3 of Chapter 2 of Food Code sets the microbial contamination limits in foods. The microorganisms are divided into health indicator bacteria and pathogenic bacteria. The limit of microorganisms in the corresponding products is also stipulated in the product standard. **(6)Food additives** Food Additives Code specifies the additives allowed in foods, the use of additives, and the maximum limit of their use. **(7)Product specifications** Seafood products should not only meet the requirements of the physical indicators, chemical indicators, microbial indicators, and other requirements in Section 20, Chapter 5 Standards and Specifications for Each Food Products of Food Code. In addition, the products need to meet the general index requirements.

6	**Labelling, packaging and marking requirements**	**(1) Labelling and marking requirements** Food Labeling System contains comprehensive information regarding food labelling. Act on Labelling and Advertising of Foods stipulates the requirements of product labels, font, and language for labelling. Enforcement Decree of the Act on Labelling and Advertising of Foods sets the necessary enforcement. According to the Act on Labelling and Advertising of Foods, food shall be labelled as follows: The containers and packages of the minimum sales units of the products sold to consumers shall be marked with the following: Product name; Net content; Name of ingredients; Name and address of the enterprise; Consumer safety considerations; Production date; Circulation period or quality maintenance period; Other matters required by the Prime Minister's order to provide consumers with information related to food. In particular, Article 5 of Enforcement Rule of the Act on Labelling and Advertising of Foods states the method of indication (which includes consumer safety considerations as well as font size and characters). Refer to **Annex 2** for the list of allergenic substances as part of consumer safety considerations. Certain foods namely eggs (limited to poultry), milk, buckwheat, peanuts, soybeans, wheat, mackerel, crab, shrimp, pork, peaches, tomatoes, sulfurous acid (limited to the final product containing SO_2 over 10 mg/kg), walnuts, chicken, beef, octopus, shellfish (including oysters, abalone, mussels), pine nuts are considered allergenic substances, and must be labelled as such. Refer to **Annex 3** for the requirements on font size and characters in labels. All foods shall be labelled in Korean and Chinese characters or together with other foreign languages or mixed (except for health functional foods). The font size of Chinese characters or other foreign languages shall be the same as or slightly smaller than Korean characters, except in any of the following circumstances: A. Imported food as stipulated in Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control; Trademarks are registered in accordance with Trademark Law; Product names of alcoholic products. B. Conditions that may omit Korean characters: Food imported for the purpose of production and processing by the company is marked in English or the language of the exporting country with the items specified in each article of the same paragraph (including product name, enterprise name, production date and shelf life, etc.). In addition, seafood products (excluding single ingredients such as fresh fish) must be labelled with nutrition labels.

		Labelling Standard for Food (English version with upcoming amendments) stipulates the compulsory labelling requirements (including labelling items, labelling of precautions for consumer safety, and font size in labels, etc.,). It also covers information on the labelling method, the labelling of long-term storage foods, the labelling of foods that contain ginseng or red ginseng ingredients, the labelling of irradiated foods, and the labelling of different food categories. Labelling Standards for Genetically Modified Foods stipulate the labelling standards for genetically modified foods. **(2) Packaging** Standards and Specifications for Utensils, Containers and Packages (with upcoming amendments and notification of revision) specify the general standards and specifications for food contact materials, specifications for various materials (including paper, glass, synthetic resin, etc.), and test methods for utensils and container packaging, etc.
7	**Other information**	For more details: FAIRS Annual Country Report: South Korea (May 2023), MFDS Guide on Imported Food Safety, MFDS Imported Inspection Process, *Labelling Standards of Foods (Oct 2019) **Although this document has expired, it provides a historical record of the labelling requirements in English* **WTO Import Licensing Procedures** Korea's legislation and notifications See the relevant legislations (translated English version) - Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control - Enforcement Rule of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control - Enforcement Decree of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control - Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act - Enforcement Decree of the Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act - Act on the Prevention of Contagious Animal Diseases - Aquatic Animal Disease Control Act - Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act - Enforcement Decree of the Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act

		- Plant Protection Act - Enforcement Rule of Plant Protection Act (English version currently not available) - Act on Labeling and Advertising of Foods - Enforcement Decree of the Act on Labeling and Advertising of Foods - Act on Origin Labeling of Agricultural and Fishery Products - Enforcement Decree of the Act on Origin Labeling of Agricultural and Fishery Products

Annex 1: List of aquatic animals or products subject to import inspection

A1. Click on the link on “Regulations on the Declaration and Inspection of Imported Food, etc.”.
https://www.law.go.kr/행정규칙/수입식품등 신고 및 검사에 관한 규정/(2023-96,20231228)

A2. The screenshot above provides the list of aquatic animals or products subject to import inspection.

Annex 2: List of allergenic substances

Annex 3: Requirements on font size and characters in labels

C1. Read the Enforcement Rule of the Act on Labeling and Advertising of Foods
https://www.law.go.kr/법령/식품등의표시・광고에관한법률시행규칙

C2. Go to Article 5 and click the text as shown above to open the hyperlink to view the method of indication.

C3. Click the text (indicated as “Table 2”) as shown above to retrieve information on the list of allergenic substances.

C4. Click the text (indicated as “Table 3”) as shown above to retrieve information on the required font size and characters in labels.

C5. Click the attachment (indicated as “Table 2”) located at the bottom of the page for the list of allergenic substances.

C6. Click the attachment (indicated as “Table 3”) located at the bottom of the page for the required font size and characters in labels.

법령

국가법령정보센터

식품 등의 표시 · 광고에 관한 법률 시행규칙
[시행 2024. 1. 12.] [총리령 제1935호, 2024. 1. 12., 일부개정]

- 본문
- 부칙
- 별표
  - [별표 1] 식품등의 일부 표시사항(제2조 관련)
  - [별표 2] 소비자 안전을 위한 표시사항(제5조제1항 관련)
  - [별표 3] 식품등의 표시방법(제5조제2항, 제6조제4항 및 제7조제2항 관련)
  - [별표 4] 영양표시 대상 식품등(제6조제1항 관련)
  - [별표 5] 1일 영양성분 기준치(제6조제2항 및 제3항 관련)
  - [별표 6] 식품등 광고 시 준수사항(제8조 관련)
  - [별표 7] 행정처분 기준(제16조 관련)
  - [별표 8] 과징금 부과 제외 대상(제17조 관련)
- 서식

본문 | 제정·개정이유 | 별표·서식 | 연혁 | 3단비교 | 신구법비교 | 법령체계도 | 법령비교 | 조문선택 | 화면내검색

식품 등의 표시 · 광고에 관한 법률 시행규칙 (약칭: 식품표시광고법 시행규칙)

[시행 2024. 1. 12.] [총리령 제1935호, 2024. 1. 12., 일부개정]

[별표 1] 식품등의 일부 표시사항(제2조 관련)

[별표 2] 소비자 안전을 위한 표시사항(제5조제1항 관련)

■ 식품 등의 표시·광고에 관한 법률 시행규칙 [별표 2] <개정 2021. 8. 24.>

소비자 안전을 위한 표시사항(제5조제1항 관련)

Ⅰ. 공통사항

1. 알레르기 유발물질 표시

식품등에 알레르기를 유발할 수 있는 원재료가 포함된 경우 그 원재료명을 표시해야 하며, 알레르기 유발물질, 표시 대상 및 표시방법은 다음 각 목과 같다.

가. 알레르기 유발물질

알류(가금류만 해당한다), 우유, 메밀, 땅콩, 대두, 밀, 고등어, 게, 새우, 돼지고기, 복숭아, 토마토, 아황산류(이를 첨가하여 최종 제품에 이산화황이 1킬로그램당 10밀리그램 이상 함유된 경우만 해당한다), 호두, 닭고기, 쇠고기, 오징어, 조개류(굴, 전복, 홍합을 포함한다), 잣

나. 표시 대상

1) 가목의 알레르기 유발물질을 원재료로 사용한 식품등

2) 1)의 식품등으로부터 추출 등의 방법으로 얻은 성분을 원재료로 사용한 식품등

3) 1) 및 2)를 함유한 식품등을 원재료로 사용한 식품등

다. 표시방법

원재료명 표시란 근처에 바탕색과 구분되도록 알레르기 표시란을 마련하고, 제품에 함유된 알레르기 유발물질의 양과 관계없이 원재료로 사용된 모든 알레르기 유발물질을 표시해야 한다. 다만, 단일 원재료로 제조·가공한 식품이나 포장육 및 수입 식육의 제품명이 알레르기 표시

allergenic substances: eggs (limited to poultry), milk, buckwheat, peanuts, soybeans, wheat, mackerel, crab, shrimp, pork, peaches, tomatoes, sulfurous acid(limited to the final product containing SO2 over 10 mg/kg), walnuts, chicken, beef, octopus, shellfish (including oysters, abalone, mussels), pine nuts

C7. The content in “Table 2” provides information on the list of allergenic substances.

C8. The content in “Table 3” provides information on the required font size and characters in labels.

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