Client Update: Singapore

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Consultation on Labelling and Advertising Requirements for "Nutri-Grade Beverages"

Introduction

In a move to reduce Singaporeans' sugar intake, the Ministry of Health ("MOH") and the Health Promotion Board ("HBP") are seeking comments from stakeholders on the proposed amendments to the Food Regulations under the Sale of Food Act, to introduce new requirements on "Nutri-Grade beverages" sold in Singapore from 30 June 2022.

The key proposals are:

- (a) A Nutri-Grade grading system to grade Nutri-Grade beverages;
- (b) New requirement for Nutri-Grade beverages to have a nutrition information panel;
- (c) New requirement to label Nutri-Grade beverages graded "C" or "D" with a Nutri-Grade mark on the front-of-pack of the package; and
- (d) Prohibition on advertising Nutri-Grade beverages graded "D", save at points-of-sale platforms.

The consultation closes on 26 May 2021.

This Update provides an overview of the key amendments in the proposed draft Food (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

Proposed Amendments to the Food Regulations

To give effect to the above labelling requirements, MOH and HPB are working with the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) to amend the Food Regulations.

Below we set out in summary the salient amendments to the Food Regulations:

Labelling requirements

- New definitions of "automated beverage dispenser" and "total sugar" to be included in Regulation 2(1).
- New Regulation 184A to define the term "Nutri-Grade beverages".



Client Update: Singapore



Trade

- New Regulation 184B to require the grading of Nutri-Grade beverages, according to a specified grading system set out in a new Sixteenth Schedule. Nutri-Grade beverages will be graded "A", "B", "C" or "D" according to the nutrition content, including sugar and saturated fat content.
- New Regulation 184C to require Nutri-Grade beverages to be labelled with nutrition information.
 This includes stating the energy content and the amount of carbohydrate, total sugar, fat, saturated fat, and protein in the Nutri-Grade beverages.
- New Regulations 184D and 184E to require the labelling and display of a Nutri-Grade mark on the front-of-pack of the package for Nutri-Grade beverages graded "C" or "D". If the "Nutri-Grade beverage" is sold online, through a vending machine, or an automated beverage dispenser, the image of the Nutri-Grade mark must be displayed to the purchaser.

Advertising prohibitions

New Regulation 184F on advertising prohibitions concerning Nutri-Grade beverages graded "D".
 These beverages are prohibited from being advertised, except at points-of-sale platforms.

Possible Impact for Businesses

The proposed amendments will be promulgated on **30 June 2021**, and come into operation on **30 June 2022**. For details on these amendments, please refer to the consultation paper, link here (available on the REACH website at www.reach.gov.sg).

The changes will mean a need to make changes at certain steps of your manufacturing and preparation. Labelling in particular will need to be carefully managed so as to ensure accuracy. More importantly, do the changes make sense and are they workable? We are happy to guide you through these requirements.

If you have any queries on the above development or would like to submit any feedback to the consultation paper, please feel free to contact our team members below who will be happy to assist.

Client Update: Singapore



Contacts



Kala Anandarajah Partner Head, Competition & Antitrust and Trade

T +65 6232 0111

kala.anandarajah@rajahtann.com



Tanya Tang
Partner (Chief Economic and
Policy Advisor)
Competition & Antitrust and
Trade

T +65 6232 0298

tanya.tang@rajahtann.com



Alvin Tan
Partner
Competition & Antitrust and
Trade

D +65 6232 0904

alvin.tan@rajahtann.com

Please feel free to also contact Knowledge and Risk Management at eOASIS@rajahtann.com

Client Update: Singapore

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Our Regional Contacts

RAJAH & TANN | Singapore

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

T +65 6535 3600 sg.rajahtannasia.com

R&T SOK & HENG | Cambodia

R&T Sok & Heng Law Office

T +855 23 963 112 / 113 F +855 23 963 116 kh.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海

SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | China

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP Shanghai Representative Office

T +86 21 6120 8818 F +86 21 6120 8820 cn.rajahtannasia.com

ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | Indonesia

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners

Jakarta Office

T +62 21 2555 7800 F +62 21 2555 7899

Surabaya Office

T +62 31 5116 4550 F +62 31 5116 4560 www.ahp.co.id

RAJAH & TANN | Lao PDR

Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.

T +856 21 454 239 F +856 21 285 261 la.rajahtannasia.com CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | Malaysia

Christopher & Lee Ong

T +60 3 2273 1919 F +60 3 2273 8310 www.christopherleeong.com

RAJAH & TANN $\mid Myanmar$

Rajah & Tann Myanmar Company Limited

T +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346

F +95 1 9345 348 mm.rajahtannasia.com

GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL

GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | Philippines

Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law)

T +632 8894 0377 to 79 / +632 8894 4931 to 32 F +632 8552 1977 to 78 www.cagatlaw.com

RAJAH & TANN | Thailand R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited

T +66 2 656 1991 F +66 2 656 0833 th.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS | Vietnam

Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers

Ho Chi Minh City Office

T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673

F +84 28 3520 8206

Hanoi Office

T +84 24 3267 6127 F +84 24 3267 6128 www.rajahtannlct.com

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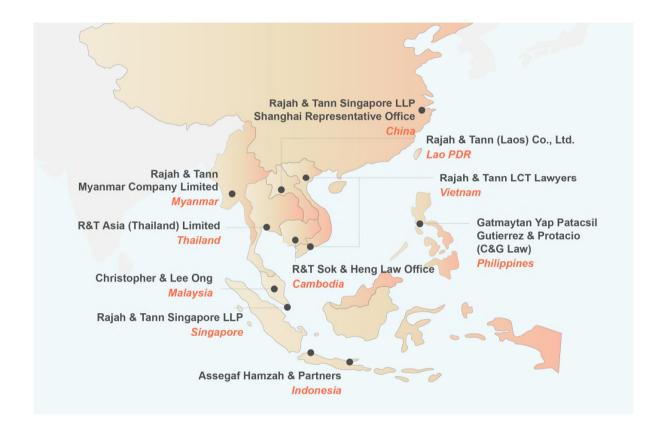
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Client Update: Singapore



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