



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

06 February 2026

To Importers and Traders

**CHANGE OF HARMONISED SYSTEM (HS) CODE FOR IMPORT AND
TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS
REGULATED UNDER THE BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS ACT**

Under the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (BATA), a valid permit, which is granted by the Ministry of Health (MOH), is required for:

- (a) Importation of First, Second and Fourth Schedule biological agents, Fifth Schedule toxins, and inactivated First and Second Schedule biological agents; and
- (b) Transshipment of First and Second Schedule biological agents, and Fifth Schedule toxins.

2 Application of import/transshipment permit is done via the Singapore Customs' TradeNet portal (SC-TN).

Change in HS Code

3 When applying for permits on SC-TN, the applicant must declare the international Harmonised System (HS) code along with the corresponding MOH product code specific to the BATA-regulated biological material being imported/transhipped together with the relevant supporting documents.¹

4 From **1 March 2026**, the **HS code** for BATA-regulated biological material will be **changed from 30029000 to 30024900**. This applies to **all BATA-regulated biological agents and toxins** detailed in the List of Biological Agents and Toxins, as well as biological materials imported using **Import Specific Product (ISP)** codes. The only exception is biological agents which have been identified as “yeast”, which shall be declared under the **HS code 21021000**.

¹ Please refer to this [link](#) for details on importation processes including list of required supporting documents.

5 Apart from the HS code change, there will be NO changes in the MOH Product code, and all existing application procedures, regulatory requirements, documentation standards, and approval processes for the permits will remain the same.

6 To facilitate a smooth transition to the new HS code in SC-TN, please refer to Table 1 below for **important guidance on application submission timelines** during the changeover period.

Table 1: Guidance on Import/Transshipment Permit Application Submission Timelines

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

7 Please **disseminate** the above information (para 4 to 6) to all relevant personnel who is or will be involved in the application of the permits, and to ensure that the **new HS code** (HS code 30024900 for all BATA scheduled biological agents/toxins, or HS code 21021000 if the BATA-regulated biological agent is a yeast) will be used in the permit applications from **1 March 2026 onwards**.

Gentle Reminder

8 Please be informed that it is the responsibility of the **importer or transhipper**, i.e. the organisation, facility, end user of the imported biological material or person who initiates the importation or transshipment of the biological material, to ensure that a **valid permit** with accurate information has been secured before initiating the importation or transshipment of the biological material.

9 Do note that even if a **third party**, such as a trader/courier company/declaring agent is engaged to apply for the permit on your behalf, **you as the importer/transhipper remain responsible for ensuring that accurate information is provided to your appointed third party for the permit application**.



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10 You **must** also **verify that a valid import/transshipment permit authorised by MOH has been secured**, whether the application is submitted by yourself or through the engaged third party, **prior to the execution of the importation/transshipment of the biological material.**

Clarification

11 Should you require further clarification regarding the change in HS code, please refer to the attached frequently asked questions document or contact the MOH Biosafety Branch at moh_biosafety@moh.gov.sg.

Thank you.

MOH Biosafety Branch.



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