



CIRCULAR

QID/ID/Processed Food

18 Feb 2011

All Infant Formula Importers / Declaring Agents

All declaring agents are requested to inform the importers on the contents of the circular.

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Further to our circular on the import requirements of infant formula dated 31 March 2010, AVA has reviewed and updated the test parameters required to be submitted in quality control (QC) reports for the import of infant formula after taking into consideration recent developments in Codex Alimentarius and industry feedback.

2 As of 1 April 2011, importers will be required to submit health certificate or manufacturer's QC report specifying the results of the following test parameters once every 6 months:

Laboratory Report Submitted by Importer (Once every 6 months)	
Chemical	Microbiological
<p><u>Powdered formulas and Liquid formulas in hermetically sealed containers</u></p> <p>1. Aflatoxin M1</p>	<p><u>Powdered formulas</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total colony count *Total coliform *Faecal coliform *<i>Escherichia coli</i> *<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> (<i>Cronobacter spp</i>) <i>Salmonella spp.</i> <i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin</i> (or <i>Stapylococcus aureus</i>) <p><u>Liquid formulas in hermetically sealed containers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sterility test

*Enterobacteriaceae test can be accepted as a test method for total coliform, faecal coliform, *Escherichia coli* and *Enterobacter sakazakii* (*Cronobacter spp*).

Importers may be required to test for the following parameters if requested by AVA:

Chemical: Heavy metals, Melamine, Pesticide residues, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

#Microbiological: *Clostridium botulinum*, *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Bacillus enterotoxins*

3 In addition, importers are reminded to submit the following documents for the import of infant formulas.

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

Other matters

4 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.

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

6 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/18116/ImportRequirementsofSpecificFoodProducts1.pdf>

7 You may contact our TradeNet Officers at Tel: 62215056, 63250783 or 63250784, if you need any clarification.

Yours faithfully

TAN TUANG HONG DAVID
INSPECTION DIVISION
QUARANTINE & INSPECTION DEPARTMENT
for DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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