

29 July 2022

Health Promotion Board  
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[www.hpb.gov.sg](http://www.hpb.gov.sg)

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

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

1. As part of HPB's efforts to stay relevant, HPB performs periodic reviews of the HCS guidelines, and we will be introducing the following changes:
  - a. A new 'Roti Prata' sub-category under the 'Cereal' category.
  - b. Re-introduction of the 'sodium' tagline to the '**Sauces, Soups and Recipe Mixes**' category
  - c. A new definition for 'Jellies'
  - d. Expansion of Oriental dry wheat noodles to include non cereal-based noodles with whole grains e.g. legumes based, Soy based noodles

These changes will come into effect from **1 August 2022**. Grace period will be given (please see **point 3**). Please see **Annex A** for more details.

2. HPB would also like to remind industry partners of the following:
  - a. The grace period for the interim sugar targets for the Sugary food categories is ending on 31 July 2022 and the final sugar targets will commence on **1 August 2022**, with grace period ending on 31 July 2024.

Please see **Annex B** for the affected Sugary food categories.

*You may refer to the announcement (subject: **Revision to the Healthier Choice Symbol (HCS) Guidelines - April 2020**) dated 30 April 2020 for more information.*

- b. To align with the PHO ban in Singapore, the trans-fat criteria, "trans-fat free" (TFF) tagline in all HCS categories and trans-fat as a core nutrient in the Nutrition Information Panel will be removed from **1 August 2022**.

The following has been released in the [HCS website](#):

- i. Revised Handbook on Nutrition Labelling
    - ii. Revised HCS Licensor's Usage Specifications
    - iii. Revised HCS guidelines

*You may refer to the announcement (subject: **Updates to the Healthier Choice Symbol (HCS) Programme guidelines**) dated 17 January 2022 for more information.*

- As a transitional measure, industry partners with existing HCS-certified products who are affected by these changes will be given a grace period to reformulate their HCS-certified products or to deplete existing stock of products to meet the changes.

For the effective date and grace period end date, please refer to the table below:

<b>Items</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Grace Period End Date</b>
Re-introduction of 'Sodium' tagline to the 'Sauces' category	1 August 2022	31 July 2023
A new definition for 'Jellies'	1 August 2022	30 December 2022 <i>(to align with Nutri-Grade effective date on 30 December 2022)</i>
Sugary Foods Final Sugar Target	1 August 2022	31 July 2024
Existing HCS products with the "trans-fat free" tagline, affected by alignment with PHO ban	1 August 2022	31 July 2023 <i>(Please refer to the announcement (subject: <b>Updates to the Healthier Choice Symbol (HCS) Programme guidelines</b>) dated 17 January 2022 for more information</i>

- Thank you for supporting the HCS Programme.
- For further clarifications, you may write in to: [HPB\\_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg](mailto: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