



**FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

Guidelines on importation of ceramic ware intended to be used in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for human consumption

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to provide guidance on the requirements for importation of ceramic ware intended to be used in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for human consumption, in compliance with Regulation 28, Food Regulations 1985. All requirements are applicable for locally produced and imported ceramic ware.

2.0 Definition

For the purpose of this guideline, “ceramic ware” refers to ceramic ware intended to be used in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for human consumption.

3.0 Requirements according to Regulation 28 Ceramic ware, Food Regulations 1985

For the purpose of fulfillment of the chemical and physical standard as prescribed under Regulation 28, Food Regulations 1985, ceramic ware is divided into two types based on its internal depth; flatware and hollow-ware. Hollow-ware is further divided into two sub-categories based on its capacity. The type of ceramic ware will determine the maximum limit for lead and cadmium released into food or food simulant as in Section 3.1 below:-

Description	Type of ceramic ware	Description
<p>Hollow-ware Means articles with internal depth > 25mm. Two (2) types of hollow ware -</p> <p>Small hollow-ware- capacity of < 1.1L. E.g. -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cups, mugs • Small bowl/ pot <p>Large hollow-ware - capacity of ≥1.1L. E.g.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowl • Pot 	<pre> graph TD CW[Ceramic ware] --> HW[Hollow-ware internal depth >25mm] CW --> FW[Flatware internal depth ≤ 25mm] HW --> SHW[Small hollow-ware - capacity < 1.1L] HW --> LHW[Large hollow-ware - capacity ≥ 1.1L] </pre>	<p>Flat ware Means articles with internal depth ≤ 25mm. E.g.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving plate • Tray • Saucers

3.1 Release of lead and cadmium

Ceramic ware shall be tested in accordance with *Malaysian Standard MS ISO 6486-1, Ceramic ware, glass ceramic ware and glass dinnerware in contact with food – Release of lead and cadmium – Part 1: Test method* and the amount of lead and cadmium released from the ceramic ware shall not exceed the maximum permitted proportion as specified in Table I of the Thirteenth Schedule of the Food Regulations 1985 as follows:-

Maximum Permitted Proportion Of Lead And Cadmium Release			
Type of ceramic ware	Unit	Lead	Cadmium
Flat ware	mg/dm ²	0.8	0.07
Small hollow-ware	mg/l	2.0	0.5
Large hollow-ware	mg/l	1.0	0.25

3.2 Labelling requirements for ceramic ware

Ceramic ware shall be clearly and permanently marked with the following information:-

- a) The name, trademark or any other means of identifying the manufacturer or supplier;
- b) The country of origin;
- c) Any of the following classification:
 - i) bone china;
 - ii) porcelain;
 - iii) vitrified china;
 - iv) earthenware;
 - v) stoneware; or
 - vi) any other classification of ceramic tableware including hotel ware and terracotta; and
- d) the words 'FOR FOOD CONTACT', or the symbol below as in Table III of the Thirteenth Schedule, Food Regulations 1985

FOR FOOD CONTACT SYMBOL



The information shall be in –

- a) Bahasa Malaysia for ceramic ware prepared or manufactured in Malaysia;
- b) Bahasa Malaysia or English for imported ceramic ware; and
- c) In either case (a) or (b) may include translation thereof in any other language

Exemption:

The information referred to Section 3.2 **shall be exempted** for small utensil including but not limited to soup spoon, chopsticks, salt / pepper shaker, saucer or an espresso cup. However, the labelling requirement shall be stated on the outer packaging.

4.0 Importation Procedures

Ministry of Health Malaysia will be imposing Certificate of Analysis (COA) requirement for importation of ceramic ware intended to be used in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for human consumption. COA shall be issued by a laboratory which is recognised by the Competent Authority (CA) of the exporting country. The COA shall be made available to the Authorized Officer at each entry point for every consignment imported.

This procedure will **take effect from 15 July 2017**.

A Level Five (5) examination action (Hold, Test & Release - HTR) shall be imposed based on these criteria:

- i) The consignment is not accompanied with a COA; or
- ii) The consignment is accompanied with a COA which is not issued by a laboratory recognised by the CA of the exporting country.

Ceramic ware consignments assigned the HTR action will be detained upon importation, samples taken for laboratory analysis and the consignment will only be released if the analysis shows that the ceramic ware complies with the Food Act 1983 and its regulations. Analysis fees for ceramic wares which are assigned HTR examination level shall be borne by the importer. The fees involved can be accessed through the following link:-

<http://fsis2.moh.gov.my/fosimv2/BUL/frmBulletinBoardDetail.aspx?id=3966>

If the ceramic ware is imported to be used for other purposes besides food ware, the importer / forwarding agent shall present a declaration letter to the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in charge of the entry point for further action. In this case, the Authorized Officer at the entry point may release the consignment on the basis of “not applicable” to the required controls as stipulated under Regulation 28 of the Food Regulations 1985.

However, if it is found that the ceramic ware is used as food ware through monitoring activities undertaken at the local market, enforcement action shall be taken.

5.0 Additional Information

Soft copy of the Food Regulations 1985 is available online at <http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v4/index.php/perundangan2/food-regulations-1985> and the Malaysian Standards may be purchased online at <http://www.msonline.gov.my>.

6.0 Enquiries

Kindly direct any enquiries to:

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