

17 January 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Health Promotion Board
3 Second Hospital Avenue
Singapore 168937
Tel. 6435 3500
Fax. 6438 3848
www.hpb.gov.sg

Re: updates to the Healthier Choice Symbol (HCS) Programme guidelines

Please take note of the following updates for the HCS programme:

1. The Partially Hydrogenated Oils (PHO) ban in Singapore has come into effect in June 2021, which means that all products sold in Singapore, including HCS products, are PHO-free. Therefore, we will make the changes listed below to align with the ban:
 - Remove the trans-fat criteria in all HCS categories.
 - Remove the “trans-fat free” (TFF) tagline
 - Remove trans-fat as a core nutrient in the Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) but companies can continue to declare, voluntarily.

This revision will take effect from **1 August 2022** onwards.

2. For existing HCS products with the “trans-fat free” tagline, as a transitional measure, companies will be given a one-year grace period, until **31 July 2023**, to update their product packaging. Companies who choose to continue using the “trans-fat free” tagline on new applications for consistency with their current products, can do so until the next reprint or before the grace period is over, whichever is earlier. These new applications will have to meet the trans-fat criteria.

The HCS Nutrient Guidelines will be updated to reflect the removal of the trans-fat criteria and “trans-fat free” tagline.

3. The Handbook on Nutrition Labelling will be updated to reflect the removal of trans-fat as a core nutrient in the NIP and some sections have been revised e.g., the section on Labelling Requirements for HCS Endorsed Products (Please see Annex A). All applications will be assessed based on the revised requirements from **1 August 2022**.
4. The CI guide will be updated to reflect the removal of HCS logo with “trans-fat free” tagline and some sections have been revised e.g., the guidelines on the HCS logo size and presentation (please see Annex A). All applications will be assessed based on the revised requirements from **1 August 2022**.

5. The revised HCS Nutrient guidelines, Handbook on Nutrition Labelling and CI guide will be released in August 2022.
6. For more information, please refer to the attached FAQ.
7. Thank you for supporting the HCS Programme.
8. For further clarifications, you may write in to: HPB_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg or call 6435 3715/ 6435 3905 / 6435 3302 / 6435 3301.

Yours Sincerely,
HCS Programme Team
Healthy Food & Dining Division
Health Promotion Board