

COVID-19 Food & Beverage Impact: Monitoring Update

3 APRIL 2020

As the coronavirus cases spread globally, the industry is beginning to feel the early impacts in their supply chain, including business operations, logistic service, and retail to customers.

This weekly report serves to examine the updates and impacts of COVID-19 towards the food supply chain in Asian countries. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this report is accurate at the time of distribution.

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FIA-AFBA JOINT STATEMENT



Food supply chain disruptions and trade protectionist measures amid COVID-19 pandemic could cause major food shortages across Asia

Media coverage:

30 March

- [Reuters](#)
- [The Straits Times](#)
- [The Borneo Post](#)
- [Dairy Reporter](#)
- [Food Ingredients First](#)
- [Food & Beverage Asia](#)
- [Yahoo Finance \(Spain\)](#)
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31 March

- [The Borneo Post \(print\)](#)
- [CNBC](#)
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With more factories resuming production, China will be one of the early birds to recover from the epidemic and a key stabiliser necessary to sustain international trade growth.

MEASURES

- Efforts are being undertaken to boost domestic consumption, investment and to minimise the impact to global supply chain, including investment in agriculture production and technologies used in food supply chain.
- Emphasis has been put on export and e-commerce sectors to resume production.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Industries related to people's daily life such as daily necessities, food supply, express delivery and e-commerce have not been severely hit by the lockdown in the last two months.
- The production suspension caused by the nation's lockdown in the last two months have forced many Chinese manufacturers to upgrade their manufacturing facilities.

Updates on 21-day lockdown announcement

MEASURES

- On 26 March, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for maintaining supply of Essential Goods¹ was issued.
- On 29 March, a letter² from the Home Secretary to all Secretaries of all States was released to clarify on the revised guidelines³ to be implemented during the lockdown.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- The Indian central government permits essential goods to be produced, transported, and sold during the lockdown. However, states and district authorities are having different interpretations on what was essential and what was not. This has further caused a mayhem in the supply chain of food items across different states and districts.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India has set up a grievance cell and Business Immunity Platform⁴ for the food and food related industry to ensure hassle-free operations and uninterrupted supply of essentials for citizens.
- In addition, it is noted that the local industry stakeholders have participated in a call with the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries to raise the issues and challenges faced by the food and beverage industry, especially on the ground at state level.
- In this meeting, the MoFPI has assured industry that they will be extending all required support to the food processing industry to ensure the implementation of uniform advisory/notification dissemination across the country to address the interpretation issues which had been highlighted by the industry.
- As a next step, the participants were asked to request food and beverage companies to submit the challenges faced at district level to the local industry association Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to be shared with the MoFPI.

FIA RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS

- Food manufacturers are facing challenges in the operation as state and district authorities are having different interpretations of essential goods that are allowed to be produced during the lockdown.
- Companies shall work closely with the local authority to obtain a certificate that will allow them to continue to operate.
- FIA is working closely with FICCI to address industry concerns to ensure food manufacturers and suppliers can continue to operate.



Public health emergency was declared by the President and large-scale social restriction measures are enforced to curb the spread of COVID-19.

MEASURES

- Government regulation on “large-scale social restrictions” and presidential decree on “public health emergency status” were signed
- Cities and provinces are allowed to shut down non-essential services
- Curfew has been enacted in several cities across the country
- Mitigation steps included financial aid, waiving of electricity bills, funds to keep food and daily necessities affordable
- The government mandated the food and beverage industry to keep operations to ensure no disruption to food availability and ease of access

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Ease of raw material importation and logistic distribution from the support and commitment from government to ensure food availability
- Support from fiscal and non-fiscal policy to ease industry’s burden, especially SMEs. The President signed a government regulation in lieu of law (Perppu) on 31 March to legitimise more state spending and financial relief efforts.
- Local food industry urged to implement assertive measures to protect the health of employees, especially those who work in production and distribution lines



On 27 March, the YAB Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Yassin announced the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package 2020 (PRIHATIN)¹.

MEASURES

- The Stimulus Package aims to support people's welfare, businesses, and country economy which are impacted by COVID-19.
- The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) had proposed a few measures² to be considered for the Economic Stimulus Package, including to allow critical essential goods manufacturers to operate on 100% capacity including their entire supply chain to meet the needs of Malaysian during the extended Movement of Control (MCO) period.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- In order to ensure food supply remain sufficient, the Government will allocate RM1 billion for Food Security Fund. The Government will continue to channel various assistance to farmer & fishermen to increase domestic production.
- The Government will also provide RM100 million for the development of infrastructure for food storage and distribution, as well as crop integration programme.
- A series of special funds between RM100,000 and RM 200,000 to develop short-term agrofood projects for ensuring sufficient food supply.
- A special committee group³ led by International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, will be set up to ensure adequate supply of foodstuff during the ongoing MCO period.
- On 30 March, FMM has requested for the relaxation of conditions for several initiatives introduced in the PRIHATIN⁴.
- Local company can start to apply for the schemes under the Human Resource related Initiatives from the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package 2020⁵.



On 30 March, tighter measures were announced for the second phase of Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia.

MEASURES

- Movement of essential business is still allowed with tighter restrictions for operation hours.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- For essential businesses premises, restaurant and food outlets (takeaway), and food/goods delivery services, these businesses are only allowed to operate from 0800am to 0800pm.
- On 2 April, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) has submitted a letter⁶ to address challenges faced by businesses during the extended MCO in particular to the movement of employees in approved essential goods manufacturing, permits exports and imports of all goods.

FIA RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS

- Currently, the food industry is facing challenges in maintaining the production due to the strict requirements on the reduction of manpower in manufacturing plant and disallowing movement beyond the tightened MCO hours. The industry shall work closely with local authority to keep the production maintained to support the adequate food supply.
- FIA is working closely with the local industry association, the FMM MAFMAG, to address industry's concerns for ensuring adequate food supply during the MCO period.



The Ministry of Commerce notified temporarily suspension on the issuance of rice export permits.

MEASURES

- The issuance of rice export licenses was halted, following the declaration of the coronavirus as a pandemic
- Traders with existing license can continue with trading activities
- The Director General of the Department of Trade explained that the restriction is just a transition measure as arrangements are made to put in place a better system. There is no further information shared about the new system or when it would be put in place
- Official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation dispelled speculation that the ban may be intended to secure domestic rice supplies during the outbreak

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- While the intent of such measures is to protect domestic supplies, there may be ripple effect on global prices, which would impact national food insecurity





The Department of Agriculture (DA) has been issuing Memorandum Circular¹ to ensure that Filipino households in Luzon and highly dense metropolitan areas have access to safe and affordable food.

MEASURES

- The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has approved the food resiliency protocol² proposed by the DA, which aims to ensure free movement of farmers, fishers, workers and supplies used in food processing and manufacturing firms, and food supply chain logistic provider.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- [Memorandum Circular No. 07](#) : Food items that must be allowed unhampered and unimpeded transit in all quarantine checkpoints were identified.
- [Memorandum Circular No. 09](#) : All farming and fishing activities shall continue to ensure food supply across the country. The workers involved shall practice safety protocols and social distancing in the production.



Infectious Diseases (Workplace Measures to Prevent Spread of COVID-19) Regulations 2020¹ was issued by the Ministry of Health on 1 April.

MEASURES

The following provisions are stipulated under the Regulations:

- Implementation of telecommuting by employers and principals
- Implementation of safe distancing measures by employers and principals during the control period
- Communications from employers and principals to all workers and individuals on the arrangements, steps or measures
- Obligations of occupiers
- Refusal of workers and other individuals subjected to the movement control measure into workplace
- Obligations of workers and other individuals, including compliance to the requirements from employer, principal or occupier

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Employers are to implement the measures covered in the Regulations, where reasonably practicable to do so, and ensure that workers and individuals are informed on the arrangements and their obligations



On 3 April, the Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong addressed Singapore on enhanced measures to deal with the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.

MEASURES

Singapore will apply a "circuit breaker" for one month to help reduce the risk of big outbreak. Measures announced include the following:

- Most workplaces/premises, except essential services and key economic sectors, will be closed with the effect from 7 April.
- Starting from 8 April, Singapore will move to full home-based learning for schools and institutes of higher learning. All pre-school and student care centres will also be closed, excluding those provide limited services for children of parents who have to continue their works.
- Restrictions on movements and gatherings of people will be restricted, where gathering should only confined to households. Singaporean are advised to go out only for essential things (e.g. to work if you are in essential services or key economics, to buy food)

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- For essential services, food establishments, markets, and supermarkets will remain open. However, for food services, restaurants will be allowed to operate only for takeaways and food delivery services by delivery service providers.
- All food related services, and all supply chain activities related to the essential services, are allowed to continue. These include non-manufacturers, storage and logistic service providers.
- For those allowed to operate, they shall follow the regulations as stipulated in Infectious Diseases (Workplace Measures to Prevent Spread of COVID-19) Regulations 2020.
- A hotline will be set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry for local businesses to make their enquiries.
- Meanwhile, the government also reassured that Singapore has enough food supplies.



On 2 April, the government has decided to suspend import of non-essential goods¹.

MEASURES

- The Government has decided to suspend or limit the importation of non-essential goods except pharmaceutical products and fuel.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- The proposed measure will likely to impact the imported food and raw materials.
- The industry is seeking clarification on these proposed measures.

FIA RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS

- FIA is working closely with the local industry association, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), to understand the progress of the development and impacts of the respective proposed measures.

The Prime Minister made an announcement on 2 April to put in place a curfew between 10pm to 4am daily throughout the country. The curfew starts on 3 April.

MEASURES

- The government stepped-up measures to limit movement and travel.
- Exemptions will be made for essential staff in the various sectors, including medical, banking, transport (for consumer goods, fuel, postal services, goods for import or export), agricultural.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Prior to the announcement, the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Thai Chamber of Commerce and the local shipping association reached out to the Ministry of Commerce to highlight the need to ensure that necessity goods and transport services to be continued to ensure access to the goods
- The industry has prepared a list of references on countries' definition of 'essential goods', such as the practices in the United States and France. The list will be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce.



Directive No. 16 / CT-TTg 2020¹ was issued by the Prime Minister on 31 March to prevent and combat COVID-19 epidemic through the implementation of urgent measures.

MEASURES

- Strict social distancing throughout the country from 1 April to 15 April, with observance on the minimum distance of 2 meters and prohibition of more than two people gathering in public places, excluding workplaces, schools and hospitals
- Movement across localities are minimised, except for officials on duty and movements related to provision of food, foodstuffs, necessities, shuttle buses for workers and transportation of production materials.
- Essential commodities, food and foodstuff for the public are to be focused.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- While there has not been any official survey done to assess the impact to local food industry, the impact is predicted to be major, considering the severe disruptions to supply chains.
- With food being one of the essentials to be continued in this time as stipulated in Directive No. 16, it would be crucial to provide more information on the scope of products that are permitted for production to avoid confusion.



Rice export was proposed to be resumed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) on March 28. However, the export limit is put under strict supervision on a monthly basis.

MEASURES

- This update came after the government's decision to suspend rice exports last month
- 400,000 tonnes of rice is approved for export for the month of April. The export volume for the month of May will be subjected to the Prime Minister's approval in end-April
- Prior to the restriction, 6.5 million tonnes of rice were estimated to be exported for this year

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- While the intent of such measures is to protect domestic supplies, there may be ripple effect on global prices, which would impact national food insecurity



Australia has implemented a nationwide lockdown that will likely remain for at least 3 months. While multiple states have shut their borders and non-essential services have been closed, the movement of food supply across state lines remains minimally interrupted.

MEASURES

- State Governments continue to double down on restrictions on personal movement, including enforcing social distancing.
- Non-essential services have been clearly defined and will remain closed/restricted, while there is no formal process for awarding an “essential service” status.
- Most states have shut their borders and interstate, non-essential travel is prohibited. However, essential workers and services are exempted.
- The Federal Government has announced a third stimulus package worth A\$130 billion to provide replacement wages and support businesses to avoid economic collapse.
- An air freight support package for exports to key markets (including China, Japan and Singapore) worth A\$10 million has also been introduced.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- During the lockdown, supermarkets, pharmacies, freight and retail continue to trade while cafes and restaurants are only permitted to offer takeaway and delivery services.
- Food production remain active and businesses are reorganizing their operations to accommodate to social distancing rules.
- Despite the closure of borders, the flow of food and food products between states remain minimally interrupted.
- As other countries go into lockdown, it can be anticipated that Australia may eventually face a shortage of raw materials sourced from overseas. Such supply chain concerns may push businesses to source domestically.
- Singapore and Australia have agreed to keep their markets open and supply chains running.





NEW ZEALAND



The nation was placed into a complete lockdown and a national emergency was declared. The state of emergency has been further extended another seven days to assess if the lockdown is effective in keeping the number of COVID-19 cases low.

MEASURES

- New Zealand locked its borders to all foreigners and later went into lockdown on 25 March.
- All essential and non-essential services have been clearly defined by the Government. All non-essential services, including delivery services for cooked foods, cannot operate during the lockdown.
- Social distancing and isolation rules have been strongly imposed by authorities.
- A NZ\$12.1 billion stimulus package has been announced to counter the economic shock of the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on wage subsidies, tax breaks and a boost to healthcare.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- The domestic supply chain is holding up well. Any entity involved in the supply, delivery, distribution and sale of food, beverage and other key consumer goods (FMCGs) are defined as an essential service. This includes food and beverage production and processing, and the continued operation of supermarkets and dairies.
- The food service sector (restaurants, cafes) is heavily impacted from the lockdown.
- Spike in air and sea freight costs and volume, as well as bans on the export of certain commodities (by other countries) are affecting the global supply chain.

FIA RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS

- Having FMCG businesses formally acknowledged as an essential service has ensured that the domestic supply chain continues to operate with minimal disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This definition will be shared with regional industry associations, which could benefit their advocacy efforts with local governments to have food and beverage sector recognised as essential and ensure continued operations.

Prime Minister's Order No. 06/PM on Reinforcement Measures on Containment, Prevention and Full Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic¹ was issued on 29 March. The Order will be in force from 30 March to 19 April.

MEASURES

- The Order mandates everyone to stay at their house or residence, except to carry out activities such as purchasing food and consumer goods, going to a hospital, and other activities spelled out in the Order
- All garment factories, large projects and other factories that are at risk for the outbreak are to be closed, except for factories to produce consumer goods, medication, medical protective gears and equipment. Factories that are permitted to operate must take strictly precautionary measures as provided by the Task Force Committee. The Order provided the types of activities that are allowed to continue, such as banks, hospitals, health centers, pharmacies, telecommunication, electricity, water supply, waste collectors, agricultural produce markets, convenient stores, supermarkets, fuel stations, restaurants and cafes.
- Only takeaway and delivery service are allowed for restaurants and cafes
- The owner of the factories that have been closed ensure their employees remains at their residences and provide them with the necessary welfare allowance during the period of closure

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- With the closure of factories that are at risk for the outbreak, factories to produce consumer goods, medication, medical protective gears and equipment are exempted. However, it is unclear if the closure order extends to food manufacturing facilities
- While the Order permits legally authorised vehicles for transportation of goods to continue to cross the border checkpoints, there is limited information on the permission for transportation of goods locally



The Ministry of Finance and Economy announced additional measures on 30 March to aid businesses in all sectors, including individuals who are self-employed.

MEASURES

- An additional economic relief package was introduced on 1 April which amounted to approximately BND250 million in the form of deferment of principal or loan repayment and exemption of fees and charges
- This measure, combined with previously announced fiscal assistance brought the total to BND450million

On [31 March](#), it was announced that, starting from 1 April, new measures will be implemented to enhance infection prevention and control of entrants from abroad.

MEASURES

- All Koreans and foreign nationals arriving from other countries should go into self-quarantine/ be isolated in facilities for 2 weeks.

On 28 March, the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe conducted a news conference on Japan's response to the COVID-19¹.

MEASURES

A basic response policy stipulated in the New Corona Special Measures Law was announced. The main pillars of the measures focus on the following:

- Prevention of the infection spreads, development of medical provision system and therapeutic drugs
- Maintenance of employment and business continuity
- Recovery of economic activity
- Development of resilient economic structure
- Countermeasures for future usage

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- New benefit system for small- and medium-sized businesses will be established to assist businesses.
- It is also noted that the government will develop a large-scale support measures as a public-private integrated campaign to recover the economic activity in Japan.



The number of infections in Taiwan has been relatively well controlled. Preventative measures are being undertaken at various levels to minimise the spread of the virus.

MEASURES

- Government takes strong measures to minimise the spread of the virus, including social distancing measures and relevant corporate operation guidelines.
- From 19 March, all travellers from foreign countries must be under quarantine for 14 days.

IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Government's recent announcement assures the public that domestic supply of agricultural and food products is more than sufficient.
- Restaurant businesses saw a big drop in business in March, which are being encouraged to transition into online delivery channel.
- Due to mandatory requirement to use face masks, food manufacturers reported slight shortage of masks for their factory workers.

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