

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS:

As food and food products are directly related to the public health and local farmers' income, the food industry is under government control.

The Korean Government has been, however, gradually reducing its strict regulation and intervention. Along with import liberalization since the early 1980s, protective measures for local companies are likely to be gradually lifted. As a result, imports of foreign foods into Korea and participation of foreign food companies are expected to increase resulting in a more competitive food market in Korea.

IMPORT REGULATIONS:

The following three areas are discussed to provide a general understanding of the rules and regulations of the Korean Government regarding the import of foods and food products:

- Governing Laws
- Standards and Safeguards
- Import Procedures and Requirements

1) GOVERNING LAWS

Two major acts govern the import of food and food products from abroad. They are Food Sanitation Act (FSA) and Foreign Trade Act (FTA).

Food Sanitation Act (FSA) and its working rules: Enacted to promote national health and nutrition primarily through the prevention from any potential danger caused from food.

Foreign Trade Act (FTA) and its working rules: Promulgated to specify rules and requirements regarding the export and import of all kinds of goods.

The major contents of the two acts are highlighted below:

FOOD SANITATION ACT & ITS
WORKING RULES

- GENERAL RULES
- DEFINITION AND SPECIFICATION
OF FOOD AND FOOD ADDITIVES

FOREIGN TRADE ACT & ITS WORKING
RULES

- GENERAL RULES
- FOREIGN TRADE BUSINESS