

Low-Acid Foods Regulations and Requirements in Asia

Low-Acid Foods in Asia: Regulations & Requirements

Definition of Low-Acid Foods

- pH > 4.6 and water activity > 0.85
- Typically includes canned vegetables, soups, sauces, meat, and seafood products.

1. China (NMPA, SAMR)

- Authority: National Medical Products Administration (NMPA), State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR)
- Must meet GB standards (e.g., GB 17405 for canned foods)
- Sterilization processes must be validated and documented
- Filing required for commercial sterilization process
- Importers need CIQ (China Inspection and Quarantine) clearance
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2. Japan (MHLW)

- Authority: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)
- Must follow the Food Sanitation Act
- Retorting (thermal processing) is tightly regulated
- HACCP is mandatory for all food processors
- Must submit processing records and retain samples

3. India (FSSAI)

- Authority: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Must follow Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations
- Retorted/thermally processed foods require FSSAI approval
- Specific standards for canned/retort processed vegetables, meat, seafood
- Labeling must include FSSAI license number

4. South Korea (MFDS)

- Authority: Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS)
- Low-acid canned foods are regulated under the Processed Food Code
- Must comply with Korean Food Code (KFC) sterilization parameters

- Importers must register facilities and submit test results

5. ASEAN Region (e.g., Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam)

- Guided by: ASEAN Guidelines on Food Control Systems
- Each country has national food laws:
 - Thailand: FDA requires GMP and shelf-life testing
 - Malaysia: Food Regulations 1985 includes canning rules
 - Vietnam: Ministry of Health requires sterilization validation
 - Indonesia: BPOM regulates LACFs under “processed food” category

6. Common Requirements Across Asia

- Commercial Sterility Validation
- HACCP & GMP Compliance
- Shelf-Life & Microbiological Testing
- Registration/Approval of Manufacturing Facility
- Import Licensing & Inspection

Key References:

- China NMPA: <https://www.nmpa.gov.cn/>
- China SAMR: <https://www.samr.gov.cn/>
- China GACC (formerly CIQ): <http://english.customs.gov.cn/>
- Japan MHLW: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/>
- India FSSAI: <https://www.fssai.gov.in/>
- South Korea MFDS: <https://www.mfds.go.kr/eng/>
- Thailand FDA: <https://www.fda.moph.go.th/>
- Malaysia Food Safety (MOH): <https://fsq.moh.gov.my/>
- Vietnam MOH: <https://moh.gov.vn/>
- Indonesia BPOM: <https://www.pom.go.id/>
- ASEAN Food Safety Guidelines: <https://asean.org/>

For expert assistance with Asian LACF regulations, process validation, or import/export compliance: Advanced Food-Tech Solutions | www.advfood.tech | info@advfood.tech