



**CIRCULAR**

FCD 019.31/2010

31 March 2010

All Infant Formula Importers / Declaring Agents

Dear Sirs/Mdms

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORT OF INFANT FORMULA (AGE 0-12 MONTHS)**

This is to inform you on the current requirements for the importation of infant formula (age 0-12 months).

2 For the import of infant formula, importers are required to submit the following to AVA prior to importation:

**Submission of Regulated Source Document**

(a) Submission of documentary proof (one time submission) that the imported milk and milk products are manufactured in a premise regulated and inspected by the competent authority (e.g. certified true copy of the manufacturer's licence),

**Submission of Health Certificate**

(b) FMD free countries

Submission of health certificate (for every consignment) that must contain the following attestation by the relevant competent authority of the exporting country

- i) Products are produced using milk ingredients originating from FMD free countries
- ii) Liquid milk used is pasteurized by heating at a min 72°C for a minimum 15 secs or an equivalent process

(c) FMD affected countries

Submission of health certificate (for every consignment) that must contain the following attestation by the relevant competent authority of the exporting country

- (i) a sterilisation process applying a minimum temperature of 132°C for at least one second (ultra-high temperature [UHT]), or
- (ii) if the milk has a pH less than 7.0, a sterilisation process applying a minimum temperature of 72°C for at least 15 seconds (high temperature - short time pasteurization [HTST]), or
- (iii) if the milk has a pH of 7.0 or over, the HTST process applied twice.

(d) The health certificate should include the following information:

- (i) Description of the products including brand name and nature of product;
- (ii) Quantity in the appropriate units;
- (iii) Lot identifier and date of production;
- (iv) Name and address of the manufacturer or the processing establishment
- (v) Name and address of the importer or consignee;
- (vi) Name and address of the exporter or consignor;
- (vii) Country of dispatch;
- (viii) Country of destination

(e) Submission of health certificate or manufacturer's quality control (QC) reports on chemical and microbiological test (every consignment):

Health Certificate/Laboratory Report Submitted by Importer	
<p><b>Chemical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aflatoxin M1</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Microbiological</b></p> <p>Powdered formulas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Colony count</li> <li>• <b>Total Coliform</b></li> <li>• <b>Fecal coliform</b></li> <li>• E. coli</li> <li>• <b>E. coli O157</b></li> <li>• Staph enterotoxin</li> <li>• Salmonella</li> <li>• Enterobacter sakazakii</li> </ul> <p>Liquid formulas in hermetically sealed containers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sterility test</li> </ul>

Importers are also required to test for the following parameters upon request by AVA:  
 # Chemical: Heavy metals, **Melamine**, Pesticide residues, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)  
 #Microbiological: Clostridium botulinum, **Campylobacter**, **Listeria monocytogenes**, Bacillus enterotoxins

**Changes in requirements as compared to the last circular to infant formula importers**

3 Please note the following changes in requirements as compared to the last circular to infant formula importers:

- (a) **Aflatoxin M1** test is to be submitted for every imported consignment, instead of on a quarterly basis. Aflatoxin M2 test is no longer required;
- (b) Three more microbiological tests, namely **Total Coliform**, **Fecal coliform** and **E. coli O157**, are to be carried out on every imported consignment;
- (c) **Melamine**, **Campylobacter** and **Listeria monocytogenes** tests are required only upon request by AVA.

4 As we understand that some importers require time to comply with the changes under para 3 (a) & (b) above, we will give these importers one year from the date of this letter to ensure that every consignment of infant formula imported meets all the requirements of para 3 (a) & (b) by 31 March 2011.

5 We would also like to inform infant formula importers that for products with consistent good results, AVA would review the frequency of submission of the health certificate or manufacturer's quality control reports on aflatoxin M1 on a case-by-case basis.

**Other matters**

6 Please be reminded that all applications for permits to import infant formula are processed online during office hours. Therefore, importers are advised to submit all applications for import permits during office hours for processing.

7 Please also note that all imported food products are subjected to inspection and sampling by AVA.

8 We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all importers to check the AVA website from time to time for any changes pertaining to the import requirements. The updates of the above import requirements are available at the AVA website:  
<http://www.ava.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/B911AC69-7E1C-45FC-93D7-5992E06A8C5E/26005/ImportRequirementsofSpecificFoodProductswebsitecon.pdf>

9 You may contact our TradeNet Officers at Tel: 63250783 / 63250784, if you need any clarification.

Yours faithfully

TAN TUANG HONG  
FOOD CONTROL DIVISION  
FOOD & VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION  
For DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICES

*This is a computer generated circular and no signature is required.*