



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

Import and Transshipment of Biological Agents and Toxins

The Biosafety Branch of the Ministry of Health regulates the import and transshipment of biological agents and toxins that is pathogenic to humans and jointly controls zoonotic agents with the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA).

- 1 Applications for Import and transshipment permit for purely human pathogens will be done via the Tradenet System.
 - A. Ensure that the following fields are properly filled up in the application for both import and transshipment permit
 - i. Declarant's name and contact information
 - ii. Central Registration Number (CRN)
 - iii. Use the HS code 30029000
 - iv. Item Unit of measurement (UOM) for HS code -- to be filled up according to the invoice (e.g. KGM)
 - v. Item description – indicate the actual description of the product as stated in the invoice
 - vi. CA Product code – to be filled up with the corresponding MOH product code provided in the [“List of Biological Agents”](#)
 - vii. Unit of measurement (UOM) for CA Product code – to be filled up with the same unit quantity as the UOM for HS Code.
 - viii. Arrival Date
 - B. In addition to the above-mentioned fields, the following are additional mandatory fields for Transshipment Permit applications:
 - i. Handling agent name
 - ii. Departure Date
 - iii. Remarks - the location where the shipment will be temporarily stored
 - C. The commercial invoice must be faxed to the Biosafety Branch.
- 2 For import and transshipment permit for zoonotic pathogens (i.e. agents that cause diseases primarily in animals but is also capable of being transmitted and cause disease in humans), applicants shall fulfill both MOH and AVA's requirements. Declaration for zoonotic agents may be done via Tradenet, e-CLIPS or both depending on the type of samples. [\(Refer to the Flowchart on AVA-MOH Joint Approval for Biological Agents\)](#)
 - A. Submission requirements for Tradenet application only (Pure culture/isolates of zoonotic agents)
 - i. Properly fill up the following fields in the application for import and transshipment permit



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- a. Declarant's name
 - b. Central Registration Number (CRN)
 - c. Use the HS code 30029000
 - d. Item Unit of measurement (UOM) for HS code -- to be filled up according to the invoice (e.g. KGM)
 - e. Item description – indicate the actual description of the product as stated in the invoice
 - f. CA Product code – to be filled up with the MOH product code and the corresponding AVA product code in the CA secondary code field, which are provided in the [“List of Biological Agents”](#) or at the [Tradexchange product code search](#)
 - g. Unit of measurement (UOM) for CA Product code – to be filled up with the same unit quantity as the UOM for HS Code.
 - h. Arrival Date
- ii. In addition to the above-mentioned fields, the following are additional mandatory fields for Transshipment Permit applications:
 - a. Handling agent name
 - b. Departure date
 - c. Remarks - the location where the shipment will be temporarily stored
 - iii. The commercial invoice must be faxed to the Biosafety Branch.
 - iv. Contact AVA for their Tradenet application requirements
- B. Submission requirements for Tradenet and e-CLiPS (Clinical samples that are very likely to contain zoonotic agents)
- i. Fill up the following field in the Tradenet application form
 - a. Declarant's name
 - b. Central Registration Number (CRN)
 - c. Use the HS code 30029000
 - d. Item Unit of measurement (UOM) for HS code -- to be filled up according to the invoice (e.g. KGM)
 - e. Item description – indicate the actual description of the product as stated in the invoice
 - f. CA Product code – to be filled up with the corresponding MOH product code provided in the “List of Biological Agents”
 - g. Unit of measurement (UOM) for CA Product code – to be filled up with the same unit quantity as the UOM for HS Code.
 - h. Arrival Date
 - i. Remarks – state that E-CLiPS application will also be made and that a copy of the AVA E-CLiPS approval will be sent or faxed to MOH

- ii. In addition to the above-mentioned fields, the following are additional mandatory fields for Transshipment Permit applications:
 - a. Handling agent name
 - b. Departure date
 - c. Remarks - the location where the shipment will be temporarily stored
 - iii. Commercial invoice must be faxed to the Biosafety Branch.
 - iv. Contact AVA for e-CLiPS application requirements.
 - v. Follow up via fax, a copy of the approval given by AVA via E-CLiPS to MOH
- C. Submission requirements for e-CLiPS only (Samples that are very likely to contain AVA regulated agents which does not affect humans and samples of animal origin)
- i. Contact AVA for e-CLiPS application requirements.
- 3 For Genetically-modified organism (GMO), importers should seek approval from the [Genetic Modification Advisory Committee \(GMAC\)](#) before applying for import or transshipment permit. Once approval from GMA is granted, the applicant may proceed to apply for the import or transshipment permit. Follow the procedures given in previous sections depending on the type of agent (human or zoonotic agent). In addition, a copy of the GMAC recommendation should also be submitted to MOH.
- 4 Application for import and transshipment permits will be processed online during office hours (Mon–Thurs: 9.00am to 5.30pm, Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm) only. Importers are advised to apply at least 5 working days before the shipment arrives.
- 5 The updated list of MOH product codes is available on the [MOH Biosafety website](#) .
- 6 For further information:
- A. For human pathogens and zoonotic agents:
 - Biosafety Branch, Ministry of Health
 - Tel: 6325-9205
 - Fax: 6325-4679
 - E-mail: moh_biosafety@moh.gov.sg
 - B. For animal and zoonotic agents:
 - Animal, Meat and Seafood Regulatory Branch, AVA
 - Tel: 6227-0670
 - Fax: 6227-6403
 - E-mail: AVA_Import&Export_Animals@ava.gov.sg