



Emerging Issues Digest

2020/04/16 - 2020/05/16

COVID-19 RESPONSES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY FROM GLOBAL OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL SOURCES

1	Official Sources.....	2
1.1	Australia	2
1.2	Bhutan.....	2
1.3	Chile	3
1.4	European Union	3
1.5	France.....	4
1.6	India	5
1.7	Indonesia.....	5
1.8	International	5
1.9	Ireland	7
1.10	Italy.....	7
1.11	Kazakhstan	8
1.12	Kenya.....	8
1.13	Kyrgyzstan	9
1.14	Luxembourg	9
1.15	New Zealand	9
1.16	Peru.....	11
1.17	Philippines.....	11
1.18	Scotland.....	11
1.19	Singapore	12
1.20	Togo	12
1.21	United States.....	12

1.22	United Kingdom	13
2	Unofficial Sources	14
2.1	Belgium	14
2.2	India	14
2.3	Portugal, Spain	15
2.4	Togo	16
2.5	United Kingdom	16
2.6	United States.....	17

1 OFFICIAL SOURCES

1.1 AUSTRALIA

1.1.1 2020-05-08: Food Safety; Transmission - Official

Department of Health: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

Food processing and potentially hazardous foods

Certain high risk potentially hazardous foods or high risk processes require additional care to make sure they are safe. To protect all food from contamination during processing, safe food handling and hygiene practices must be used. In particular food handlers must be aware of all high risk or “potentially hazardous foods” (PHFs) in the business and must know how to manage the risks associated with those foods. Potentially hazardous foods (PHFs) are foods that must be kept at certain temperatures to minimise the growth of pathogenic microorganisms that may be present in the food or to prevent the formation of toxins in the food.

1.2 BHUTAN

1.2.1 2020-05-07: Import/Export; Supply chain - Official

Department of Revenue and Customs: Press Release

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

ZERO CONTACT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

A zero contact Customs clearance procedures have been considered at the land borders where huge volume of consignments and goods are brought into the country in foreign transport/carrier with foreign drivers. In the whole process, Customs officials have zero contact with foreign nationals with absolute physical distance maintained and follows disciplined process steps. Under such conditions and given limited resources and technology advancement, Bhutan Customs initiated innovative measures to minimize risk. Beside mentioned above, Bhutan Customs has also put into practice the WCO indicative list of harmonized codes shared as supplementary note for emergency supplies. To ensure a successfully

containment, Bhutan Customs adopted innovative measures which are briefly presented below with the aim to achieve zero contact Customs clearance and release consignments with minimal interference by the At a glance, loaded vehicles enter the customs area and documents are placed by the foreign driver themselves in the assigned drop box.

1.3 CHILE

1.3.1 2020-05-11: Transmission - Official

Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

PREVENTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Strengthening Good Agricultural Practices Recommendations for social distancing: Organize work in a way that respects physical distance 1. Reinforcing Good Agricultural Practices Hygiene practices for workers 1. Contingency plan for COVID-19 • Identification of workers in risk groups. • Contacts: health authority, healthcare centers, others. • Traceability of workers' health condition. Agenda 1. Background COVID-19 2. Prevention and Self-care Measures 3. Agriculture Sector: main challenges. 4. Reinforcing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 5. Contingency plan for COVID-19 1. Company hygiene policy a) Hand washing b) Personal hygiene c) Include social distancing d) Use of masks? e) Use of gloves?

1.4 EUROPEAN UNION

1.4.1 2020-05-12: Fraud; Supply chain - Official

EU (European Commission): Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

Inquiry into fake COVID-19 products progresses

Millions of substandard medical products with fake EU conformity certificates have been seized in several Member States. These fake products arrive in thousands small anonymous parcels, and are delivered directly to the homes of customers via postal or courier services. OLAF has already identified over 340 companies acting as intermediaries or traders of counterfeit or substandard products linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. OLAF is working relentlessly to ascertain if the origin of these fake products is wrongly declared, and to counter the ability of fraudsters to adapt to controls and enforcement actions. To combat this, on 19 March 2020 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) opened an official inquiry into the illicit trade of face masks, medical devices, disinfectants, sanitisers, medicines and test kits.

1.4.2 2020-05-13: Import/Export; Supply Chain - Official

EU (European Commission): Regulation

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - Towards a phased and coordinated approach for restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal border controls

Removing the remaining restrictions on cross-border traffic in key areas of health, society and the economy should continue to be a priority until free movement is fully restored. Given the constantly changing, dynamic situation in the COVID-19 pandemic, the exchange of information between the Commission and the Member States continues on a technical level and, where helpful, is continued on a

political level. The restoration of free movement of persons and the removal of controls at internal borders must be gradual, with the life and health of citizens always being the top priority. The Commission will also continue to assess the proportionality of measures taken by Member States to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to internal and external borders and travel restrictions and will call for measures to be lifted which it considers disproportionate. Restricting freedom of movement and reintroducing controls at internal borders are detrimental to the internal market and the smooth functioning of the supply chains.

1.4.3 2020-04-20: Food Safety; Supply chain - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Joint Statement of EU-27 Ministers for Agriculture regarding the response needed at European level, under the Common Agricultural Policy, to the COVID-19 crisis](#)

Joint Statement of EU-27 Ministers for Agriculture regarding the response needed at European level, under the Common Agricultural Policy, to the COVID-19 crisis The Ministers for Agriculture of Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, supported by Croatia: Acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on all European Citizens; Stress that our shared immediate priority in this public health emergency is the protection of human life and health; Emphasise the vital role of farmers and the wider agri-food sector in maintaining food security and food supply in Europe during this crisis, as well as the essential framework provided by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in this regard, and the necessity of a strong CAP in the future; Call on all Member States to work together in a spirit of European solidarity; Note with concern the emerging market impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in the agri-food sector, which are already significant in the case of some sub-sectors; Consider that the medium- and long-term impacts could potentially be severe and long-lasting for European farmers, for the food industry, and for the rural economy; Welcome the solidarity demonstrated in the European response to date, including through the new temporary State Aid framework, the Guidelines for border management and for the free movement of workers, and the two stages of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, which includes some flexibilities around CAP scheme implementation; Consider that, nevertheless, there remains a need for urgent additional appropriate and responsible measures to be activated under the CAP at this time. As Ministers for Agriculture we therefore call on the Commission to facilitate: · The implementation of measures under the Common Market Organisation (CMO)...

1.5 FRANCE

1.5.1 2020-05-15: Food Safety; Transmission - Official

ANSES (Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety France): Notice

[ANSES AST note on the state of available knowledge on the presence, infectivity and persistence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the aquatic environment](#)

Adenovirus, norovirus GI and GII and rotavirus (Rv-A) were the most abundantly found viruses (on average 104-105 genome copies / L in the purified US). Thus, the viruses present in these EU can be found in fresh and marine waters downstream (step 5). Excretion is not systematic and the quantity of

the viral genome varies between 5,102 to 1,108 RNA copies / g of faeces. These EU are purified in EU purification plants (STEU) (stage 3), then, once purified, are discharged into the aquatic environment (stage 4). Thus, people infected with SARS-CoV-2 (asymptomatic and COVID-19 patients) can excrete virus in the stool.

1.6 INDIA

1.6.1 2020-04-19: Supply chain - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#), [coconut](#)

[Coconut on wheels- initiative by Goa State Horticultural Corporation in association with Directorate of Agriculture](#)

Coconut is a major food ingredient in the Goan cuisine. Recently during covid-19 outbreak the supply chain of this commodity has been greatly affected. To overcome the shortage of coconut and to maintain supply chain management, Initiative was taken by Goa state Hort Corporation in association of Directorate of Agriculture. There is about 2500 ha area under coconut in Goa and the coconuts are harvested at regular interval and sold in the market. These area do not have large coconut plantations and were dependent for supply from outside. Pandhari PrabhuDessai from Canacona residing in Margao was issued travel permit by the Director of Agriculture to go to his Farm in Canacona.

1.7 INDONESIA

1.7.1 2020-05-15: Regulatory - Official

Standards Organization: Notice

[REGULATION OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AGENCY ABOUT NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2020-2024](#)

MRA on Inspection and Certification System on Food. In facing this COVID-19 pandemic, where is the president give direction to pay more attention to handling pandemics, BSN also directs the sector SNI development, application of standards and assessment suitability in line with current needs.

1.8 INTERNATIONAL

1.8.1 2020-04-22: Food Safety - Official

WHO (World Health Organization): Report

Concepts: [food safety](#)

[COVID-19 and Food Safety: Guidance for competent authorities responsible for national food safety control systems](#)

This guidance aims to address some key issues, namely, how to ensure the effectiveness of a reduced food safety inspection programme in mitigation of risk; and temporary measures that can be introduced to contain widespread food safety risks and reduce serious disruption to national food safety programmes.

1.8.2 2020-04-22: Supply chain Prices - Official

Intergovernmental Organization: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[2020 Global Report on Food Crisis - Joint Analysis - Global Network Against Food Crisis and Food Security Information Network](#)

1.8.3 2020-04-23: Supply chain; Import and Export - Official

WTO (World Trade Organization): Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

EXPORT PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

In addition, export restrictions can also trigger a domino effect and push other exporters to introduce similar restrictions to keep domestic prices low. This suggests that export prohibitions and restrictions can increase considerably in times of crisis or in the foodstuff sector. There are also exceptions that may allow a member to apply export prohibitions and restrictions. In terms of the types of specific measures used, Chart 2 suggests that export restrictions typically take the form of non-automatic licensing procedures, full export bans, and prohibitions except under defined conditions. How many members have notified export prohibitions and restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

1.8.4 2020-05-05: Import/Export; Supply chain Prices - Official

WTO (World Trade Organization) and The Federation of German Industry (BDI): Report

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Export Controls and Export Bans over the Course of the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

FEMA makes clear that export restrictions should neither interfere with the international commitments of the United States nor disrupt supply chains vital to U.S. economic interests. Export Controls and Export Bans over the Course of the Covid-19 Pandemic observe strong (9 %) or moderate (22 %) disruptions in their supply chains. Export Controls and Export Bans over the Course of the Covid-19 Pandemic In the course of the corona pandemic, ever more restrictions are being imposed worldwide on the export of goods considered by governments to be essential to directly combat the disease. The list contains ten additional categories that serve as clarifications as to what is covered by FEMA's export restrictions. The actual number of export restrictions is likely to be much higher, however, as some countries, such as the United States and India, have not yet notified their export restrictions to the WTO¹.

1.8.5 2020-05-08: Transmission - Official

Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama (INCAP): Guideline

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[Nutritional recommendations for health personnel and essential personnel exposed to Covid-19 in Latin America](#)

Charan J y col. In Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, and Carotenoids. Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, and Carotenoids. Am J Clin Nutr. 2004;80(1):154-62. Am J Clin Nutr. 2018;108(1):136-155.

1.8.6 2020-05-11: Supply chain - Official

Central American Transportation Commission Marítimo (COCATRAM): Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 on Port Operations in Central America and the Dominican Republic](#)

In the framework of the world emergency generated by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) with alarming levels of spread, severity of cases globally, significant growth at the regional level, and considering the maritime and port scenario, the Central American Transportation Commission Marítimo (COCATRAM) shares the results of the survey on the “Impact of COVID-19 on Port Operations in Central America and the Dominican Republic”. This report has been prepared from a survey answered by 28 ports and terminals in Central America and the Dominican Republic between April 16 and 29, 2020 in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic. At the close of the survey, we received no response from any port in Belize. The results shown below are representative of the situation and the impact of the COVID-19 in the region. The sample represents 50% of the ports and terminals of foreign trade in the scope of the countries of the survey.

1.9 IRELAND

1.9.1 2020-05-15: Food Packaging - Official

Food Safety Agency: Notice

Concepts: [food contact](#)

[COVID-19 – Re-opening a food business](#)

Have you updated your food safety management system to ensure any risks associated with these new processes or activities are controlled? More information on the social distancing requirements is available from the HSE, Return to Work Safely Protocol (DBEI / HSA), Covid-19 Retail Protection and Improvement Guide (NSAI) and COVID-19 and Food Safety: Guidance for Food Businesses (WHO). Follow the general requirements for food safety and re-opening and the specific requirements for re-opening outdoor markets (see above) and ensure you comply with the food law that applies to your activity. If your food business has been closed for any length of time, there are some checks and tasks that you should complete prior to re-opening: Make sure you know the food safety risks posed by your operation and how to control them. When reviewing your food safety management system, pay particular attention to the following critical areas before re-opening: FSMS, Pest Control Check, Stock Check, Equipment and Services Check, Social Distancing Requirements, Deep Clean.

1.10 ITALY

1.10.1 2020-04-28: Regulatory; Supply chain - Official

Ministry : Regulation

Concepts: [labelling](#), [origin](#)

[Temporary business support measures for the current health emergency phase of COVID-19 with reference to the food labeling obligations to declare the origin of the primary ingredient](#)

Ministerial circular allowing companies in the food sector to use the stocks of labels and packaging already ordered before the date of application of EU regulation no. 2018/775, as well as before the date of publication of the decrees extending the national decrees on the mandatory indication on the label of the origin of the wheat in pasta, rice, tomato and milk, being adopted. The current health emergency and the consequent difficulties of the printing sector and the production of wrappers have in fact significantly reduced the availability of packaging and labels at companies in the food sector, called instead to cope with the increase in production levels. The circular was published in the Official Gazette no. 109 of 28/04/2020.

1.11 KAZAKHSTAN

1.11.1 2020-05-04: Import/Export; Supply chain Prices - Official

Administration of Customs: Press Release

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Measures adopted by the Republic of Kazakhstan to mitigate the effects of «COVID-19» pandemic](#)

These decisions establish a temporary ban on the export of certain types of food products from the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. These changes will take effect from 18 April 2020 and will be effective until 30 September 2020. This Decision will allow to use a paper or electronic copy of certificates for 6 months and not to submit their originals during customs clearance. Abbreviations: EAEU – Eurasian Economic Union EEC – Eurasian Economic Commission SRC MF RK – State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan SQP – Sanitary and Quarantine Points MHP RK – Ministry of Health Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan RK – Republic of Kazakhstan This decision provides for exemption from import customs duties of goods, which applies primarily to personal protective equipment, disinfectants, diagnostic reagents, certain types of medical equipment and materials.

1.12 KENYA

1.12.1 2020-04-20: Supply chain Prices - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Ministry of Agriculture | Agri-Food Protocols](#)

The anticipated risks associated with outbreak of COVID-19 outbreak include food shortages, food access, market closures, social unrest and price shocks. [Read More >> PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE \(NPS\) AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS \(NGAO\)](#) The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government should categorize all value chain actors in the food supply chain as essential service providers. [Read More >> PROPOSED STRATEGIES /PLANS TO STABILIZE STAPLE FOOD PRICES UNDER THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC \(TO BE SUBMITTED TO MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRIALIZATION AND COMMAND CENTER\)](#). These include farmers and farm workers, fisher folks, input suppliers and agro-vets, food transporters and distributors, Veterinarian and Food processors. This will ensure adequate production of the commodities and hence ensure that the food items are available on the shelves at all times.

1.13 KYRGYZSTAN

1.13.1 2020-05-07: Supply chain - Official

State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic: Press Release

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

MITIGATION MEASURES OF COVID-19 AT CUSTOMS

Inspection measures for freight carriers entering the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for the presence of COVID-19 have been strengthened. Measures at the border with the People's Republic of China (PRC) On 23 January 2020, due to the spread of coronavirus infection in the People's Republic China, the air, road and rail links of the Kyrgyz Republic with the PRC were completely suspended. On 24 January 2020 a temporary ban on the import of meat and meat products was introduced. On 24 March 2020 the Republican operational headquarters considered the issue of resuming freight transportation by road across the Kyrgyz-Chinese state border. In order to ensure the continuity of international supplies to the Kyrgyz Republic certain changes (temporary) to the national legislation have been introduced: - Governmental Decree No 174 of 22 March 2020 "On the Introduction of a Temporary Ban on the Export of Certain Types of Goods from the Kyrgyz Republic" (wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice, pasta, granulated sugar, chicken eggs, iodized table salt feed (hay, straw, compound feed, bran and grain feed).

1.14 LUXEMBOURG

1.14.1 2020-05-10: Transmission - Official

Official Gazette: Act

Concepts: [contamination](#)

Grand-ducal regulation introducing measures against Covid-19 (Consolidated)

1.15 NEW ZEALAND

1.15.1 2020-05-06: Food Safety - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Act

COVID-19 Pack 4: Chilled and Frozen Food

What do you need to know? • Unsafe and/or unsuitable packaging can make your food and drink unsafe. Package • If you are packaging food or drink you must: ◦ implement procedures for ensuring packaging will not cause, or contribute to, food or drink becoming unsafe or unsuitable, ◦ only use packaging that is suitable for use with food and drink. What do you need to do? Otherwise full labelling is required. • Some food or drink can become unsafe over time, even though it still might look, smell and taste OK. It's important to let your customer know when to eat your food by, by calculating the shelf-life and providing a Best Before or Use By date. • MPI has developed a guide to help you create your food and/or drink label. This could make people sick or die.

1.15.2 2020-05-06: Food Safety - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Act

Concepts: [packaging](#)

COVID-19 pack 5: Jams, chutneys, and sauces

What do you need to know? • Unsafe and/or unsuitable packaging can make your food and drink unsafe. Package • If you are packaging food or drink you must: ◦ implement procedures for ensuring packaging will not cause, or contribute to, food or drink becoming unsafe or unsuitable, ◦ only use packaging that is suitable for use with food and drink. If the food is not acidic enough (pH more than 4.6) bugs can grow. • It's important that the method you use to acidify food results in an even pH, throughout the food, to prevent bugs growing. Why is using acid to control bugs important? • Lowering the pH to between 3.6 and 4.6 creates an environment which harmful bugs find hard to grow in. What do you need to know? • If you ferment or acidify your food to make it safe, there are pH rules you need to meet. ◦ If you don't have the right equipment to test pH in the COVID-19 response, you must thoroughly cook chutneys and sauces.

1.15.3 2020-05-07: Food Packaging; Transmission - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Act

COVID-19 Alert Level 3 Running a food business during COVID-19

For full details of the rules required for making a change to your food business during COVID-19, please refer to Re-opening or making changes to a food business under COVID-19 Level 3. Please note that a new My Food Plan or Custom Food Control Plan registration will likely require a minimum of 4-6 weeks before you can begin to sell food. Step 4 Complete the re-opening checklist See separate document on our website Re-opening a Food Business Checklist. Please note that depending on the COVID-19 level, your verification may need to be completed using technology, like Skype. Check the COVID-19 website before you re-open your business for any trading restrictions in place for your type of food businesses opening after COVID-19 Level 4.

1.15.4 2020-05-12: Food Packaging - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Act

Concepts: [packaging](#)

COVID-19 Alert Level 2 & 3 PACK 3 Meal kits / repacking bulk food

What do you need to know? • Unsafe and/or unsuitable packaging can make your food and drink unsafe. You need to know that the packaging you use is suitable for use with food and drink so it keeps your product safe. • Not all food or drinks have to be labelled, but for those that are, the labels must meet the rules in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). • MPI has developed a guide a to help you create your food and/or drink label. Follow 'A guide to food labelling' www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/2965 • All the information you need to label your re-packed food will be either on the bulk pack label (if it has one) or separate specification sheet (or similar) supplied with the bulk pack. It is important the label information is accurate especially for date marks and allergen information. • Only use packaging that doesn't cause, or contribute to, food or drink becoming unsafe or unsuitable. • Check that packaging is intended for your type of foods or drink or use. • Handle and store packaging with the same care as a food or drink, ingredient or input.

1.16 PERU

1.16.1 2020-05-12: Transmission - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Regulation

[PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES AGAINST COVID-19 IN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY](#)

Guidelines for the Commercialization phase Commercialization includes the processes of selling harvested primary agricultural products, loading and unloading for the commercialization of agricultural products and inputs, and in spaces for the sale of products that involve contact between producer and consumer. It also applies to offices and administrative workers and common areas such as dining rooms, changing rooms and showers, toilets, etc. Thereafter, daily clinical monitoring of the worker and the contacts identified in the workplace should be carried out, as appropriate.

1.17 PHILIPPINES

1.17.1 2020-05-07: Registration; Import/Export - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [registration](#)

[Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines - Online platform for FDA Market Authorization applications](#)

For those with existing LTO application via ePortal, you may opt to apply to the eServices Portal for a new fee. The Food and Drug Administration, in its commitment to provide stakeholders with streamlined and improved government services, is developing the FDA eServices Portal —online platform for FDA Market Authorization applications. The eServices Portal is in its Pilot Implementation, hence the scope of the application is limited for the time being: Applications for Variation in the LTO using the eServices Portal are only functional if the approved initial LTO is applied using the eServices Portal. Please follow Annex A of this Advisory for the Guideline and Checklist of Requirements, and Annex B of this Advisory for the Step-by-Step Guide in applying in the FDA eServices Portal.

1.18 SCOTLAND

1.18.1 2020-05-07: Transmission - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[Horticulture, Fruit and Vegetable Industry Sector Social distancing advice to support stakeholders develop safe working practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19](#)

Practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 The Scottish Government's business and physical distancing guidance prioritises keeping citizens healthy. Businesses must be able to demonstrate that they are capable of working in a way that is consistent with established physical distancing guidance. 3. Whilst this will have an impact on productivity, it may be necessary to protect staff and maintain output. • Businesses should also consider physical shielding mechanisms, such as perspex-type barriers. In

circumstances where essential visitors are required to spend time on site, take appropriate measures to separate them from employees wherever possible. Workers should be discouraged from sharing phones where possible. • Non-essential visits from external parties should be prohibited wherever possible.

1.19 SINGAPORE

1.19.1 2020-05-10: Transmission - Official

Food Safety Agency: Notice

Concepts: [Transmission](#)

[Safe Management Measures for Food & Beverage Establishments](#)

F&B establishments can refer to the Advisory for Delivery Businesses for guidelines on the delivery requirements. 9. Ensure that all customers, delivery personnel and other on-site personnel put on their masks properly at all times⁵. 10.9. Ensure that customers and delivery personnel observe at least one-metre spacing at all times and do not cluster together. 10.8. In line with the latest advisory on Safe Management Measures at the workplace, (URA) are providing operational guidance on the permissible activities and Safe Management Measures for food and beverage (F&B) establishments. Demarcate a waiting area for customers and delivery personnel to pick up their 10.4.

1.20 TOGO

1.20.1 2020-05-13: Supply Chain; Transmission - Official

Government: Report

Concepts: [packaging](#)

[ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS IN TOGO, RESPONSE MEASURES](#)

The UEMOA countries most affected by the pandemic on April 21, 2020 are respectively Cote d'Ivoire (879 cases), Niger (655 cases), Burkina Faso (581 cases), and Senegal (377 cases) . With a view to protecting populations from the Covid 19 pandemic, the WAEMU member states have implemented response measures as soon as the first cases are recorded on the continent. Togo and Burkina Faso have the highest case fatality rates, 7.14% and 6.54% respectively; while Togo⁷, Senegal⁸ and Burkina Faso⁹ have a cure rate above 60%. On the African continent, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) anticipates economic growth of 1.8% compared to 3.2% forecast in 2020³. The African continent appears for the moment as the least affected geographical area on a global scale.

1.21 UNITED STATES

1.21.1 2020-04-17: Regulatory; Food Sfaety - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [food standards](#)

[FDA Extends Reopened Comment Period on General Principles for Food Standards Modernization](#)

The FDA is extending for 90 days the comment period on a 2005 proposed rule to establish a set of general principles for the agency to use when considering whether to establish, revise or eliminate a food standard of identity. The comment period will now end July 20, 2020.

1.21.2 2020-04-21: Food Safety; Supply chain - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [controls](#)

[FDA PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY TO THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO SUPPORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN AND MEET CONSUMER DEMAND DURING COVID-19](#)

1.21.3 2020-04-22: Regulatory - Official;

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [Certification](#)

[TEMPORARY POLICY REGARDING ACCREDITED THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ONSITE OBSERVATION AND CERTIFICATE DURATION REQUIREMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY](#)

1.21.4 2020-05-08: Food Safety; Transmission - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

[Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

FDA is providing a food safety re-opening checklist for previously closed retail food establishments or those that have been open with limited service related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This checklist addresses key food safety practices for retail food establishments to consider when re-opening and restarting operations. This is not a comprehensive list. We encourage retail food establishments to partner with local regulatory/health authorities to discuss the specific requirements for their retail food establishment prior to re-opening.

1.21.5 2020-05-14: Transmission - Official

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Guidance

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers - Interim Guidance from CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)

CDC's interim guidance created in conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. As meat and poultry processing is considered a critical infrastructure within the food and agriculture sector, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided the industry with guidance for companies to follow amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.22 UNITED KINGDOM

1.22.1 2020-04-17: Transmission - Official

Food Standards Agency: Report

Concepts: [contamination](#)

QUALITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT ON THE RISK OF FOOD OR FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS AS A TRANSMISSION ROUTE FOR SARS-COV-2

Risk question: What is the risk of food, food contact materials, or food packaging being a source or transmission route of SARS-CoV-2 for UK consumers? We consider that the probability that UK consumers will receive potentially infectious exposures of SARS-CoV-2 via the consumption of food or the handling of food contact materials or packaging is Very Low ('very rare but cannot be excluded').

1.22.2 2020-05-14: Transmission - Official

Food Standards Agency: Report

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[Guidance on hygiene and food safety requirements for food businesses to reopen and operate safely during COVID-19](#)

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed within the food industry understand how to work safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance focuses on the hygiene processes and requirements that food businesses and people must follow to continue to safely operate. In line with wider government advice, the FSA suggested that business owners should ensure risk assessments address the risks of COVID-19, using the government social distancing guidance to inform decisions and control measures.

2 UNOFFICIAL SOURCES

2.1 BELGIUM

2.1.1 2020-04-30: Fraud - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [food fraud](#)

[FASFC: Checks continue despite Coronavirus control measures](#)

An FASFC unit was involved in an operation with port and customs authorities, other EU countries and Europol. The FASFC unit monitored the transport of food at the borders with police and customs officials. Focus on supplements and allergens FASFC is one of many European agencies to warn about people taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic by selling counterfeit food supplements online. The agency stressed it has continued efforts to protect public health since control measures for coronavirus were put in place in mid-March. Almost 4,500 kilograms of food has been confiscated by the Belgian food safety agency.

2.2 INDIA

2.2.1 2020-05-15: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[FNB News - Demand for processed food during lockdown](#)

To know what processed food has demand during this Covid 19 time, we have asked 200 people to respond from different filed based at from different parts of India. However during lockdown 2.0 the trend for processed food was almost remain same expect one to two category. Which part of India you are staying in Which type of city you live in Which type of processed food you bought from market (Lockdown 1.0 /2.0 /3.0) 4. Where did you shop your food (Modern Retail/ Online/Grocery Shop) 5. During this time 49.5% people have picked bakery and confectionery products, followed by ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat processed food 42.8% & 42% respectively.

2.2.2 2020-05-18: Food Safety; Transmission - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [controls](#)

[No worries'? Food safety fears in India as COVID-19 lockdowns lead to a shortage of lab staff \(2020-05-18\)](#)

The matter was first surfaced by FSSAI CEO G.S.G Ayyangar, who had issued a letter to 18 Chief Secretaries of States in India calling them out for impeding the access of food safety laboratory staff to get to work. India has been in lockdown since 24 March, and has now moved to separate the country into red, orange and green zones according to COVID-19 infection rates. There is no issue of testing," a senior FSSAI official who declined to be named told FoodNavigator-Asia. "[As for whether people need to be worried], the answer is not at all. These moves have been riddled with inconsistencies and were shown to have limited effect after consumer surveys saw dairy adulteration continue to rise after implementation. Manpower has also been a long-time issue: FSSAI moved to issue recognition for local private laboratories to conduct food testing after being overwhelmed by samples last year due to a lack of staff to conduct testing and even encouraged that samples be sent to these instead of public laboratories.

2.3 PORTUGAL, SPAIN

2.3.1 2020-05-15: Supply Chain; Prices - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[SPAIN-PORTUGAL Consequences for the Agriculture - Food - Fishing sector](#)

The Bloc de Gauche (BE) party proposes measures to guarantee fair food prices for consumers and producers. - Potatoes and onions: € 27 million in estimated losses for Valencian producers. For onions, large sizes are no longer even rated (lack of demand for catering) and the others reach at most between 0.10 and 0.13 € / kg. After having started exporting citrus fruits from the Algarve and tuna from the Azores (notably to Germany, Greece and Belgium), the German supermarket chain now plans to export Portuguese cheeses from small producers. For the record, the Ministry of Agriculture called on distributors to increase their purchases in order to help sell products from small producers, especially cheese.

2.4 TOGO

2.4.1 2020-05-11: Supply Chain; Supply Chain Prices - Unofficial

Government: Regulation

Concepts: [packaging](#)

[Slower imports, falling exports, financial difficulties: beyond the health challenge, the African continent must rethink its food security](#)

For the moment, the prices of basic foodstuffs (oils, cereals, meats, dairy products) tend to fall, because of the prospects of economic downturn, according to the monthly barometer of the United Nations Food and agriculture (FAO). But the concern is strong for the Sahel in West Africa, an area which combines the negative effects of climate change and an increase in violence. Faced with these threats, several countries are on the warpath to respond urgently to local needs. The Nigerian government has said it is ready to deliver up to 70,000 tonnes of grain from its reserve in order to alleviate the effects of food shortages and other challenges. "Cereal bags are in packing course for new emergency delivery, "said Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Sabo Nanono, indicating that about 5,000 tonnes of cassava chips were available for immediate delivery. Africa dependent on imports on the front line But now more than thirty-two African countries have closed their borders. Each year, rice exchanges, soy, corn and wheat feed 2.8 billion people worldwide. Africa which has imported more than 40 million tonnes of cereals in 2018, is the most threatened continent. Somalia and Sudan most exposed a disruption in grain supplies, while other countries, like Angola, Nigeria and Chad, are dependent on their exports to pay imports of food.

2.5 UNITED KINGDOM

2.5.1 2020-05-07: Fraud - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [food fraud](#)

[Horsemeat seized in Europe as experts predict rise in food fraud caused by coronavirus - News - FoodAuthenticity](#)

Two fraudulent horsemeat shipments were seized in Europe last week, marking the start of an expected surge in food fraud. The seizures have reinforced concerns among food safety experts that criminals will target food supply chains disrupted by the pandemic. The horsemeat samples were held in the Netherlands and Denmark, with one intended for "unauthorised placing on the market," according to the EU's RASFF food safety register. "You'll see that regulators across Europe will probably now be looking at horsemeat and the labelling of it much more closely because those two cases have been identified," said Louise Manning, professor of agri-food and supply chain security at Royal Agricultural University. It was "unusual" to have two horsemeat seizures in as many days, she said, though it was unclear whether it was due to increased fraud activity or greater vigilance. The risk of food crime has soared during the pandemic as the collapse of foodservice and the closure of meat processing plants has created a dramatic imbalance in supply and demand.

2.6 UNITED STATES

2.6.1 2020-05-13: Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Grocery inflation surged in April despite a decline in world food commodity prices](#)

In a statement on its website dated April 24, the company noted: "Cal-Maine has not exploited this tragic national pandemic for gain... In the latest report from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall consumer price index - a measure of the average change in prices over time of goods and services purchased by US households - was down 0.8% in April, the largest single month decline since 2008. For instance, some markets, such as hospitality and catering may remain depressed for many months after official restrictions are lifted, if consumer confidence remains low." However, it remains to be seen whether there will be a prolonged shift in some of the market fundamentals, as countries emerge from social isolation. "The effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the food industry is characterised by contrasting dynamics, which are very often region and product dependent.

2.6.2 2020-05-13: Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

NGO: News Article

Concepts: [organic](#)

[The Industrial Food System is Failing Us-What Now? - Cornucopia Institute](#)

For the past 15 years, The Cornucopia Institute has championed authentic organic farmers in policy matters and in the marketplace. "Get big or get out" has been the rallying cry for US food policy since the 1950s, leading to the ever-increasing centralization of conventional food production and processing. Cornucopia is committed to monitoring the ripple effect of this pandemic and shining a light on the very best organic production. Or will the value of clean, nutrient-dense food become even clearer as COVID-19 threatens our physical and mental health? How have you deepened your relationships with local organic farmers?

2.6.3 2020-05-14: Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Meat industry in turmoil as prices soar | 2020-05-14 | Food Business News](#)

Cattle slaughter at 2,921,700 head was up 10% from March 2019 and hog slaughter at 11,942,000 head was up 11%. Meat prices surged while livestock prices, as reflected by CME Group live cattle and lean hog futures, plunged in April, although futures prices already have begun to correct in part in anticipation of plant reopenings. For cattle, a loss of 40% in slaughter capacity equates to about 50,000 head per day, or 250,000 head per week. Schulz said that for each 1% reduction in hog slaughter capacity, there is a corresponding 1.82% reduction in hog prices, thus a 40% cut in capacity equates to a 73% drop in hog prices, although the lost capacity mostly has been below 40%. The closings included some plants of the largest meat processors: Smithfield Foods Inc., Cargill, JBS USA, Tyson Foods Inc. and others.

2.6.4 2020-05-15: Supply chain; Transmission - Unofficial

NGO: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[EWG News Roundup \(5/15\): Farm and Food Workers at COVID-19 Risk, EPA Balks at Regulating Rocket Fuel Chemical and More](#)

The Environmental Working Group has lists of produce with the highest and lowest amounts of pesticide use. (See [Prioritizing What to Buy Organic](#)). The Environmental Working Group (EWG) recommends avoiding them altogether. [Central Jersey: Eating organic foods could have benefits for one's health](#) The Environmental Working Group has a helpful shopper's guide to pesticides in produce. [Collective Evolution: Non-organic Kale Found To Be Contaminated With Dacthal \(Pesticide\)](#) This is why the Environmental Working Group (EWG) advocates buying organic products. Consult the Environmental Working Group's [Dirty Dozen](#) and [Clean Fifteen](#) guides for more info.

2.6.5 2020-05-15: Transmission - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [controls](#)

[Fourth USDA Food Safety Inspector Dies of COVID-19 - Food Quality & Safety](#)

The coronavirus has been prevalent in meatpacking plants, likely because many employees work together in close contact with each other. Schelling says that USDA inspectors usually work on the production floor checking meat for safety and are often in close proximity with the workers. Three additional inspector deaths occurred in New York, Illinois, and Mississippi over the course of the last few weeks. According to the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, more than 30 meat workers have died of coronavirus and another 10,000 or so infected or exposed. "We learned yesterday of another sad development, and we don't know all the details, but we were saddened to report that the safety inspector did die as a result of the coronavirus," says Schelling.

2.6.6 2020-05-15: Food Safety; Transmission - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [controls](#)

[Can FSIS withstand the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune? | Feedstuffs](#)

It's a phrase sums up the plight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). FSIS inspectors are performing approximately four times more offline verification tasks for contamination in NPIS establishments than in non-NPIS establishments. Have we seen a spike in on-the-job injuries or an increase food safety problems as a result? FSIS employees are required to wear face coverings and to wear them properly, and supervisors have been instructed to enforce this requirement.

2.6.7 2020-05-15: Food Safety - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [controls](#), [organic](#)

[The Organic Trade Association asks USDA for funding flexibility, remote inspections & increased enforcement during pandemic](#)

Given that the inspections are critical for organic compliance, OTA asks USDA to temporarily allow accredited certifiers to use emergency remote inspections when visiting farms and facilities is not possible. With stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions in place to help flatten the curve, on-site inspections are not possible, it adds. However, the constantly shifting retail marketing and unpredictable consumer purchasing behavior since the pandemic began have presented challenges for organic farmers and businesses of all sizes,” Batch says in the letter. OTA also asks the agency to disburse funds from the Organic Certification Cost-Share program from fiscal year 2020 to help small farmers “who are especially vulnerable right now” pay their organic certification fees on time so as not to risk having their certification revoked. For example, she said, some retailers have reduced organic and specialty product availability to make more space for core products.