



12 September 2023

(23-6050)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>MAURITIUS</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Ministry of Health and Wellness
<b>3. 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> Meat and edible meat offal (HS code(s): 02); Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates (HS code(s): 03); Dairy produce; Birds' eggs; Natural honey; Edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included (HS code(s): 04); Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included (HS code(s): 05); Live trees and other plants; Bulbs, roots and the like; Cut flowers and ornamental foliage (HS code(s): 06); Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers (HS code(s): 07); Edible fruit and nuts; Peel of citrus fruit or melons (HS code(s): 08); Coffee, tea, maté and spices (HS code(s): 09); Cereals (HS code(s): 10); Products of the milling industry; Malt; Starches; Inulin; Wheat gluten (HS code(s): 11); Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; Miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; Industrial or medicinal plants; Straw and fodder (HS code(s): 12); Lac; Gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts (HS code(s): 13); Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included (HS code(s): 14); Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes (HS code(s): 15); Preparations of meat, of fish, of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, or of insects (HS code(s): 16); Sugars and sugar confectionery (HS code(s): 17); Cocoa and cocoa preparations (HS code(s): 18); Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; Pastrycooks' products (HS code(s): 19); Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants (HS code(s): 20); Miscellaneous edible preparations (HS code(s): 21); Beverages, spirits and vinegar (HS code(s): 22); Residues and waste from the food industries; Prepared animal fodder (HS code(s): 23); Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; Products, whether or not containing nicotine, intended for inhalation without combustion; other nicotine containing products intended for the intake of nicotine into the human body (HS code(s): 24); Salt; Sulphur; Earths and stone; Plastering materials, lime and cement (HS code(s): 25)
<b>4. 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. Title of the notified document:</b> Food Act 2022, Draft Food Regulations 2023 <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 42 and 93 respectively Food Act 2022: <a href="https://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/mauritiusassembly/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/act1222.pdf">https://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/mauritiusassembly/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/act1222.pdf</a> Draft Food Regulations 2023: <a href="https://health.govmu.org/health/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/DRAFT-FOOD-REGULATIONS-2023-.pdf">https://health.govmu.org/health/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/DRAFT-FOOD-REGULATIONS-2023-.pdf</a>

- 6. Description of content:** The Draft Food Regulations 2023 will replace the current Food Regulations 1999, with the objective to further strengthen the food control framework in Mauritius by setting standards for the following:
- Food composition and labelling, including labelling requirements for pre-packed food;
  - Packages for food, including standards for food grade material, which can be used for packaging;
  - Pre-approval permit for any novel food, food produced using gene technology and irradiated food;
  - Examination and sampling of food for clearance at border level as well as surveillance at domestic level;
  - Food hygiene pertaining to building and facilities, food handling practices and personal hygiene of food handlers;
  - Contaminants levels to protect the market from the sale of unsafe food;
  - Chilled and frozen food to enable the transport, storage, display and sale of perishable food safely;
  - Food additives, which can be used in specific food and at which level;
  - Salt, which is allowed for sale;
  - Cereal and cereal product for the sale of fortified flour;
  - Egg and egg product to ensure their safe consumption;
  - Special purpose food for the health protection of infants and children;
  - Edible oil or fat concerning saturated fat and trans-fat;
  - Mayonnaise and sauce for their production;
  - Milk and milk product to ensure their safety and nutritional quality;
  - Meat and meat product processing and sale;
  - Fish and fish product, which are safe for human consumption;
  - Packaged water and natural mineral water for their production and sale;
  - Food safety management system requirement for food establishments involved in specific types of food, mayonnaise, fish and fish product, meat and meat product, and packaged water and natural mineral water; and
  - Food prohibited for sale in educational institutions, such pre-primary, primary and secondary schools.
- 7. Objective and rationale:** ☒ food safety, ☐ animal health, ☐ plant protection, ☐ protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, ☐ protect territory from other damage from pests. The objective of the draft food regulations 2023 is to strengthen the existing food regulations to protect the population from unsafe and unhealthy food. The high morbidity and mortality related to the consumption of unsafe and unhealthy food are the main reasons urging the coming up with a new food regulations.
- 8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:**
- ☒ **Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):** The draft Food Regulations is mostly based on the CODEX texts, as follows:
- General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods CXS 1-1985
  - Codex General Standard for Food Additives (Codex Stan 192-1995, Rev.)
  - Codex General Standards for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (Codex Stan 193-1995)
  - Codex pesticide residues in food online database
  - Codex Alimentarius – MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRLs) AND RISK MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (RMRs) FOR RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (CX/MRL 2-2018)
- ☐ **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):**
- ☐ **International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):**
- ☐ **None**
- Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?**
- ☒ Yes ☐ No

<b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> 1 December 2023 <b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 1 January 2024
<b>11.</b>	<b>Proposed date of entry into force: [X] Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> <b>[ ] Trade facilitating measure</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Final date for comments: [X] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> 11 November 2023  <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>  Mr Danandjay Luximon Deputy Director 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Medine Mews La Chaussee Street, Tel: +(230) 260 2914 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vidan_2@yahoo.com">vidan_2@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:dvluximon@gmail.com">dvluximon@gmail.com</a> Alternate email: <a href="mailto:motas@intnet.mu">motas@intnet.mu</a>  Mrs S. Jawaheer Unathras Ag. Senior Scientific Officer Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Plant Protection Office) Tel: +(230) 465 4902 Fax: +(230) 465 9591 E-mail: <a href="mailto:moa-pathology@govmu.org">moa-pathology@govmu.org</a>  Ministry of Health and Wellness Mr Yousouf Gaungoo Officer-In-Charge Mauritius Food Standards Agency 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 3A, Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis Mob: +(230) 5252 8567 WhatsApp: +(230) 5754 7834 E-mail: <a href="mailto:yougaungoo@govmu.org">yougaungoo@govmu.org</a>

**13. Text(s) available from: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

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