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This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into Malaysia.

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Act 1983• Food Regulations 1985 (available at http://fsis2.moh.gov.my/fosimv2/HOM/frmHOMFARSec.aspx?id=21 or http://faolex.fao.org/cgi-bin/faolex.exe?rec_id=023062&database=FAOLEX&search_type=link&table=result&lang=eng&format_name=@ERALL)
Regulatory/ Enforcement Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD - http://fsq.moh.gov.my) of the Ministry of Health (MOH - http://www.moh.gov.my/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the food law in Malaysia- In charge of food safety certification scheme such Health Certificate, HACCP certification and Free Sale Certificate
Importing Health and Medicinal Food Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984, National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB) will determine if the health or medicinal food products need to be registered.• An import license may be necessary and issued by the Compliance Unit• In order to register with the NPCB, the exporter or appointed distributor need to write to NPCB stating the name of the products, ingredients and its percentage, claims/usage and attach a copy of the label/product literature• Further information can be obtained from NPCB (http://www.bpfk.gov.my/)
Importing Meat & Meat Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each consignment must be accompanied by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Import license- Veterinary Health Certificate (signed or endorsed by a competent veterinary officer of the Government Veterinary Authority of the country of export)- Halal Certificate (issued by approved Islamic Centers)• All meat must be properly labeled indicating establishment number of the abattoir and packing plant; lot number, date of production and type of slaughter (muslim).
Import License and Health Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Live Animals (including birds and livestock products)• Regulated by the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS - http://www.dvs.gov.my), according to Animal Rules, 1962 DVS.• The Animal Quarantine Services provide facilities for quarantine of live animals and birds imported into the country

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Animal Ordinance, 1953, Animal Rules 1962, Animal Importation Order 1962 and Federal Animals Quarantine Station (Management and Maintenance) By-Law 1984 are enforced and requirements such as import license and health certificate are needed to facilitate the importation of live animals and birds into Malaysia.
Halal Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Required for all meat and livestock products, under the Control of Slaughter Rules 1975The products must originate from slaughterhouses which have been inspected and approved by the Malaysian veterinary and religious authorities (JAKIM – the Islamic Development Foundation of Malaysia)JAKIM will also approve and appoint local Islamic Centers to monitor and audit the “halal” status of the approved plants and to issue halal certificates for all export consignments. Guidelines on the process of halal certification is available at http://www.hdcglobal.com/portal/indices/index_190.html
Import license	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Required for alcoholic beverages, animal and animal products, certain health and medicinal food products, meat and meat products, plant and plant products, poultry and poultry products.Done through Malaysian registered companies
Product Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Required for health and medicinal food productsDone through Malaysian registered companies
Phytosanitary requirements and Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Required for plants, plant parts or plant products, processed or otherwiseGoverned by the Agricultural Pests and Noxious Plants (Import/Export) Regulations 1981Applications for Phytosanitary Certificate (P.C.) are to be made on Form PQ 9 obtainable from any Plant Quarantine office and submitted at least four working days before the proposed date of inspection.An import permit is issued by the Director General of the Agriculture Department. All conditions for import of plants are specified in this permit. A certified true copy of the Import Permit will be required for the purposes of meeting the phytosanitary requirements.
Pre-approval for Special Purpose Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prior written approval to be requested from the Director of Food Safety and Quality Division of the Ministry of Health“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 Regulations 389 to 393, which includes infant formula,

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	<p>canned food for infants and children, cereal-based food for infants and children, low energy food and formula dietary food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claims on labels must be supported by adequate information on special suitability or nutritional qualities is stated• Please refer to Regulation 388 of Food Regulations 1985
Documentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The documents required by Malaysian customs are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Custom Entry form- Evidence of right to make entry, e.g. bill of lading- A Commercial Invoice or Pro-forma invoice if a commercial invoice cannot be produced- Packing List- Other necessary documents to determine merchandise admissibility such as- certificate of origin, analysis etc.
Labeling	
General Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information is available from the Food Regulation Part IV – Labeling.• The Food Regulations 1985 is available on the website of Food Safety Information System of Malaysia: http://fsis2.moh.gov.my/fosimv2/HOM/frmHOMFARSec.aspx?id=21• Specific compositional and labeling requirements were developed for particular food products.• The use of health claims on labels is very restrictive. Receiving approval for new food additives, especially those not currently recognized by Codex Alimentarius can be onerous.
Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of food• Minimum net content of food in metric system or minimum drained weight for food packed in liquid*• Date, month and year of manufacture• Date, month and year of expiry within which food remains in good quality or conforms to the standard• Product registration number or label approval number depending on category of food to be imported• Name and address of manufacturer or re-packer together with country where product is manufacturer in case of imported/ re-packed*<ul style="list-style-type: none">- a telegraphic or code address or an address at a Post Office, or the name of the

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	<p>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 of is not sufficient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential ingredients list, in descending order with proportion by weight (if required, the declaration of each proportion)*• Statement of "contains permitted (state the type of the relevant food additive)* * must be written in written in no smaller than 4 point lettering<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Where the package to be labeled is so small as to prevent the use of letters of the required size, letters of smaller size may be used if they are of the largest size practicable in the circumstances and are in any event no smaller than two points.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the food is produced, prepared or packaged in Malaysia, the language to be used is Bahasa Malaysia• In the case of imported food, the language may be in Bahasa Malaysia or English, and in either case may include translation thereof in any other language.
Form of Label	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A label may be firmly placed inside a package if the package is made of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A clear transparent materialb) 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 or pod or interior wrapper such that it has no direct contact or is not likely to come into contact with the labelc) No label shall appear on the extra wrapper of any food
Date marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the validity of the date marking of a food to which this regulation applies is dependent on its storage, the storage direction of that food shall also be required to be borne on its label.• "Expiry date" = the date after which the food may not retain the quality attributes normally expected by a consumer<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "EXPIRY DATE or EXP DATE; "USE BY"; "CONSUME BY" or "CONS BY" (expressed in day, month and year or in month and year)• "Date of minimum durability" = the date until which the food will retain any specific qualities for which tacit or express claim has been made.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shall be shown in "BEST BEFORE or BEST BEF (expressed in day, month and year or in month and year)"The date marking required by this regulation shall be in capital bold-faced lettering of a non-serif character not smaller than 6 point.

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Additional declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement to declare "CONTAINS (beef or pork or its derivatives, or lard) when they are contained in the food• A statement as to the presence of alcohol, in capital bold-faced lettering of a non-serif character not smaller than 6 point, in the form- "CONTAINS ALCOHOL" or in any other words to this effect. This statement shall appear immediately below the appropriate designation of the food.
Food Additives Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Label on a package containing food additive should include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the words "(state the chemical name of the food additive) as permitted (state the type of food additive)"; provided that in the case of colouring substance or flavouring substance it shall be sufficient to state the common name or appropriate designation of the food additive in place of the chemical name; and- a statement giving direction for its use
Nutrition labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compulsory for the following foods: prepared cereal foods; various types of bread; variety of milk and powdered milk, including sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk and cultured milk; canned meat; canned fish; canned vegetable, canned fruit and various types of fruit juices, salad dressing and mayonnaise, various types of soft drink including botanical drink, soya bean milk and soya bean drink.• Also mandatory for products making nutrition claims• Amount of energy, expressed in kilocalorie (kcal) or kilojoule (KJ) or both per 100g or 100 ml or per package if the package contains only a single portion and per serving as quantified on the label; and• Amount of protein, available carbohydrate and fat, expressed in g per 100g/100mL/package (if the package contains only a single portion and per serving as quantified on the label)• Please refer to the Guide to Nutrition Labelling & Claims available at http://fsq.moh.gov.my/uploads/Guide%20to%20Nutrition%20Labelling%20and%20Claims.pdf
Permitted Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of a particular substance in or to food, provided that<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the claims are not misleading and the substance is not subject to specific requirements in this regulation- the substance is one which consumers would normally expect to find in the food; and has not been substituted by another substance giving the food equivalent

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	<p>characteristics unless the nature of the substitution is clearly stated with equal prominence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of one or more nutrients in or to food shall be regarded as nutrition claims, and regulation on nutritional labeling shall apply to those claims.• Three categories of nutrition claims regulated in the Food Regulations namely, nutrition content claims, comparative claims and function claims as well as enrichment or fortification.• Please refer to the Food Regulations to learn more about the permitted nutrition claims (also available at the Standards section in http://fsq.moh.gov.my)
Matter forbidden on any label	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words to indicate grading, quality or superiority unless such description of quality grading conform to those established by the relevant authorities responsible for such grading; and 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.• 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• Except as otherwise provided in these Regulations, pictorial representation or design may be included in the label for the purpose of illustrating recipes involving the use of the food or suggestions on how to serve the food, where such inclusion is not misleading or deceptive, and the representation or designs immediately preceded or followed or otherwise closely accompanied, in not less than 6 point lettering, with the words "RECIPE" or "SERVING SUGGESTION" or other words of similar meaning, as the case may be.• Please refer to Food Regulations 1985 for more details
Other Information	
Packaging and container regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrictions and Limitations on packaging materials<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No food to be contained in any package, container or vessel which could yield any toxic substance or which contributes to the deterioration of the food- No container or vessel used made of polyvinyl chloride which contains more than 1 mg/kg of vinyl chloride monomer or no container can contain at all if the food contains more than 0.05mg/kg of vinyl chloride monomer.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No container or vessel used or intended to be used for any non-food product- Recycling of the following packages prohibited (use of any container that has been used for any purpose)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• of any sugar, flour or meal• of any edible fat or edible oil• of any food of non-swine origin,• of any food, other than that packaged in an extra wrapper• of any food, other than alcoholic beverage and shandy (type of Malaysian beer• of any milk, soft drink, alcoholic beverage or shandy,• of any vegetable, fish or fruit,• of any polished rice- Bulk containers are not subject to the form and manner of labeling and date marking indicated above, when the contents are to be sold separately or by way of retail.- Use of damaged package prohibited- Toys, coins, etc. not to be placed in food
Additive Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permitted food additives that may be added to specified foods and the maximum permitted levels are listed in the Sixth, Seventh, Eight, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Schedule of the Food Regulation 1985.• No food can be prepared, imported or sold using additives other than those permitted in the Food Regulations• A reference in these Regulations to the addition or use of "other food" in the composition of food for which a standard is prescribed in these Regulations shall not be construed as permission for the use of food additives.• When it is present as part of the ingredients, the proportion of the additive in any such ingredient should not exceed maximum proportion if any, permitted by these Regulations for that ingredient• 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;• 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• 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

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	its own right
Pesticide Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum level of the pesticide residue that one food can contain is stipulated in the Sixteenth Schedule of the Food Regulations 1985 or as recommended in the Codex Alimentarius where the pesticide is not specified in the Sixteenth Schedule.• If the pesticide residue limit is not specified for a particular food in the Sixteen Schedule or Codex Alimentarius, then the pesticide residue shall not contain more than 0.01 milligram per kilogram in the food.
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All food consignments are subject to random checking and sampling at 28 entry points all over the country• Consignment of meat and meat products, milk and milk products, pork and pork products imported into Malaysia are subject to veterinary inspection by the authorized officer(s) of the Dept. of Veterinary Services (DVS) at the point of entry on arrival in Malaysia.• Random samples will then be collected for laboratory testing

Reference: Food Safety Information System of Malaysia website (<http://fsis.moh.gov.my/>)Food Safety and Quality Division website (<http://fsq.moh.gov.my>)

USDA FAS GAIN Report

DISCLAIMER:

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**