



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

IMPORT ADVISORY TO IMPORTERS OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND/OR TOXINS

Under sections 8, 17, 25, 28 and 32 of the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (BATA), importation of biological agents, toxins including proficiency test items and inactivated agents are required to have an import permit granted by the MOH. Any importation of these items without a proper import permit¹ is considered a breach of the Act and is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

Note that in the event that sections 8, 17, 25, 28 and 32 have been breached, the importer will be held liable.

The importer² shall be responsible in providing the correct information to the permit declarant³. This information referred to includes the following:

1. Item description
2. HS Code
3. MOH product code (and corresponding AVA code, if required)

As such, the importer has to ensure that all these information for the biological agent or toxin with the proper corresponding product code are correctly stated in the import permit and the approved permit was indeed granted by the Biosafety Legislation Branch of the Ministry of Health.

It is advised, that importers should be vigilant in ensuring and verifying that the couriers get the correct permit prior to clearing the item in the customs.

¹ A proper import permit refers to a permit with the correct item description and the corresponding correct MOH product code (and AVA code, if applicable), HS code and approved by the Biosafety legislation Branch of MOH.

² Importer usually refer to the laboratory/end user who had been granted with the "Approval to Possess" (if applicable) of the item being imported but may also refer to a distributor depending on the case.

³ Permit declarant or declaring agent may be the courier service provider which was contracted by the exporter/importer to clear and deliver the goods to the importer.



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