

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Change in Harmonised System (HS) Codes for Import/Transhipment Permit Application of Biological Materials Regulated under the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (BATA)**

**Q1: Why is there a HS code change?**

A: This change aligns our classification system with updated international standards for biological materials.

**Q2: What does the HS code change entail?**

A: An HS code is a classification number used to identify products for customs and trade purposes. With the HS code change, all importers/transhippers must declare the new HS code 30024900 instead of the current HS code 30029000 when applying for import/transhipment permits in Singapore Customs' Tradenet Portal (SC-TN) for all biological agents and toxins regulated under the BATA, including biological materials imported using MOH-issued Import Specific Product (ISP) codes.

BATA-regulated biological agents identified as yeasts are not affected by this HS code change. HS code 21021000 shall continue to be declared for import/transhipment permit applications for BATA-regulated yeasts.

**Q3: When does the HS code change take effect?**

A: The HS code change will be effective from 1 March 2026 onwards.

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

A: All biological agents and toxins regulated under the Biological Agents and Toxins Act 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 shall continue to be used 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.

**Q6: What happens if I submit an application with the old HS code 30029000 on or after 1 March 2026?**

A: From 1 March 2026, permit applications with incorrect HS codes i.e. 30029000 will be rejected, and a new application must be submitted using HS code 30024900. Importers, traders, and declarants are advised to ensure the correct HS code is used.

to prevent delays and ensure smooth processing. Please refer to Q9 for further guidance on application submission timelines during the changeover period.

**Q7: Will my existing import/transhipment permits be affected?**

A: No. Permits issued before 1 March 2026 remain valid until their expiry dates, regardless of the HS code listed.

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

A: Yes, you shall update any internal workflow, documentation, or systems that reference HS code 30029000 to reflect the new HS code 30024900 from 1 March 2026. Ensure that this information is disseminated to all relevant personnel and appointed traders/declarants.

However, yeasts are an exception to this change. BATA-regulated biological agents identified as yeasts will continue to use HS code 21021000 for import/transhipment permit declarations and are not affected by this HS code change.

**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 allow all stakeholders sufficient time to prepare for the change and to further support a **smooth transition to the new HS code, please refer to Table 1 below for important guidance on application submission timelines during the changeover period.**

**Table 1: Important Permit Application Submission Timelines**

Time Period	Advice on Application Submission
Until 27 February 2026, 1700hrs	Permit applications shall be submitted using MOH product code with HS Code 30029000.
From 27 February 2026, 1701hrs to 28 February, 2359hrs	<b>Avoid</b> submitting permit application during this period to prevent rejection or processing delays.
From 1 March 2026, 0000hrs onwards.	Permit applications shall be submitted using MOH product code with the new HS Code 30024900.

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

A: Please contact the MOH Biosafety Branch at [moh\\_biosafety@moh.gov.sg](mailto:moh_biosafety@moh.gov.sg) for any further clarifications.