



MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of Technical Reference for Developing Food Products that Meet Approved Nutrition or Health Claims

SMF-SDO and SPRING Singapore launch guidelines to support food manufacturers looking to meet the increasing demand for food products with health and nutritional benefits

1. Singapore Manufacturing Federation Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO) and SPRING Singapore jointly launched the Technical Reference TR 58 – Guidelines for developing food products that qualify for approved nutrition or health claims¹ today.
2. Health and wellness have been at the forefront of consumer food trends in recent years. One of the top trends impacting the global food and beverage market is consumer interest in functional food² – or food with health and nutritional benefits such as reducing the risk of diseases and maintaining good health. With nearly 850 food and beverage companies in Singapore³, these companies are poised to leverage this trend given Singapore's strong global reputation for food safety and quality.
3. These food companies can use TR 58 as a guidance document when they develop food products to meet the regulatory requirements set by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) on health and nutritional claims. The guidelines take reference from the Codex Alimentarius recommendations on health and nutritional claims⁴ (Refer to factsheet for more information on TR 58).

¹ TR 58 was developed by a Working Group under the purview of the Food Standards Committee (FSC). The FSC is one of the standards committees of the industry-led Singapore Standards Council set up by SPRING Singapore, the national standards body.

²Source: International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation, Food Decision 2016, Food and Health Survey.

³ Source: Economic Development Board & SPRING Singapore 2015

⁴ CODEX Alimentarius Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims; and General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food, includes a collection of internationally recognised standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relating to foods, food production, and food safety.



4. “The food manufacturing industry can leverage quality and standards as strategic tools to strengthen product innovation and Research & Development. TR 58 will accelerate Singapore companies’ development and commercialisation of functional foods. This is aligned with the vision of the Food Manufacturing Industry Transformation Map (ITM) which seeks to position Singapore as a leading food and nutrition hub in Asia by 2025,” said Ms Choy Sauw Kook, Assistant Chief Executive, Quality and Excellence, SPRING Singapore.

5. Said Dr Loke Wai Mun, Convenor of Working Group for TR 58, “By setting out the key processes of product conceptualisation, product development and commercial production for applying functional ingredients in food products, this TR can help level the playing field for small and medium food manufacturers by providing them access to the recommended industry practices to overcome uncertainties or delays in new functional food product development. This will help local SME food manufacturers increase their competitiveness.”

6. Mr Sunny Koh, Deputy President of SMF and Chairman of SMF’s F&B Industry Group said, “The food industry had worked with AVA’s Advisory Committee on Evaluation of Health Claims to expand the list of approved health and nutritional claims over the last few years. The development of TR 58 together with AVA rides on those efforts, to encourage manufacturers to produce innovative food products with nutritional or health claims. This would help enhance their product competitiveness and give home-grown companies a competitive advantage when they internationalise.”

7. “As a new company in the food industry, bringing food products with health benefits to market can be time-consuming and costly because of the need to meet the regulatory requirements. Having a set of guidelines on functional food claims provides an informative guideline especially in the area of verifying such claims through testing. This helps to make the process more efficient and speeds up time to market,” said Mr Andrew Lim, Co-founder of Boxgreen, an online health snack retailer in Singapore.



8. SMF-SDO will be scheduling workshops over the next few months to help the industry implement TR 58 effectively. The workshops will provide a step-by-step guide on the implementation process of TR 58.

– End of Media Release –

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About Singapore Manufacturing Federation-Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO)

The Singapore Manufacturing Federation was appointed by SPRING Singapore on 1 April 2011 as the Standards Development Organisation in the areas of biomedical, food, general engineering & safety, as well as manufacturing. SMF-SDO administers the development, promotion and implementation of standards in these areas to meet the needs of industry and regulators. SMF-SDO supports the industry-led Singapore Standards Council and SPRING Singapore in the development and promotion of standards in Singapore. Please visit <http://www.smf-sdo.org.sg/> for more information on SMF-SDO.

About SPRING Singapore



SPRING Singapore is an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry responsible for helping Singapore enterprises grow and building trust in Singapore products and services. As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING develops and promotes an internationally-recognised standards and quality assurance infrastructure. SPRING also oversees the safety of general consumer goods in Singapore. As the enterprise development agency, SPRING works with partners to help enterprises in financing, capability and management development, technology and innovation, and access to markets. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg for more information about SPRING Singapore.

About Singapore Standards Council (SSC)

The industry-led Singapore Standards Council (SSC), appointed by SPRING Singapore, approves the establishment and withdrawal of Singapore Standards and advises SPRING Singapore, the national standards body, on the directions, policies, strategies and priorities for the Singapore Standardisation Programme. The Council has appointed 10 Standards Committees to lead standards development and implementation in various functional areas. Under these Standards Committees, various Technical Committees and Working Groups, which comprise representatives from the industry, professional bodies, trade and consumer associations, academia and government agencies, are formed to undertake the preparation of standards. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg/standards for more information about SSC.