



**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Notifying Member:</b> <u>SINGAPORE</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>				
<b>2.</b>	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)				
<b>3.</b>	<b>Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Ready-to-eat food				
<b>4.</b>	<b>Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All trading partners</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific regions or countries:</b>				
<b>5.</b>	<b>Title of the notified document:</b> Food Regulations. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 226  The above document contains the existing regulations and is available at the following website: <a href="http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation">http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation</a> (select "Sale of Food Act"). The proposed regulations to amend the existing regulations are being drafted, and will be posted at the following website as soon as they are available: <a href="http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation">http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation</a> (select "Sale of Food Act").				
<b>6.</b>	<b>Description of content:</b> The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) has completed a review of the Food Regulations and proposes the following amendments: a) To delete the existing regulation 35 of the Food Regulations and substitute with the following new regulation 35 which provides a definition for ready-to-eat food: 35 – (1) Ready-to-eat food shall comply with the microbiological standard specified in Parts I, II and III of the Eleventh Schedule. (2) In these Regulations, "ready-to-eat food" means food intended by the producer or the manufacturer for direct human consumption without the need for cooking or other forms of processing effective to eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level the micro-organisms of concern. b) To delete the existing Eleventh Schedule of the Food Regulations and substitute with a new Eleventh Schedule which specifies the revised microbiological standard for ready-to-eat food:  <p style="text-align: center;">ELEVENTH SCHEDULE MICROBIOLOGICAL STANDARD FOR FOOD</p> <p>Part I: Total Plate Count</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Type of Food</i></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Category 1:</i> Shelf-stable canned, retort and ultra-high temperature processed foods subjected to sterilisation or equivalent processing</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">&lt;10 (liquid foods) and &lt;10<sup>2</sup> (solid foods)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i>	<i>Category 1:</i> Shelf-stable canned, retort and ultra-high temperature processed foods subjected to sterilisation or equivalent processing	<10 (liquid foods) and <10 <sup>2</sup> (solid foods)
<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i>				
<i>Category 1:</i> Shelf-stable canned, retort and ultra-high temperature processed foods subjected to sterilisation or equivalent processing	<10 (liquid foods) and <10 <sup>2</sup> (solid foods)				

*Category 2:*

- (a) Sweetened condensed milk (a)  $<10^3$   
 (b) Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1 and 4) (b)  $<10^5$   
 in which most components are cooked without  
 intention for further processing or heating  
 before consumption; this may include pasteurised  
 food which are shelf stable or may require  
 refrigeration; or non-fermented dairy products and  
 dairy-based desserts; or sauces; or bakery and  
 confectionery products; or powdered foods

*Category 3:*

- Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1, 2 and 4)  $<10^6$   
 that are consumed raw or that contain a  
 significant amount of raw ingredients in the  
 final food product

*Category 4:*

- Fresh fruits and vegetables, fruits and vegetables  
 juices which have not been subjected to pasteurisation  
 or equivalent processing, fermented food products,  
 preserved food products (including salted or pickled  
 food products), dried foods, yoghurts, ripened cheeses,  
 foods containing probiotics; foods containing a significant  
 portion of these ingredients in the final food product Not applicable

*Category 5:*

- All other ready-to-eat foods not specified above  $<10^5$

Part II: Coliforms and *Escherichia coli*

<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Coliform count</i>	<i>Escherichia coli count</i>
	<i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i>	<i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i>
Milk powder (including full-cream, half cream, skimmed milk and infant formula), buttermilk powder, pasteurised milk and ice cream	$<5.0 \times 10^2$	$<10^2$
All other ready-to-eat food	Not applicable	$<10^2$

## Part III: Pathogens

<i>Pathogens</i>	<i>Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)</i>
Coagulase-positive <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	$<10^2$
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	$<2.0 \times 10^2$
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	$<10^2$
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	Not detected in 25g (except for raw ready-to-eat seafood where limit is $<10^2$ )
<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> , <i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	Not detected in 25g
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Not detected in 25g
<i>Shigella</i> spp.	Not detected in 25g
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Not detected in 25g
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	Not detected in 25g
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	Not detected in 25g
All other pathogens not stated above, including <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> (serotype III)	Not detected

	Singapore notes that the revised microbiological standard for ready-to-eat food would be trade facilitative for most products compared to the existing standard. Hence, we plan to implement the measure one month after the close of the comment period in November 2017. However, we are ready to provide a longer transition period if such a need is identified during the comment period.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b> Not applicable, as there is no relevant international standard. However, the "Codex Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)" was referenced in the development.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> November 2017</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> November 2017</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): November 2017</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 2 November 2017</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The proposed regulations are being drafted, and will be posted at the following website as soon as they are available: <a href="http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation">http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation</a> (select "Sale of Food Act").</p> <p>Alternatively, please write in to:  Regulatory Administration Group  Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority  52 Jurong Gateway Road #14-01  Singapore 608550  Tel: +(65) 6805 2912  Fax: +(65) 6334 1831  E-mail: WTO_Contact@ava.gov.sg  adelene_yap@ava.gov.sg</p>