NOTIFICATION

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** Singapore **If applicable, name of local government involved:**  |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) |
| **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):** Ready-to-eat food |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:****[****X] All trading partners** **[ ]** **Specific regions or countries:**  |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** Food Regulations. **Language(s):** English. **Number of pages:** 226The above document contains the existing regulations and is available at the following website: <http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation> *(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: <http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation> *(select "Sale of Food Act").* |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) has completed a review of the Food Regulations and proposes the following amendments:1. 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.1. 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:

ELEVENTH SCHEDULEMICROBIOLOGICAL STANDARD FOR FOODPart I: Total Plate Count*Type of Food Colony forming unit/gram (cfu/g)**Category 1:*Shelf-stable canned, retort and ultra-high <10 (liquid foods) andtemperature processed foods subjected <102 (solid foods)to sterilisation or equivalent processing*Category 2:*1. Sweetened condensed milk (a) <103
2. Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1 and 4) (b) <105

in which most components are cooked withoutintention for further processing or heatingbefore consumption; this may include pasteurisedfood which are shelf stable or may requirerefrigeration; or non-fermented dairy products anddairy-based desserts; or sauces; or bakery andconfectionery products; or powdered foods*Category 3:*Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1, 2 and 4) <106that are consumed raw or that contain asignificant amount of raw ingredients in thefinal food product*Category 4:*Fresh fruits and vegetables, fruits and vegetables Not applicablejuices which have not been subjected to pasteurisationor equivalent processing, fermented food products,preserved food products (including salted or pickledfood products), dried foods, yoghurts, ripened cheeses,foods containing probiotics; foods containing a significantportion of these ingredients in the final food product*Category 5:*All other ready-to-eat foods not specified above <105Part II: Coliforms and *Escherichia coli**Type of Food Coliform count Escherichia coli count* *Colony forming Colony forming* *unit/gram (cfu/g) unit/gram (cfu/g)*Milk powder (including full-cream, <5.0 X 102 *<*102half cream, skimmed milk and infantformula), buttermilk powder,pasteurised milk and ice creamAll other ready-to-eat food Not applicable *<*102Part III: Pathogens*Pathogens* *Colony forming unit/gram* *(cfu/g)*Coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* <102*Bacillus cereus* <2.0 X 102*Clostridium perfringens* <102*Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Not detected in 25g *(except for raw ready-to-eat* *seafood where limit is <102)**Vibrio vulnificus*, *Vibrio cholerae* Not detected in 25g*Salmonella* spp. Not detected in 25g*Shigella* spp. Not detected in 25g*Listeria monocytogenes* Not detected in 25g*Campylobacter* spp. Not detected in 25g*Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Not detected in 25gAll other pathogens not stated above, Not detectedincluding *Streptococcus agalactiae* (serotype III)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. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [****X] food safety, [ ]****animal health, [ ]****plant protection, [ ]****protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ]****protect territory from other damage from pests.**  |
| **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)*:****[ ]** **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:** **[ ]** **International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:** **[****X] None****Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?** **[ ]** **Yes [ ]** **No****If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** 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. |
| **9.** | **Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:**   |
| **10.** | **Proposed date of adoption *(dd/mm/yy)*:** November 2017**Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)*:** November 2017 |
| **11.** | **Proposed date of entry into force: [ ]****Six months from date of publication**, **and/or** ***(dd/mm/yy)*:** November 2017**[ ]** **Trade facilitating measure**  |
| **12.** | **Final date for comments: [****X] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 2 November 2017**Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [****X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e‑mail address (if available) of other body:**  |
| **13.** | **Text(s) available from: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [****X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e‑mail address (if available) of other body:** The proposed regulations are being drafted, and will be posted at the following website as soon as they are available: <http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation> *(select "Sale of Food Act").*Alternatively, please write in to:Regulatory Administration GroupAgri-Food and Veterinary Authority52 Jurong Gateway Road #14-01Singapore 608550Tel: +(65) 6805 2912Fax: +(65) 6334 1831E-mail: WTO\_Contact@ava.gov.sg adelene\_yap@ava.gov.sg |