

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### HCS Nutrient Guidelines – trans-fat free tagline

- 1. Why is there a need to remove the trans-fat free tagline? My product does not contain any trans-fat and the tagline reflect this fact. There is a lot of cost involved in making changes to product packaging, thus we want to have a better understanding to explain to our management the need for this change.**

Ans: In June 2019, MOH announced that it would introduce a ban on partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) as an ingredient in all foods, including fats, oils, and pre-packaged foods sold in Singapore, whether manufactured locally or imported, from June 2021. The trans-fat from PHOs is the key source of trans-fat in our diets, hence, removing PHOs from our food supply would effectively reduce the amount of trans-fat we consume. As such, it would be timely to remove the Trans-Fat Free tagline, as all products, whether HCS or non-HCS, will no longer contain trans-fat from PHOs.

- 2. My product is using the trans-fat free tagline. Which tagline do I use now?**

Ans: Please see Annex B.

- 3. When do I need to change the taglines on my existing product packaging?**

Ans: This revision comes into effect on 1 August 2022. For existing HCS products with trans-fat free taglines, as a transitional measure, there will be a one-year grace period, until **31 July 2023**, to update the product packaging. If you need more time to deplete the packaging, please write in with the reasons, duration needed, and quantity of stocks left. We will assess your request on a case-by-case basis.

- 4. Understand new applications cannot use trans-fat free tagline from 1 August 2022, but my existing products which are of the same series are already carrying trans-fat free taglines and the packaging are not depleting soon. Can I use trans-fat free tagline for this new application for consistency?**

Ans: Companies who want to continue using trans-fat free tagline on new applications (includes new package size) 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 have to meet the trans-fat criteria.

If you need more time to deplete the packaging, please write in with the reasons, duration needed, and quantity of stocks left. We will assess your request on a case-by-case basis.

- 5. Will HPB release an updated HCS Nutrient Guidelines to reflect the removal of the trans-fat taglines?**

Ans: Yes, the updated HCS Nutrient Guidelines will be released around July/August 2022, nearer the effective date.

## HCS Nutrient Guidelines – Trans Fat criteria

### 1. Why is there a need to remove Trans-fat criteria from HCS Nutrient Guidelines?

Ans: In June 2019, MOH announced that it would introduce a ban on partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) as an ingredient in all foods, including fats, oils, and pre-packaged foods sold in Singapore, whether manufactured locally or imported, from June 2021. The trans-fat from PHOs is the key source of trans-fat in our diets, hence, removing PHOs from our food supply would effectively reduce the amount of trans-fat we consume. As such, it would be timely to remove the trans-fat criteria, as all products, whether HCS or non-HCS, will no longer contain trans-fat from PHOs.

### 2. Which categories will be affected?

Ans: Please refer to the table below.

Main Category	Sub-Category
Beverages	Malted or chocolate drink
	Coffee & Tea
	Cereal Mix
Cereals	Bread (loaf), breadcrumbs, Flat breads (pita, wraps), pizza crust
	Buns, rolls (filled) Cream, jam, fruits, custard, savoury
	Buns, rolls (unfilled, plain) Hamburger, hotdog type
	Cakes and pastries (e.g. muffins, swiss rolls, pound cakes, waffles, tarts, croissants etc)
Fats & Oils	Margarine / fat spreads
	Edible Oil (retail)
	Edible Oil (food Service)
Sauces, Spreads & Condiments	Nuts and seed butters
Convenience meals	Main Meals
	Small Meals
	Other convenience meals
Snacks	Savoury Snacks: Savoury biscuits and crackers

### 3. When does this comes into effect?

Ans: This will come into effect on 1 August 2022.

For existing HCS products with trans-fat free taglines, 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 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 have to meet the trans-fat criteria.

### 4. Will HPB release updated HCS Nutrient Guidelines to reflect the removal of the trans-fat criteria?

Ans: Yes, the updated HCS Nutrient Guidelines will be released around July/August 2022.

## **Nutrition Information Panel – remove trans-fat as a core nutrient**

### **1. Why is there a need to remove trans-fat as a core nutrient from the Nutrition Information Panel?**

Ans: In June 2019, MOH announced that it would introduce a ban on partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) as an ingredient in all foods, including fats, oils, and pre-packaged foods sold in Singapore, whether manufactured locally or imported, from June 2021. The trans-fat from PHOs is the key source of trans-fat in our diets, hence, removing PHOs from our food supply would effectively reduce the amount of trans-fat we consume. As such, it would be timely to remove trans-fat as a core nutrient, as all products, whether HCS or non-HCS, will no longer contain trans-fat from PHOs.

### **2. There are a lot of cost involved in product packaging change, can we don't remove trans-fat from the Nutrition Information Panel?**

Ans: The change is voluntary. Yes, you can continue to include trans-fat as a core nutrient in the Nutrition Information Panel.

### **3. Understand the change is voluntary, however, we want to remove trans-fat from the Nutrition Information Panel, when does this take effect?**

Ans: The change takes place with effect from 1 August 2022. However, if you are still using the trans-fat free tagline or have a trans-fat free claim on your product packaging, you are required to have the trans-fat included in the Nutrition Information Panel.

### **4. Understand the change is voluntary, however, we want to remove trans-fat from the Nutrition Information Panel, is there a grace period when do we need to change this by?**

Ans: You can make the necessary changes by the next reprint.

### **5. Will HPB release an updated Handbook on Nutrition Labelling to reflect the removal of trans-fat as a core nutrient from the Nutrition Information Panel?**

Ans: Yes, the updated Handbook on Nutrition Labelling will be released around July/August 2022.

## **Other Questions**

### **1. Will this affect the Trans-Fat free Nutrient claims?**

Ans: Companies can continue with the Trans-Fat free nutrient claim.

## Revision on Handbook on Nutrition Labelling

- 1. Understand there are also revisions for the Handbook under other sections e.g., the section Labelling Requirements for HCS Endorsed Products. When will this come into effect?**

Ans: The revisions take place with effect from 1 August 2022.

- 2. Do we need to change our existing packaging to meet the new requirements?**

Ans: You do not need to amend your existing approved packaging just to incorporate the new requirements. However, when you submit revised artwork of your existing approved products for approval, it will be assessed based on the revised requirements.

Please feel free to contact us at [HPB\\_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg](mailto:HPB_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg) if you have further queries.

## Revision on CI guide

- 1. Understand there are revisions to the CI guide, when will this come into effect?**

Ans: The revisions take place with effect from 1 August 2022.

- 2. What are the main revisions in the CI guide?**

Ans: The main revisions are guidelines for maximum HCS logo size, reduction of clear space around the HCS logo, acceptable white border around the HCS logo on messy background, etc. Please see Annex A for more details.

- 3. Understand there are now guidelines for maximum HCS logo size, do I need to give measurement of my product packaging and HCS logo when I submit HCS application?**

Ans: The HCS logo is to be proportionate to the product packaging artwork, thus we would not be measuring the packaging and HCS logo to calculate the maximum size allowed. Instead, the maximum HCS logo size guidelines act as a guide should there be clarifications needed for big HCS logo size, that looks overly huge in proportion to the packaging artwork. Thus, you don't need to submit this unless the HCS administrative team requests for it.

- 4. Do we need to change our existing packaging to meet the new guidelines?**

Ans: You do not need to amend your existing approved packaging just to incorporate the new guidelines. However, when you submit revised artwork of your existing approved products for approval, it will be assessed based on the revised guidelines.

Please feel free to contact us at [HPB\\_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg](mailto:HPB_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg) if you have further queries.

- 5. Will HPB release the revised CI guide?**

Ans: Yes, the updated CI guide will be released around July/August 2022.