

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Why is there a HS Code change?

A: This change aligns our HS Code Classification with updated international standards for biological materials and toxins.

Q2: What does the HS Code change entail?

A: From 1 Mar 2026, all Traders & Declaring Agents should declare the new HS Code 30024900 for all biological agents and toxins regulated under the BATA, including biological materials imported using MOH-issued ISP codes but excluding yeasts, which should be declared under HS Code 21021000.

Q3: When does the HS Code change take effect?

A: The HS Code change will take effect from 1 March 2026.

Q4: Which biological agents and toxins are affected by this change?

A: All biological agents and selected toxins regulated under the BATA are affected. This includes all biological material which are to be imported/transhipped using the MOH issued Import Specific Product (ISP) Code. The scope of regulated materials remains unchanged.

However, BATA-regulated biological agents identified as **yeasts** are the only exception and will not be affected by this change. The HS Code 21021000 can be continued to be use for import/transhipment permit declarations for yeasts.

Q5: Are there any changes to the application process, or requirements?

A: No. This is purely an administrative change to the HS Code classification. All application procedures, documentation requirements and approval processes remain the same.



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Q6: What happens if I submit an application with the old HS Code 30029000 from 1 March 2026?

A: Permit applications for biological agents and toxins regulated under the BATA with the old HS Code 30029000 declared from 1 March 2026 will be rejected. A new application should be submitted using the new HS Code 30024900. Traders and Declaring Agents are advised to declare the correct HS Code to prevent delays and ensure smooth processing. Please refer to Table 1 for the important permit application submission timelines during the changeover period.

Q7: Will my existing permits be affected?

A: No. Permits issued before 1 March 2026 remain valid until the end of their validity period, regardless of the HS Code declared.

Q8: Do I need to update my internal systems or procedures?

A: Please update any internal workflow, documentation, or systems that reference HS Code 30029000 to reflect the new HS Code 30024900 from 1 March 2026 and disseminate this information to all relevant staff who is or will be involved in the application of the permits.

However, yeasts are an exception to this change. BATA-regulated biological agents identified as yeasts should continue to be declared under HS Code 21021000.

Q9: Will there be a grace period for using the old HS Code?

A: No, there will be no grace period for using the old HS Code. The transition to HS Code 30024900 takes immediate effect from 1 March 2026. We are providing this advance notice to give all stakeholders sufficient time to prepare for the change and to support a **smooth transition to the new HS Code. Please refer to Table 1 above for the important permit application submission timelines.**

Q10: Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Please contact the MOH Biosafety Branch at moh_biosafety@moh.gov.sg for any further clarifications.



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