NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** Singapore **If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):**  |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)**Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:**  |
| **3.** | **Notified** **under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [****], 5.6.2 [****], 5.7.1 [****], other:** |
| **4.** | **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):** Ready-to-eat food |
| **5.** | **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:** Existing regulation: Food Regulations, available online from [www.ava.gov.sg/legislation](http://www.ava.gov.sg/legislation) *(select "Sale of Food Act")*The proposed changes to the existing regulation is detailed in para 6 below. (226 page(s), in English)   |
| **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

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| ***Type of Food*** | ***Colony forming unit / gram******(cfu/g)***  |
| *Category 1:* Shelf-stable canned, retort and ultra-high temperature processed foods subjected to sterilisation or equivalent processing | <10 (liquid foods) and <102 (solid foods) |
| *Category 2:* 1. Sweetened condensed milk
 | 1. <103
 |
| 1. Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1 & 4) 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
 | 1. <105
 |
| *Category 3:* Ready-to-eat foods (not in categories 1, 2 and 4) that are consumed raw or that contain a significant amount of raw ingredients in the final food product | <106 |
| *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 | <105 |

Part II: Coliforms and *Escherichia coli*

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| ***Type of Food*** | ***Coliform count*** | ***Escherichia coli count*** |
|  | ***Colony forming unit/ gram******(cfu/g)*** | ***Colony forming unit/ gram******(cfu/g)*** |
| Milk powder (including full-cream, half cream, skimmed milk and infant formula), buttermilk powder, pasteurised milk and ice cream | < 5.0 X 102 | *<* 102 |
| All other ready-to-eat food | Not applicable | *<*102 |

Part III: Pathogens

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| **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 25g  |
| All other pathogens not stated above, including *Streptococcus agalactiae* (serotype III) | Not detected |

While there is no relevant international standard for this measure, the "*Codex Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)"* has been referenced.Further, 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.*(The above amendment is also notified via SPS notification)* |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** Protection of human health |
| **8.** | **Relevant documents:** None  |
| **9.** | **Proposed date of adoption:** November 2017**Proposed date of entry into force:** November 2017 |
| **10.** | **Final date for comments:** 60 days from notification |
| **11.** | **Texts available from: National enquiry point [****X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, 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 |