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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides information on the regulations and procedures for the importation of food and agricultural products from United States to Malaysia. The report is supplemented by the Malaysia Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Export Certificate Report 2024.

## **DISCLAIMER**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

**FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	4
<b>Section I. Food Laws:</b> .....	4
<b>Section II. Labeling Requirements:</b> .....	4
<b>Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:</b> .....	10
<b>Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:</b> .....	11
<b>Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:</b> .....	11
<b>Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures:</b> .....	12
<b>Section VII. Other Specific Standards:</b> .....	15
<b>Section VIII. Geographical Indications, Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights:</b> .....	16
<b>Section IX. Import Procedures:</b> .....	17
<b>Section X. Trade Facilitation</b> .....	18
<b>Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:</b> .....	19
<b>Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:</b> .....	20
<b>Appendix III. Local and Other Contacts:</b> .....	23
<b>Appendix IV. Fifth A Schedule (Nutrient Content Claim):</b> .....	23

## **Executive Summary**

A set of nutritional labeling requirements entered effect on January 1, 2024. Also new for 2024 are updated requirements for all plant registration application submissions to the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).

The Malaysia Food Act of 1983 and the Food Regulations of 1985 dictate national safety and quality standards for most prepared and/or packaged foods. The Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for implementing and enforcing all standards under these statutes. All food imports are subject to random checking and sampling by the Malaysia Quarantine and Inspection Service (MAQIS) at the 28 entry points throughout the country to ensure all products comply with the prescribed national standards and regulations.

DVS, under the Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture, is responsible for ensuring foods of animal origin are clean and fit for human consumption. All red meat, poultry, pork, egg, and dairy imports into Malaysia must come from DVS registered and/or approved facilities. DVS also regulates the importation of livestock into Malaysia and requires import licenses and health certificates to facilitate the trade of live animals.

In accordance with Malaysia's Standard for Halal, all meat (except pork) and livestock products (e.g. beef, poultry, dairy, and eggs) imported into the country must be halal certified as recognized by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM). In the United States, JAKIM has accredited three Islamic institutions to inspect and certify food and beverage products as halal for export to Malaysia: the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America, the Islamic Services of America, and the American Halal Foundation.

### **Section I. Food Laws:**

[Malaysia's Food Act 1983](#) and the [Food Regulations of 1985](#) govern food safety and quality control, including food standards, food hygiene, food import/export, food advertisement and accreditation of laboratories. FSQD is charged with implementing and enforcing the law under these statutes. FSQD implements an active food safety program, which includes routine compliance, sampling, food premises inspection, food import control activity and licensing of specified food substances. FSQD also monitors for specific food contaminants and approves food labels.

### **Section II. Labeling Requirements:**

Extracts from the Food Regulations of 1985 pertaining to labeling requirements, etc., are cited below. For more details on labeling requirements, please visit the MOH Food Safety Information System website at [Food Safety and Quality Division \(moh.gov.my\)](http://Food Safety and Quality Division (moh.gov.my)).

#### **A. General Requirements**

##### **Language to be Used:**

When food is produced, prepared, or packaged in Malaysia, the language to be used is Bahasa Malaysia. For imported food, the language may be in Bahasa Malaysia or English. In either case, the label may also include translation in any other language.

**Particulars in Labeling:**

1. The label must include the appropriate designation of the food or a description of the food containing the common name of its principal ingredients. "Appropriate designation" means a specific name or description (non-generic) that indicates the true nature of the food to the prospective buyer. The lettering on the label shall be so prominent in height, visual emphasis, and position to be conspicuous by comparison with any other matter appearing on the label.

2. In the case of mixed or blended food this should be indicated in combination with the appropriate designation of the food. For example, the following form: "mixed" (here insert the appropriate designation of the food); or "blended" (here insert the appropriate designation of the food).

3. Where food contains beef or pork, its derivatives, or lard, a statement as to the presence in the form "CONTAINS (state whether beef or pork, or its derivatives, or lard, as applicable)" shall be included or other words to this same effect.

4. A statement as to the presence of alcohol, in capital bold-faced lettering of a non-serif character not smaller than 6-point font size, in the form- "CONTAINS ALCOHOL" or other words to this effect. This statement shall appear immediately below the appropriate designation of the food.

5. Where the food consists of two or more ingredients, other than water, food additives, and nutrient supplements, the appropriate designation of each of those ingredients shall be listed in descending order of proportion by weight and (if required) a declaration of the proportion of such ingredient.

5a. Where the food contains an ingredient known to cause hypersensitivity, a statement indicating that the food may cause hypersensitivity should be included.

Specific foods or ingredients known to cause hypersensitivity include:

- a) cereal containing gluten, including wheat, rye, barley, and oat;
- b) nut and nut product, including peanut and soybean;
- c) fish and fish products;
- d) milk and milk product (including lactose); and
- e) egg and egg product.

6. Where the food contains edible fat, edible oil or both, a statement as to the presence in that food of such edible fat, edible oil or both, together with the common name of the animal or vegetable from which the fat or oil was derived.

7. Where the food contains food additives, a statement as to the presence of such food additives, in the form of "contains permitted (state type of the relevant food additive)". In the case of coloring substance or flavoring substance, it is sufficient to state the common name or the appropriate designation of that food additive in place of the chemical name.

8. A statement of the minimum net weight, volume or the number of the content of the package; in the case of food packed in liquid, a statement of the minimum drained weight of the food.

9. In the case of imported food, the name and business address of the manufacturer, packer or owner of the rights of manufacture, or the representative of any of them. The label should also contain the name and business address of the importer in Malaysia and the name of the country of the origin of the food. The name of the company or the trade name of the manufacturer, packer, importer or seller appearing on any disc or cap or other device for sealing any package is not sufficient.

10. For the purpose of paragraphs 5, 7, where the food ingredients, or food additives added to such food, are derived from animal, the common name of such animal shall also be stated on the label of that food.

**Form and Manner of Labeling:**

1. The particulars required above shall appear conspicuously and prominently on the label.

2. All particulars to appear on the label shall be written in no smaller than 10-point lettering and with equal prominence with any other matter appearing on or attached to the package.

3. Every label shall be legible and durably marked either on the material of the package or on material firmly or permanently attached to the package.

4. A label may be firmly placed inside a package if:

a) the package is made of a clear transparent material; and

b) the food contained in the package is not ready for direct consumption or in the case of food ready for consumption, is completely enclosed in its natural shell, pod or interior wrapper such that it has no direct contact or is not likely to come into contact with the label.

5. Except for internationally accepted unit symbols of weights and measures, the lettering of every word or statement required to appear on labels shall be all capital letters or all lower-case letters; or lower-case letters with an initial capital letter.

6. Where the package is so small as to prevent the use of letters of the required size on the label, letters of smaller size may be used if they are of the largest size practicable in the circumstances and are no smaller than two points.

7. All lettering shall appear in a color that contrasts strongly with its background so as to be clearly legible.

**Date Marking:**

1. Dates should be permanently marked or embossed on the package, or on the package label, for any food signifying the expiry date or date of minimum durability of that food.

2. "Expiry date" for packaged food is the date after which the food, when kept in accordance with any storage conditions set out on the label, may not retain the quality attributes normally expected by a consumer. The "date of minimum durability" for packaged food, means the date until which the food, when kept in accordance with any storage conditions set out on the label, will retain any specific qualities for which a tacit or expressed claim has been made.

3. Only a marking that is a clear, and unmistakable date that can be correctly interpreted by the consumer shall constitute date marking. The marking of a date in code form for lot identification does not constitute date marking.

4. For packages intended for sale, the date marking shall appear on the label or elsewhere on the package in accordance with the following regulation:

"EXPIRY DATE or EXP DATE (here insert the date, expressed in day, month and year or in month and year)"; "USE BY (here insert the date, expressed in day, month and year or in month and year or in month and year)"; or "CONSUME BY or CONS BY (here insert the date, expressed in day, month and year or in month and year)". The date of minimum durability in respect of any food shall be shown in "BEST BEFORE or BEST BEF (here insert the date, expressed in day, month and year or in month and year)".

5. Where the validity of the date marking of a food is dependent on its storage, storage direction for that food is required to be on the label.

6. No person shall prepare, advertise for sale, or sell any food specified in the Fifth Schedule of the Food Regulations 1985 unless the package containing such food bears a date marking.

7. The date marking required by this regulation shall be in capital bold-faced lettering of a non-serif character not smaller than 6-point font size.

**Matter Forbidden on Labels:**

1. No descriptive matter appearing on or attached to any package of food shall include any statement (either directly or by implication) contradicting, qualifying or modifying the content of the label.

2. Words to indicate grading, quality, superiority or any other words of similar meaning shall not appear on the label of any package of food unless such description of quality grading conform to those established by the relevant authorities responsible for such grading. Where such words appear on the label, it shall be presumed that the food is in compliance with the requirements established by the relevant authorities in respect of that quality grading.

3. No label which describes any food shall include the word "pure" (or any other words of the same significance) unless the food is of the strength, purity or quality prescribed by these Regulations and is free from any other added substance apart from those essential in the processing of such food.

4. Claims on the label that are allowable include:

a) Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of a particular substance within a food, provided the claims are not misleading and the substance in question is not subject to specific requirements by these Regulations.

b) Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of one or more nutrients to a food shall be regarded as nutrition claims, and regulation on nutritional labeling shall apply to those claims.

## **B. Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling**

1. In the Food Regulations 1985, "nutritional labeling", in relation to packaged foods, means a description intended to inform the consumer of the nutrient content of the food.

2. Nutritional labeling is compulsory for the following foods: Prepared cereal foods, bread, milk and powdered milk, canned meat, canned fish, canned vegetable, canned fruit, fruit juices, salad dressing, mayonnaise, soft drinks, soya bean milk, and soya bean drinks.

3. The following nutritional information shall be written on the food label using the following specifications:

a) The amount of energy, expressed in kilocalorie (kcal), kilojoule (KJ) or both, per 100g or 100 ml or per package.

b) The amount of protein, available carbohydrate, and fat, expressed in grams (g) per 100g, per 100 ml or per package.

4. For ready-to-drink beverages, the amount of total sugar shall be written on the label

5. Where a claim is made regarding the amount or type of fatty acids, the amounts of saturated, monounsaturated, polyunsaturated and trans fatty acid shall be declared on the label.

6. The amount of energy to be listed should be calculated using the following conversion factors:

a. Carbohydrates 4kcal/g (17 kJ)

b. Protein 4kcal/g (17 kJ)

c. Fat 9kcal/g (37 kJ)

d. Alcohol (Ethanol) 7kcal/g (29 kJ)

e. Organic acid 3kcal/g (13 kJ)

f. Dietary fiber 2kcal/g (8.5kJ)

### **Nutrient Content Claim**

When a nutrient content claim is made that is listed in Table I and Table II of the Fifth A Schedule of Food Regulation 1985 (please refer to Appendix IV), the conditions specified in the tables for that claim shall apply.

### **Nutrient Comparative Claims**

Nutrient comparative claims may only be used on the label based on the food sold, taking into account further preparation required for consumption (as applicable) according to the instructions for use on the label and subject to the following conditions:



- a) The food being compared shall be clearly identified.
- b) Statement of the amount of difference in the energy value or nutrient content shall be given and the following information shall appear in close proximity to the nutrient comparative claim: the amount of difference related to the same quantity, expressed as a percentage, fraction or an absolute amount.
- c) The comparison should be based on a relative difference of at least 25 percent in the energy value or nutrient content, except for micronutrients, where a 10 per cent difference would be acceptable.

### **Nutrient Function Claim**

1. In these regulations, a "nutrient function claim" means a nutrition claim that describes the physiological role of the nutrient in the growth, development, and normal functions of the body.
2. A nutrient function claim shall not imply or include any statement to the effect that the nutrient would afford a cure, treatment for, or protection from a disease.
3. Labels should not include any claims relating to the function of a nutrient in the body unless the food for which the nutrient function claim is made contains at least an amount that would be considered sufficient as a source of that nutrient per the reference amount in Table II of the Fifth A Schedule of Food Regulation 1985 (Appendix IV).

### **Quantitative Ingredients Declaration (QUID)**

The new food labeling regulation that entered into effect on January 1, 2024 includes new requirements:

1. Quantitative Ingredients Declarations (QUID) are required for ingredients that are emphasized on the label or are essential to characterize that food. This can take the form of a percentage of the weight or volume of that ingredient.
2. An option to use the functional class and International Number System (INS) number to identify food additives in food products. For additives without an INS number, the functional class and name of the food additive must be included.

For further information, please refer to the [Revised Malaysian Labeling Requirements](#) report.

### **C. Biotechnology:**

In April 2013, FSQD published the "Guidelines on Labeling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained through Modern Biotechnology." The stated purpose of these regulations is to ensure food safety and provide guidance to the food industry and consumer. The guideline is mandatory for all processed, packaged food sold in Malaysia. Although this regulation was published in 2013, it is yet to be enforced.

### **Key elements of the labeling guidelines include:**

- 1) If the genetically engineered (GE) content is more than three percent, labeling is required.

- 2) For single ingredient GE foods, the words “genetically modified (name of the ingredient)” must appear in the main display panel.
- 3) For multi-ingredient foods, the words “produced from genetically modified (name of the ingredient)” should appear in the list of ingredients and “contains genetically modified ingredient” must be stated on the main display panel.
- 4) Highly refined foods (defined as those where processing has removed all novel DNA and protein) are exempt from the labeling requirement (e.g. vegetable oils, corn syrup, etc.).
- 5) Meat from animals fed with GE grains does not need to be labeled.

### **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:**

Extracts from the Food Regulations 1985 pertaining to packaging and container regulations are cited below. For more details on packaging requirements, please visit the MOH Food Safety Information System website (link provided in Section II of this report).

#### **Restrictions and Limitations on Packaging Materials**

1. No person shall import, manufacture, sell or use any package, appliance, container, or vessel which yields or could yield to its contents, any toxic, injurious or tainting substance, or which contributes to the deterioration of the food.
2. No person shall import, manufacture, advertise for sale or sell any package, appliance, container or vessel made of enamel or glazed earthenware that is intended for use in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for sale and is either capable of imparting lead, antimony, arsenic, cadmium or any other toxic substance to any food prepared, packed, stored, delivered or exposed in it, or is not resistant to acid unless the package, appliance, container or vessel satisfied the test described in the Thirteenth Schedule of the [Food Regulations 1985](#).
3. No person shall import, manufacture, advertise for sale or sell any rigid or semi-rigid package, appliance, container or vessel, made of polyvinyl chloride which contains more than 1 mg/kg of vinyl chloride monomer.
4. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure for sale of any food, package, appliance, container or vessel that has been used or is intended to be used for any non-food product.
5. Recycling of the following packages is prohibited:
  - a) Any sugar, flour or meal sack that has previously been used for any purpose
  - b) Any edible fat or edible oil bottle or metal container that has previously been used for any purpose
  - c) Any package, appliance, container, or vessel that is intended for use or has been used for any product of swine origin
  - d) Any plastic bottle that has previously been used for any purpose.

#### **Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:**

Extracts from the Food Regulations 1985 pertaining to food additives regulations are cited below. For more details on food additives regulations, please visit the MOH Food Safety Information System website (link provided in Section II of this report).

Notwithstanding anything in these regulations, a food additive may be present in any food where:

- a) The additive is permitted by these regulations to be in any ingredient used in the manufacture of the food; and
- b) The proportion of the additive in any such ingredient does not exceed maximum proportion, if any, permitted by these regulations for that ingredient; and
- c) The total proportion of the additive in the final product does not exceed the maximum proportion, if any, permitted by these regulations for that product; and
- d) The food into which the additive is carried over does not contain the additive in greater quantity than would be the case if the food were made under proper technological conditions and in accordance with sound manufacturing practice; and
- e) The additive carried over is present in the food at a level that is significantly less than that normally required for the additive to achieve an efficient technological function in its own right.

#### **Food Additive Labeling Requirements**

There shall be written in the label on the package containing food additive imported, manufactured, advertised for sale or sold:

- a) The words “(state the chemical name of the food additive) as permitted (state the type of food additive)”: For coloring substance or flavoring substance, it shall be sufficient to state the common name or the appropriate designation of that food additive in place of the chemical name; and
- b) Statement giving direction for its use.

Permitted food additives that may be added to specific foods and the maximum permitted levels are listed in the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Schedule of the Food Regulation 1985.

#### **Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:**

The MOH’s FSQD enforces regulations concerning pesticide residues in foodstuffs. Extracts from the Food Regulations 1985 pertaining to pesticides and other contaminants are cited below. For more details on pesticides and other contaminant regulations, please visit the MOH Food Safety Information System website at [Food Safety and Quality Division](#).

#### **Pesticide Residue**

Malaysia establishes pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) in the Sixteenth Schedule of the [Food Regulations 1985](#). For residues not specified in its own regulations, Malaysia recognizes MRLs recommended in the Codex Alimentarius. If the pesticide residue limit is not specified for a particular food in the Sixteenth Schedule or Codex Alimentarius, then the pesticide residue shall not contain more than 0.01 milligram per kilogram in the food.

[The Pesticides Act 1974](#), Sections 7-13, governs the importation and manufacture of pesticides through a registration scheme under the [Pesticides Registration Rules 1976](#). Only Malaysian registered companies may register pesticides. Applications for registration must be submitted to the following address:

Secretary, Pesticides Board, Department of Agriculture, Jalan Gallagher, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

Application forms are obtainable from the same address. Submissions should be made as far in advance as possible prior to the desired registration date. The period of registration of a pesticide is 5 years, effective from the date of registration unless it is terminated by the registrant or canceled by the Pesticides Board. For further information, please refer to [Malaysia's Department of Agriculture's Guidelines on Pesticides Registration](#).

### **Other Contaminants**

The Fourteenth Schedule of the [Food Regulations](#) contains maximum limits for metal contaminants such as lead, while the Fifteenth Schedule contains limits for microorganisms and mycotoxins.

The Fifteenth A Schedule contains MRLs for certain veterinary drugs.

### **Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures:**

All food consignments are subject to random checking and sampling at the 28 entry points throughout Malaysia to ensure food items imported into the country are safe and comply with the prescribed standards and regulations. Foods will be destroyed if they are found unfit for human consumption. Consignments of meat and meat products, milk and milk products, and pork and pork products imported into Malaysia are subject to veterinary inspection by the authorized officer(s) of the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS) at the point of entry upon arrival in Malaysia. Random samples will then be collected for laboratory testing and MAQIS has the right to reject, destroy, or further detain any consignment when deemed necessary.

Health and medicinal food products need to be registered. Meat, milk and their related products require import licenses. Product registration and application for import licenses are done through Malaysian registered companies and fees are imposed for import licenses. Each of the paragraphs below describes specific requirements for product groups of interest to U.S. exporters.

#### *Specific Requirements for Sabah and Sarawak States*

The Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, located on the island of Borneo, retained a number of powers under the agreement by which they joined Malaysia in 1963. Many plant and animal quarantine responsibilities remain with state-level officials, rather than with the federal government. Exporters should be aware that some of Sabah and Sarawak's entry requirements differ from Peninsular Malaysia's requirements. In particular, Sabah maintains its own facility registration and quarantine requirements for animal products. Importers in Sabah must apply separately to DVS Sabah for facility/product approval even if a product is already approved in Peninsular Malaysia.

### **Plant and Plant Products**

The import of plant and plant products into Malaysia is governed by the [Agricultural Pests and Noxious Plants \(Import/Export\) Regulations 1981](#). The aim of plant quarantine regulation is to control for the introduction of pests and diseases from foreign imports. Import permits are issued by MAQIS. All conditions for the import of plants are specified in this permit. As most of the conditions to be fulfilled need to be undertaken in the country of origin of the plants, it is vital that the importer informs the supplier of the requirements before shipment.

An import permit, phytosanitary certificate and pre-shipment treatment are required for several commodities of U.S. interest, including corn, soybeans, cotton and citrus.

**More details are available from:**

Director of Plant Biosecurity Division  
Department of Agriculture  
Wisma Tani, Jalan Sultan Salahuddin,  
Kuala Lumpur, Tel: +60 3 2030-1400; Fax: +60 3 2691-3550  
Website: <http://www.doa.gov.my/myimport/>

**Live Animals/Birds**

The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) regulates the importation of live animals, birds and livestock into Malaysia. An import license and health certificate are needed to facilitate the importation of live animals and birds into the country.

**Further information on animal quarantine requirements and services can be obtained from:**

Department of Veterinary Services  
Quarantine and Import - Export  
Wisma Tani, Podium Block, Lot 4G1, Precinct 4, Putrajaya.  
Tel: +60-3 8870-2000; Fax: +60-3 8888-2685/6472  
Website: <http://www.dvs.gov.my/>

**Meat and Poultry Products (except pork)**

DVS is responsible for ensuring that products of animal origin intended for human consumption are hygienic, healthy, wholesome, and suitable for consumption. Under the Control of Slaughter Rules 1975, all meat (except pork) and poultry products imported into the country must be certified halal by an accredited certification body. In addition, the products must originate from slaughterhouses which have been physically inspected and approved by both the Malaysian veterinary (DVS) and religious authorities (JAKIM – the Islamic Development Foundation of Malaysia) in accordance with the Malaysian Standard for Halal Food ([MS1500:2009](#)).

For contact details of JAKIM-approved halal certifying institutions in the United States, please refer to the “Halal Certification” section below.

All meat, poultry, and dairy products must come from establishments approved by the Malaysian government. The approval process begins with an application to DVS. All submissions to the Department of Veterinary Services are required to comply as per their application submission guidelines, please refer to DVS website for the “[Guidelines For Submission Export Application](#)”. Assistance from U.S. cooperator boards representing the industry, such as the U.S. Meat Export

Federation (USMEF) and the U.S.A. Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), may be solicited to arrange for the certification and plant approval process. Physical inspection of meat and poultry facilities will be scheduled after DVS and JAKIM review the application documents.

An import license, veterinary health certificate (signed or endorsed by the veterinary authority of the country of export) and halal certificate (issued by approved U.S. Islamic Center) must accompany each consignment. All meat must be properly labeled indicating establishment number of the abattoir and packing plant, lot number, date of production and type of slaughter. Further information is also available at the FSIS Export Library: [Malaysia | Food Safety and Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

**As noted above, meat products shipped to Sabah must be approved separately by that state's veterinary authority as well.**

### **Pork Products**

All raw pork imports must originate from slaughterhouses which have been approved by DVS. As with other meat products, pork plant applications must adhere to DVS's "[Guidelines For Submission Export Application](#)". Exporters are encouraged to work with the U.S. Meat Export Council and Foreign Agricultural Service Office at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur when applying for plant listing. Products for export to Sabah must receive separate approval from state veterinary officials.

### **Dairy Facility Registration**

DVS requires foreign producers and exporters of dairy products to apply for registration. All submissions to the Department of Veterinary Services are required to comply as per their application submission requirements in the "[Guidelines For Submission Export Application](#)".

### **Further information is obtainable from:**

Department of Veterinary Services  
Wisma Tani, Podium Block, Lot 4G1, Precinct 4, Putrajaya.  
Tel: +60-3 8870 2000  
Website: <http://www.dvs.gov.my/>

### **Health and Medicinal Food Products**

All health and medicinal food products need to be classified by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA). Under the [Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984](#), NPRA will determine if health or medicinal food products need to be registered. An import license may be necessary, which would be issued by the NPRA Compliance Unit. In order to register with the NPRA, the exporter or appointed distributor is required to write to the NPRA.

### **Further information can be obtained from:**

National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA)  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
36, Jalan Universiti, Pjs 13  
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D.E.  
Tel: +6(03) 7957-3611/ 7883-5400 Fax: +6(03) 7958-1312/ 7956-2924  
website: <https://www.npra.gov.my/index.php/en/>

## Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

### Halal Certification

As noted above, Malaysia requires all imported meat and poultry (except pork), animal-based further processed products, and all milk and egg products (including whey, cheeses and ice cream) be accompanied by a halal certificate from a JAKIM approved certification body. Exporters should strongly consider halal certification for all food and beverage products exported to Malaysia (i.e., even when not explicitly required) to ensure full access to the Malaysian market. Roughly 60 percent of the Malaysian population is Muslim and most hotels, restaurants, and catering services work to ensure 100 percent halal certification for their inputs. As a result, they strive to have all food and beverage products used in their establishments halal certified, regardless of whether it is mandatory for the product.

Currently, JAKIM is the only authorized entity allowed to issue halal certification for domestic food establishments. In the United States, JAKIM has recognized and appointed three Islamic institutions to inspect and halal certify food and beverage products for export to Malaysia in accordance with [Malaysia's Standard for Halal](#): the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), the Islamic Services of America (ISA) and the American Halal Foundation (AHF).

<b>Organization &amp; Address</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Halal Logo</b>
<p>Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA) 5901 N. Cicero Ave, Suite 309 Chicago, Illinois 60646</p> <p>IFANCA Halal Research Center 777 Busse Highway Park Ridge, Illinois 60068</p>	<p>Dr. Muhammad Munir Chaudry President Tel: +17732833708 Fax: +17732833973</p> <p>Tel: +1 847 993 0034 EX 203 Fax: +1 847 993 0038 Mobile: +1 773 447 3415</p>	
<p>Islamic Services of America (ISA) P.O Box 521 Cedar Rapids, IOWA 52406 USA</p>	<p>Mr. Timothy Abu Mounir Hyatt Managing Director Tel: (319) 362-0480 Fax: (319) 366-4369</p> <p>Email: thyatt@isahalal.org islamicservices@isahalal.org Website: www.isahalal.org</p>	
<p>American Halal Foundation (AHF) 10347-C Heritage Isles Golf &amp; Country Club Plantation Bay Dr Tampa, Florida-33647 USA</p>	<p>Mr. Mohammad Mazhar Hussaini (President) Tel: (+630) 759-4981 Fax: (+603) 310-8532</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mmhussaini@halafoundation.org">mmhussaini@halafoundation.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.halalfoundation.org">www.halalfoundation.org</a></p>	

Source: JAKIM - The Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies & Authorities

**For halal regulation details in Malaysia, please contact:**

Halal Hub Division  
Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM)  
Level 6 & 7, Block D  
Kompleks Islam Putrajaya (KIP)  
No. 3, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak  
Presint 3, 62100 Putrajaya  
Tel: +6(03) 8892 5000 Fax: +6(03) 8892 5005  
Website: [www.halal.gov.my](http://www.halal.gov.my)

**Special Purpose Food**

Extracts from the Food Regulations 1985 pertaining to special purpose food are cited below. For more details on special purpose food regulations, please visit the MOH Food Safety Information System website (link provided in Section II of this report)

1. In the Food Regulations 1985, “special purpose food” means a food named or described as particularly suitable for consumption by persons requiring special nutritional needs and includes the food for which a standard is prescribed in Food Regulations 389 to 393.
2. For the purposes of these regulations, the term “carbohydrate” includes alcohol, sorbitol or sugar alcohol, and any carbohydrate substance that is capable of being metabolized.
3. No person shall import, manufacture or advertise for sale or sell any food, other than those specified in Food Regulations 389 to 393, as special purpose food without the prior written approval of the Director of Food Safety and Quality Division of the Ministry of Health.
4. No label of any food shall claim that a food is a special purpose food unless adequate information to support special suitability or nutritional qualities is stated in such label.
5. Where a special purpose food contains any carbohydrate it shall not be labeled with the word or words “sugarless” or “sugar free”, or any word of similar meaning.
- 5A. Where the ingredient, other than food additives, added to special purpose food is derived from plant, the common name of that plant shall be stated on the label of that food.
6. For the purposes of this regulation, “infant” means any person up to 12 months of age and “children” means any person from the age of more than 12 months up to the age of 3 years.
7. Food Regulations 389 to 393 include infant formula, canned food for infants and children, cereal-based food for infants and children, low energy food and formula dietary food.

**Section VIII. Geographical Indications, Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights:**



The Geographical Indication ("GI") Act 2022 supersedes prior legislation from 2000 and came into force on March 18, 2022. The new GI Act seeks to provide a wider scope of protection to GI proprietors and more clarity for the registration of GIs in Malaysia. Registered geographical indications are given 10 years of protection from the date of filing and may be renewed renewal for every ten years.

Under Malaysian law, trademark privileges can be established through actual use in the marketplace and registration. Trade mark registration provides the ability to take legal action for infringement under the Trade Mark Law against others who use their marks without consent. Trade mark owners can either take civil action or lodge complaints to Enforcement Division of the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia under the Trademarks Regulations 2022. Trademark registration is valid for ten years from the date of application and many be renewed every ten years.

The [Malaysian Geographical Indication Act 2022, Trade Marks Act 2019 \(Act 175\) and the Trade Marks Regulation 2022](#) provide protection against misuse of trademarks and brand names. Trademarks and brand names can be registered with:

Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia Unit 1-7  
Ground Floor Menara UOA  
Bangsar, No. 5, Jalan Bangsar Utama 1  
59000 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: +60-3-2299-8400; Fax: +60-3 2298-8989  
Website: <http://www.myipo.gov.my/>

For manual or online filing of geographical indications and trademarks, please refer to the official portal of the [Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia \(MyIPO\) website](#).

## **Section IX. Import Procedures:**

### **Royal Customs and Excise Department, Ministry of Finance Malaysia**

The Royal Customs and Excise Department of the Ministry of Finance is responsible for ensuring efficient collection of indirect taxes, such as customs duty (import and export), excise duty, sales tax, and service tax. This agency is governed by the [Customs Act 1967](#).

According to the Royal Customs and Excise Department, imported goods may enter Malaysia legally when the shipment has arrived within the legal landing place or at the customs airport. All goods to be imported, regardless of import duties, must be declared in writing on Customs Form Number 1. All declarations should indicate a full and true account of the number and description of goods and packages, value, weight, measurement or quantity, and the country of origin or the final destination. Declarations must be submitted to the Customs station at the place where the goods are to be imported.

All applicable import duties and sales tax must be paid on imported goods before they can be released. The documents required by Malaysian customs are:

- a. Custom Entry Form
- b. Evidence of Right to Make Entry, e.g. Bill of Lading
- c. A Commercial Invoice or a Pro-Forma Invoice (if a commercial invoice cannot be produced)

d. Packing List

e. Other necessary documents to determine merchandise admissibility (e.g. Certificate of Origin, etc.)

The levying of customs duties and sales tax in Malaysia is based on the harmonized system (HS) Tariff Code under the prevailing customs duties order. Duties and sales tax orders were updated and amended in 2022 in accordance with the Customs Duties Order 2022 (CDO 2022) and the 2022 edition of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System adopted by the World Customs Organization (HS 2022). The updates were published in the gazette and effective as of June 1, 2022.

The current sales tax is five percent and ten percent, while service tax rate is six percent.

## **Section X. Trade Facilitation**

### **E-Certificates**

Malaysian importers may apply for import permits through the e-Dagang system, which incorporates both DOA- and DVS-regulated products. Approved import permits are issued electronically. MAQIS accepts electronic and digitally signed sanitary/phytosanitary certificates, provided they are verifiable and complete.

### **Duplicative Registration Requirements**

Minor revisions to facility registrations (e.g., addition of a new dairy product export from an already-approved plant) require re-submission of application paperwork.

As noted elsewhere in this report, the states of Sabah and Sarawak may have separate and/or additional facility registration requirements for certain products, especially livestock and meat/poultry products.

### **Release Times and Common Delays**

All packed, processed food and beverages must go through a clearance process at all ports of entry by MAQIS. Effective May 1, 2022, all containers and shipments are required to be cleared within three days if no issues are identified and no further inspection is required. This is part of the new standard operating procedure by the Ministry of Transportation to speed up the process of discharging goods. However, relevant agencies may conduct investigations where issues have been flagged for a maximum of 30 days, at their discretion. In practice, some shipments can be detained longer.

The most common delays for U.S. exporters are related to errors on export documentation for pre-approved establishments. Missing, incomplete, or wrong information on documentation can lead to lengthy delays while the parties work to make corrections.

### **Labeling**

Labeling compliance is crucial to avoid shipment delays for products. Fresh fruits and vegetables are subject to very specific labeling requirements under the “Regulation of the Federal Marketing Authority (Grading, Packaging and Labeling of Agricultural Products),” known as GPL regulations, published August 18, 2008. Please reference the [FAMA website](#) for complete information and communicate with your local Malaysian importers on product labeling requirements to avoid delays at the port of entry.

## **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:**

Plant Protection and Quarantine Director  
Crop Protection Branch  
Department of Agriculture  
1-3 Floor, WISMA TANI, Jalan Sultan Salahuddin  
50632 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: +(6-03) 2030-1400/2697-3077  
Fax: +(6-03) 2691-3550/2697-7205  
[www.doa.gov.my](http://www.doa.gov.my)

Director General of Customs  
Royal Customs and Excise Headquarters Malaysia  
Ministry of Finance Complex  
Precinct 2, Federal Government Administration Center  
62596 Putrajaya.  
Tel: +(6-03) 8882 2100  
Fax: +(6-03) 8889 5899  
[www.customs.gov.my](http://www.customs.gov.my)

Director  
Veterinary Public Health  
Department of Veterinary Services,  
Lot 4G1, Podium Block, Wisma Tani  
Precinct 4, Federal Government Administration Center  
Putrajaya.  
Tel: + (6-03) 8870-2000  
Fax: + (6-03) 8888-2685  
<http://www.dvs.gov.my/>

National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA)  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
36, Jalan Universiti, Pjs 13  
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D.E.  
Tel: +6(03) 7957-3611/ 7883-5400  
Fax: +6(03) 7958-1312/ 7956-2924;  
<https://www.npra.gov.my/index.php/en/>

Director  
Food Safety and Quality Division  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
Level 4, Menara Prisma, Presint 3  
Federal Government Administration Center  
Putrajaya 62518  
Tel: +(60-3) 8885-0797  
Fax: +(60-3) 8885-0790

<http://fsis2.moh.gov.my/fosimv2/HOM/frmHOMPage.aspx>

Senior Director (Regulatory)  
Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA)  
Ministry of Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry Malaysia  
FAMA Headquarters, SAP Building  
Lot 26-33, Jalan 2/6, Dataran Templer  
Bandar Baru Selayang  
68100 Batu Caves, Selangor  
Tel: +(6-03) 6126-4000  
Fax: +(6-03) 6120-2064  
<http://www.fama.gov.my/utama>

Director General  
Malaysian Quarantine & Inspection Services  
Ministry of Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry Malaysia  
Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, 30 Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4,  
Federal Government Administration Center, Putrajaya  
Tel: +(6-03) 8870-4030  
Fax: +(6-03) 8890-2910  
[www.maqis.gov.my](http://www.maqis.gov.my)

Director General  
Halal Hub Division  
Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM)  
Level 6 & 7, Block D  
Kompleks Islam Putrajaya (KIP)  
No. 3, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak  
Presint 3, 62100 Putrajaya  
Tel: +6(03) 8892 5000 Fax: +6(03) 8892 5005  
Website: [www.halal.gov.my](http://www.halal.gov.my)

## Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:

### Veterinary Services:

Laboratory	Area Served
Makmal Veterinar Kawasan Bukit Tengah Jabatan Perkhidmatan Haiwan P.O.Box 63 14007 Bukit Mertajam, Penang. Tel: +6-04-507 2540 Fax: +6-04-507 5796 E-mail: mvkbt1@dvs.gov.my	Northern States of Peninsular Malaysia such as Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Northern Perak.
Makmal Veterinar Kawasan PJ, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Haiwan Persiaran Barat	Central States of Peninsular Malaysia such as Southern Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Eastern

46630 Petaling Jaya. Tel: +60-3-7955 5237 Fax: +60-3-7957 4421 Email: mvkpj@dvs.gov.my	Pahang and Kuala Lumpur.
Makmal Veterinar Kawasan Johor Bahru Jabatan Perkhidmatan Haiwan Lot PTB 11098 Jalan Taruka off Jalan Datin Halimah P.O.Box 1122 80350 Johor Bahru, Johore. Tel: +60-7-238-5922 Fax: +60-7-238-7419 Email: aidam@dvs.gov.my	Southern States of Peninsular Malaysia such as Johore.
Makmal Veterinar Kawasan Kuantan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Haiwan Jalan Sri Kemunting 2 25100 Kuantan, Pahang. Tel: 609-5137400 Fax: 609-5134959 Email: jphmvkn@dvs.gov.my	East Coast States of Peninsular Malaysia such as Pahang, Southern Terengganu and Northern Johore.
Makmal Veterinary Kawasan Kota Bharu Jabatan Perkhidmatan Haiwan 16150 Kubang Kerian Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Tel: 609-765-3754 Fax: 609-765-4339/2815 Email: azman@dvs.gov.my	Northeastern States of Peninsular Malaysia such as Kelantan and Northern Terengganu.
Veterinary Research Institute 59, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah P.O.Box 369, 30740 Ipoh, Perak. Tel: 605-545-7166 Fax: 605-546-3368 Email: sharifah@jphvri.po.my	State of Perak and Reference Laboratory for Malaysia.
Animal Disease Research Center P.O.Box 59, 89457 Tanjung Aru, Sabah. Tel: 6-088-261263 Fax: 6088-232-488 Email: <a href="mailto:normah.yusop@sabah.gov.my">normah.yusop@sabah.gov.my</a>	State of Sabah
State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Km 2, Jalan Datuk Mohd. Musa Kota Samarahan 93250 Kuching, Sarawak. Peti Surat 1395, Kuching Tel: (6082) 611-607	State of Sarawak

Fax: (6082) 613460 E-mail: andrelll@sarawaknet.gov.my	
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### Ministry of Health Food Quality Control Laboratories

Laboratory	Areas Serviced
Food Quality Control Laboratory Perlis Km 1, Jalan Abi Tok Hashiml, 01000 Kangar Tel: (604) 976-8114/977-7599 Fax: (604) 977-6369	Perlis
Food Quality Control Laboratory Penang Jalan Bagan Luar, 12000 Butterworth, Penang. Tel: (604) 332-4924 Fax: (604) 333-4097	Penang
Food Quality Control Laboratory Selangor Block C, Jalan Langat, Bandar Botanik 41200 Klang, Selangor D.E. Tel: (603) 3323-7899/3323-7992 Fax: (603) 3323-9287	Selangor
Food Quality Control Laboratory Johore d/a Pusat Kesihatan Tampoi, Batu 5, Jalan Skudai, 81200 Johor Bahru, Johor. Tel: (607) 237-7206 Fax: (607) 235-9480	Johore
Food Quality Control Laboratory Pahang No. 21, Tingkat 1 & 2, Jalan Bunga Tanjung, 28400 Mentakab, Pahang Tel: (609) 278-2714 Fax: (609) 278-3085	Pahang
Food Quality Control Laboratory Terengganu Klinik Kesihatan Bukit Tunggul Kampung Bukit Tunggul, Jalan Bukit Datu 21200 Kuala Terengganu Tel: (609) 662-5853 Fax: (609)662-5801	Terengganu
Food Quality Control Laboratory Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan 16400 Peringat, Kota Bahru Kelantan Tel: (609) 712-3400/712-3401 Fax: (609) 712-6781	Kelantan
Food Quality Control Laboratory Sabah Batu 7, Jalan Utara 90500 Sandakan, Sabah Tel: (6089) 675-410	Sabah

Fax: (6089) 675-482	
Food Quality Control Laboratory Sarawak Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg 93590 Kuching Sarawak Tel: (6082) 417-995 Fax:(6082) 258-849	Sarawak
Food Quality Control Laboratory Kedah Bandar Bukit Kayu Hitam, 06050 Bukit Kayu Hitam Tel: (604) 922 2816/922 2904 Fax:(604) 922 2873	Kedah
Food Quality Control Laboratory Miri Lot 523, Block 17, Jalan Pujut-Padang Kerbau 98000 Miri, Sarawak Tel: (6-085) 421-412 Fax:(6-085) 423-412	Sarawak

### **Appendix III. Local and Other Contacts:**

#### **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service/Kuala Lumpur**

Office of Agricultural Affairs

Embassy of the United States of America

376, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: (011-60-3) 2168-5082; Fax:(011-60-3) 2168-5023

E-mail: [agkualalumpur@usda.gov](mailto:agkualalumpur@usda.gov)

#### **World Trade Organization (WTO) Enquiry Point**

Each member government is responsible for the notification procedures associated with agreements under the WTO. WTO obligations include notifying any trade significant proposals which are not substantially the same as international standards to the WTO; providing copies of the proposed regulation upon request; allowing time for comments; and providing upon request copies of other relevant documents on existing regulations related to food and agriculture.

#### **Malaysia WTO Enquiry and Notification Point:**

Standards Management Department

SIRIM Berhad

Section 2, P.O. Box 7035

40911 Shah Alam, Selangor

MALAYSIA

Tel: 603 - 5544 6909

Fax: 603 - 5510 8830

Email: [tbt@sirim.my](mailto:tbt@sirim.my)

### **Appendix IV. Fifth A Schedule (Nutrient Content Claim):**

#### **Table I**

**Conditions for Nutrient Contents for Use in Nutrition Claims**

Component	Claim	Conditions (Not more than)
Energy	Low	40 kcal (170kJ) per 100g (solids) or 20kcal (80 kJ) per 100ml (liquids)
	Free	4kcal per 100ml or 100g
Fat	Low	3 g per 100 g (solids) 1.5 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Free	0.15 g per 100g (or 100ml)
Saturated Fat	Low	1.5 g per 100 g (solids) 0.75 g per 100 ml (liquids) and 10 per cent of total energy of the food
	Free	0.1 g per 100 g (solids) 0.1 g per 100 ml (liquids)
Cholesterol	Low	0.02 g per 100 g (solids) 0.01 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Free	0.005 g per 100 g (solids) 0.005 g per 100 ml (liquids)
Trans Fatty Acid	Low	.5 per 100 g (solids) 0.75 g per 100 ml (liquids) and and 10 per cent of total energy of the food
	Free	0.1 g per 100 g (solids) 0.1 g per 100 ml (liquids)
Sugar	Low	5 g per 100 g (solids) 2.5 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Free	0.5 g per 100 g (solids) 0.5 g per 100 ml (liquids)
Sodium	Low	0.12 g per 100 g (solids) 0.06 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Very Low	0.04 g per 100 g (solids) 0.02 g per 100 ml (liquids)
	Free	0.005 g per 100 g (solids) 0.005 g per 100 ml (liquids)

**Table II**  
**Conditions for Nutrient Contents for Use in Nutrition Claims**

Component	Claim	Conditions (not less than)
Protein*	Source	10 per cent of NRV per 100 g (solids) 5 per cent of NRV per 100 ml (liquids) or 5 per cent of NRV per 100 kcal
	High	(at least 2 times the values for "source



		of")
Vitamins and Minerals	Source  High	15 per cent of NRV per 100 g (solids) 7.5 per cent of NRV per 100 ml (liquids) or 5 per cent of NRV per 100 kcal  (At least 2 times the values for "source of")

**Attachments:**

No Attachments