



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

Guideline 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 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.

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 Food Legislation in Malaysia

The legislation for control and inspection of ceramic ware in Malaysia is provided by:

- (1) Food Act 1983 (Act 281)
- (2) Food Regulations 1985 (Regulation 28 Ceramic ware)

The importation of any ceramic ware which does not comply with the provision of this act and regulations is prohibited.

Soft copy of the Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985 is available on the following webpage:-

<http://fsg.moh.gov.my> or <http://fsis2.moh.gov.my/fosimv2>

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

The requirements for ceramic ware are prescribed under Regulation 28, Food Regulations 1985 (FR 1985). Ceramic ware shall be tested according to the test method in the Malaysian Standard (MS) prescribed under the FR 1985 and Table II of the Thirteenth Schedule of the regulations. These Malaysian Standards may be purchased online at the following address - <http://www.msonline.gov.my>

4.1 Types of ceramic ware

For the purpose of chemical and physical standard, 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 3.2 below.

Description	Type of ceramic ware	Description
Hollow-ware Means articles with internal depth > 25mm. 2 types of hollow ware - Small hollow-ware- capacity of < 1.1L. E.g. - • Cups, mugs • Small bowl/ pot Large hollow-ware - capacity of ≥1.1L. E.g.- • bowl • pot	<pre> graph TD A[Ceramic ware] --> B[Hollow-ware internal depth > 25mm] A --> C[Flatware internal depth ≤ 25mm] B --> D[Small hollow-ware - capacity < 1.1L] B --> E[Large hollow-ware - capacity ≥ 1.1L] </pre>	Flat ware Means articles with internal depth ≤ 25mm. E.g.- • Serving plate • Tray • saucers

4.2 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 -

TABLE I
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	0.20
Large hollow-ware	mg/l	1.0	0.20

4.3 Other requirements for ceramic tableware

Ceramic ware shall also be tested for its physical characteristics according to the test method in Annex A, B and C of *Malaysian Standard MS 1817: Ceramic Tableware – Specification* and comply with the requirements as follows-

**TABLE II
OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR CERAMIC WARE**

Parameter	Requirement			Test method
	Category A	Category B		
		Earthenware	Stoneware	
Water absorption, %	Not more than 0.4	Not less than 3.0 and not more than 7.0	Not more than 3.0	Refer to Annex A, B and C of MS 1817
Thermal shock, °C	160	160		
Chipping resistance, J: Plate > 220 mm in diameter	0.25	-		
Plate ≤ 220 mm in diameter	0.18	-		
Cup/mug/bowl (with lip)	0.10	-		
Cup/mug/bowl (without lip)	0.12	-		
Crazing	None of the test pieces show crazing			
NOTE: Conversion factor: J = ft-lbf x 1.3558; ft-lbf = J x 0.73756				

Note:

Please note there's an editorial error on the test method for the physical test prescribed in Table II of the Thirteenth Schedule, Food Regulations 1985. It should be MS 1817, not MS ISO 6486-1. Amendment to the regulation is in progress.

4.4 Labelling requirements for ceramic tableware

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; and
- 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 hotelware and terracotta.
- d) the words 'for food contact', or the symbol below as in Table III of the Thirteenth Schedule, Food Regulations 1985

**TABLE III
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

5.0 Importation Procedures

Health Certificate

Ministry of Health Malaysia is imposing Health Certificate requirement for importation of ceramic ware intended to be used in the preparation, packaging, storage, delivery or exposure of food for human consumption. A valid Health Certificate issued by the Competent Authority (CA) of the exporting country for every consignment shall be made available to the Authorized Health Officer at the entry point, upon request, once Custom declaration is made.

The Health Certificate shall contain the following attestation or any other words of similar meaning:

"This is to certify that the above mentioned consignment is free from lead and cadmium release / contains lead and cadmium release not exceeding the maximum permitted proportion and complies with the physical characteristics requirements as stipulated by Regulation 28 (ceramic ware) of the Malaysian Food Regulations 1985".

This procedure will **take effect from 1 January 2014.**

Rejection

The consignment shall be rejected by the Authorized Health Officer at the entry point on one of these criteria:

- i) The consignment is not accompanied with a Health Certificate.
- ii) The consignment is accompanied with a Health Certificate which is not issued by the CA of the exporting country.
- iii) The consignment is accompanied with a Health Certificate which does not contain the required attestation or any other words of similar meaning.

Ceramic ware for other purposes besides food-ware

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, Authorized Health 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 by Authorized Health Officer at the local market, enforcement action shall be taken.

Tariff codes for ceramic ware involved

The relevant tariff codes involved in this measure are as follows:

HS Code			Descriptions
69.11			Tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, of porcelain or china
6911	.10	000	Tableware and kitchenware
6912	.00	000	Ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, other than of porcelain or china.

AHTN Code			Descriptions
69.11			Tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, of porcelain or china
6911	.10	0000	Tableware and kitchenware
6912	.00	0000	Ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, other than of porcelain or china.

5.0 ENQUIRIES

Kindly direct any enquiries to:

Senior Director of Food Safety & Quality
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Level 3, Block E7, Complex E
Federal Government Administration Centre
62590 Putrajaya Malaysia
Tel: 603-8883 3888 Fax: 03-8889 3815/3341
Email: fsq-division@moh.gov.my
Website : <http://fsq.moh.gov.my>