



Singapore's Import and Export Control System for Food Products

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Agenda

- Provide an overview on the import control measures taken by AVA to ensure food safety
 - Licensing and Registration
 - Import and Export requirements
 - Export certification
 - Foreign accreditation

Background

- Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)
 - national authority for primary and processed foods
 - ensures the safety of all food from production to just before retail
 - adopts a science-based risk analysis and management approach to ensure food safety

Background – Rationale for control

- To prevent occurrence of foodborne diseases
- To protect consumers from harmful effects of unwholesome food

Background – Ensuring food safety

- Components of its food safety system include
 - Risk assessment and the setting of food safety and food labelling standards
 - Inspection of primary produce and processed food at the points of entry into Singapore
 - Inspection and accreditation of source farms, abattoirs, food-processing factories, both local and overseas
 - Educating the public on food safety

Background – Resilience in supply

- Achieved by
 - Approving new sources for importation of food by the private sector
 - Participating in trade missions to seek out new sources
 - Collaborating with the private sector

Import and export of food

- AVA regulates the import of
 - Meat
 - Fish
 - Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Processed Food
- And export of
 - Meat
 - Fish

Classification

- Meat
 - Include whole carcass or parts of any animal or bird
 - In chilled, frozen, processed or canned form
- Fish
 - any of the varieties of marine, brackish water or fresh water fishes, crustacea, aquatic mollusca, marine sponges, trepang and any other form of aquatic life and their young and eggs
 - Excludes ornamental varieties
 - Maybe in chilled, frozen, processed or canned forms.

Classification

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - unprocessed and raw fruits and vegetables
 - Processed fruits and vegetables (e.g. canned, frozen) are regulated as processed food
- Processed food
 - food products and supplements of food nature except meat products and fish products, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables

List of legislation

- Meat and Fish
 - Wholesome Meat and Fish Act
 - its subsidiary legislations
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Control of Plants Act
 - its subsidiary legislations
- Processed food
 - Sale of Food Act
 - Food Regulations
- Eggs
 - Animal and Birds Act

List of legislation

- Wholesome Meat and Fish Act
 - Section 5: Prohibition of import, export of meat products or fish products or transshipment without a licence
 - Section 6: Prohibition of import, export or transshipment of meat products or fish products without permit

List of legislation

- Control of Plants Act
 - Section 7: Prohibition of import or transhipment of fresh fruits or vegetables without licence
 - Section 8: Prohibition of import or transhipment of fresh fruits or vegetables without permit

List of legislation

- Food Regulations
 - Regulation 14: Imported food to be registered
 - No person shall import any food that has not been registered with the Director-General

List of legislation

- Animal and Birds Act
 - Section 8: No person to import or tranship any animal, bird or veterinary biologics without licence

Licensing and registration

- Traders involved in the following must be licensed by AVA
 - import/export/transshipment of meat and fish products
 - import/transshipment of fresh fruits and vegetables
 - import/export/transshipment of eggs
- Traders involved in the import of processed food and food appliances must be registered with AVA

Licensing and registration process

Business must be registered with Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)

Issued with Unique Entity Number (UEN) by ACRA

Business must register UEN with Singapore Customs

Apply for licence/register with AVA through the Online Business Licencing System (OBLS)

Licensing of importers

- Provides detailed identity of the importer
- Allows de-registration of errant or recalcitrant importers of unsafe food
- Facilitate systematic inspections
- Facilitate food recalls

Declaration of Cargo Clearance Permits (CCPs)

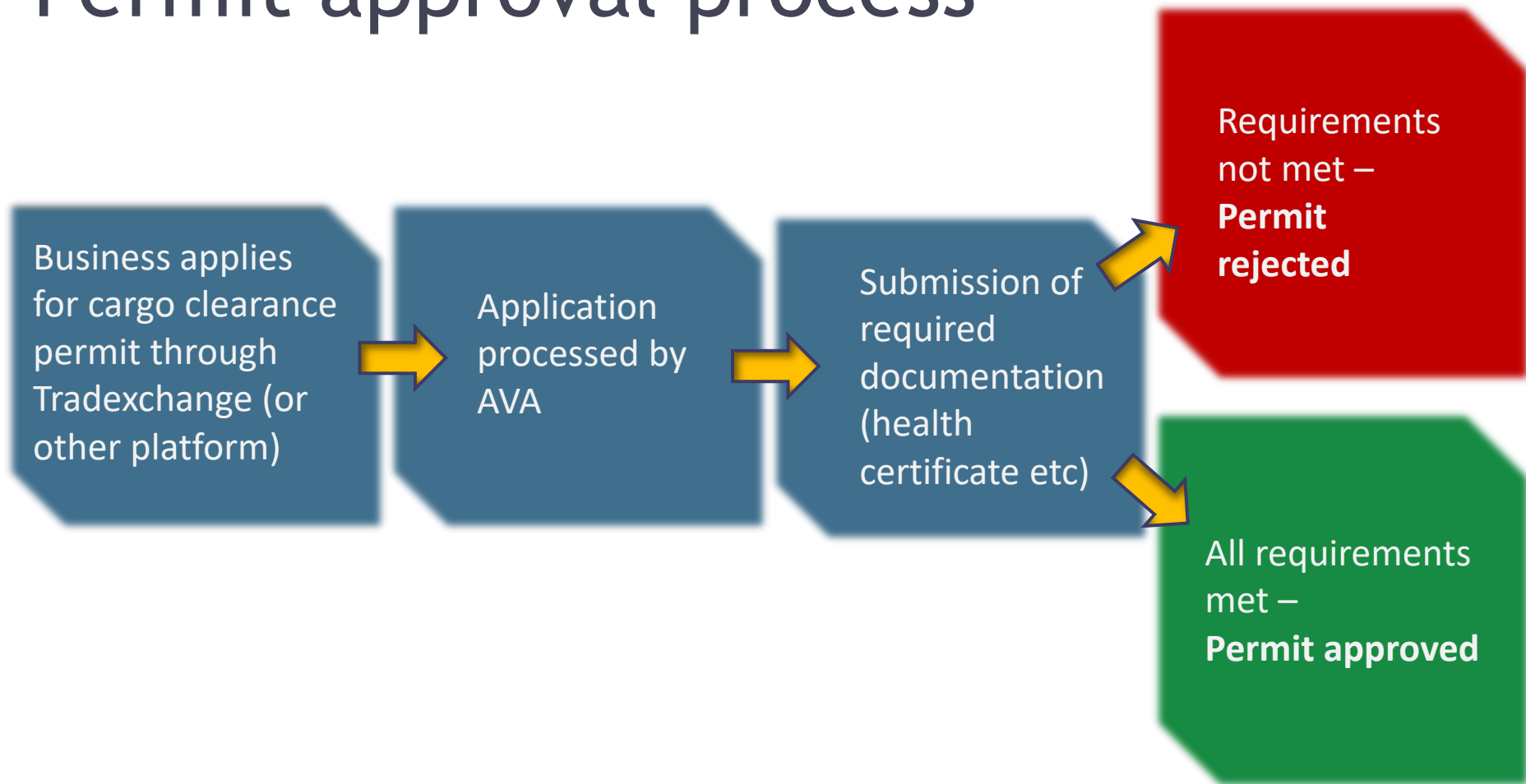
- Permits declared online through the TradeXchange system or other similar platforms



Declaration of Cargo Clearance Permits (CCPs)

- Information declared
 - Product description
 - Brand name
 - Quantity
 - Country of origin
 - HS and Product codes
 - Establishment code

Permit approval process



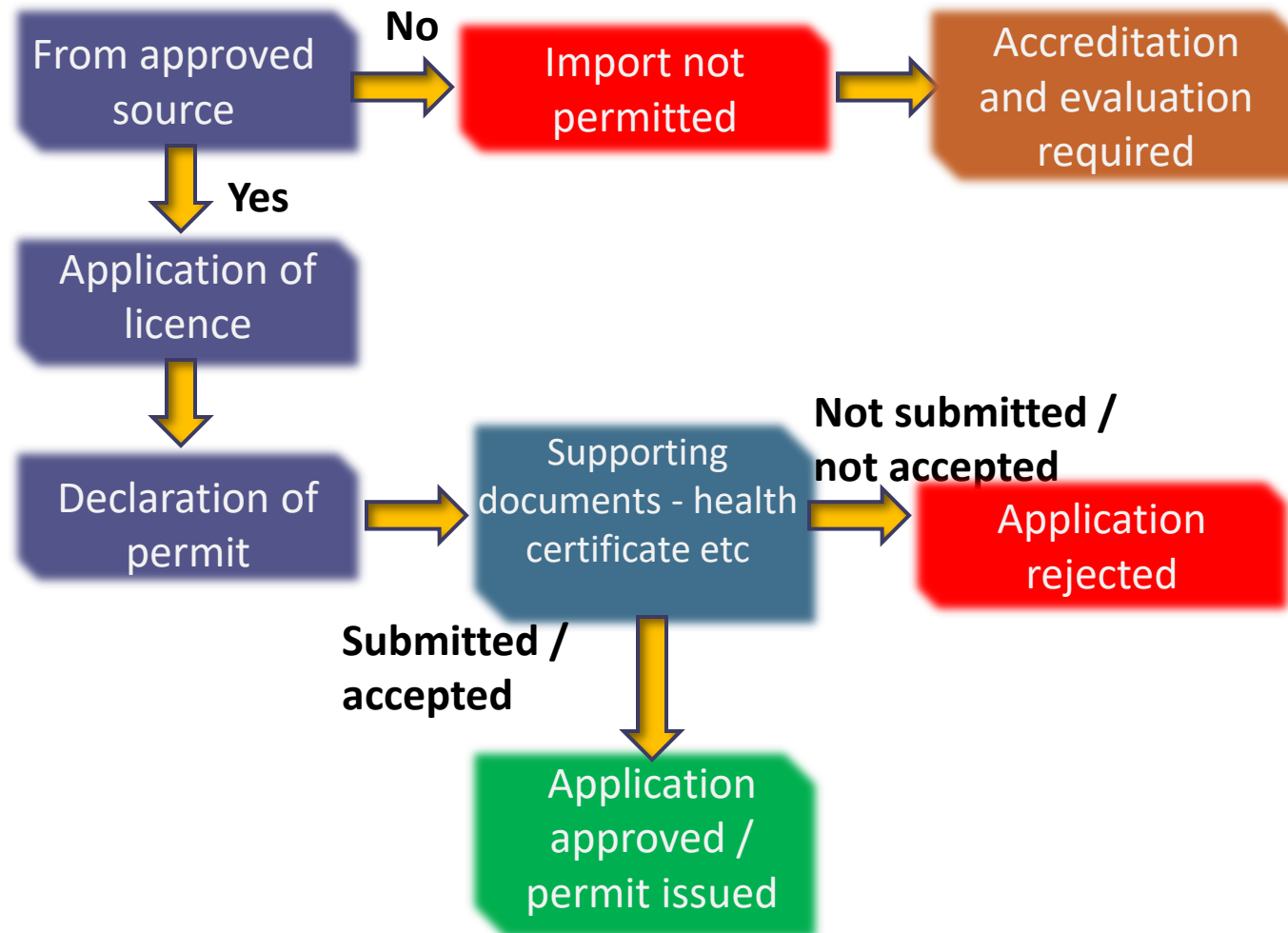
Import requirements - Meat

- Meat products may only be imported from approved sources
 - Accreditation required
- AVA issued import permit required for every consignment
- Consignments must be accompanied by health certificate issued by vet authority of exporting nation
- Must be shipped direct from exporting nation

Import requirements - Meat

- Labelling – every basic packaging unit must bear
 - Description of product
 - Country of origin
 - Brand name, if any
 - Details of slaughter/processing/packing establishment and date of slaughter/processing/packing
 - Batch number
 - Net weight
- Every consignment must be inspected before sale
- Sampling for laboratory examination may be required

Overview of import procedure - Meat



Export Requirements - Meat

- Licence required
- Export permit required
- If required by importing nation, health certificate can be issued
- Transshipment
 - May transhipped at S'pore in reefer containers within Free Trade Zone
 - Licence and permit required

Import requirements - Fish

- AVA issued import permit required for every consignment
- May be imported from any country – with the following restrictions
 - Chilled shucked raw oyster, chilled cockle meat, chilled cooked shrimp and chilled crab meat prohibited
 - Live oysters may be imported only from nations which meet requirements for shellfish sanitation programme
 - Approved nations – Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Netherlands, NZ, UK, USA

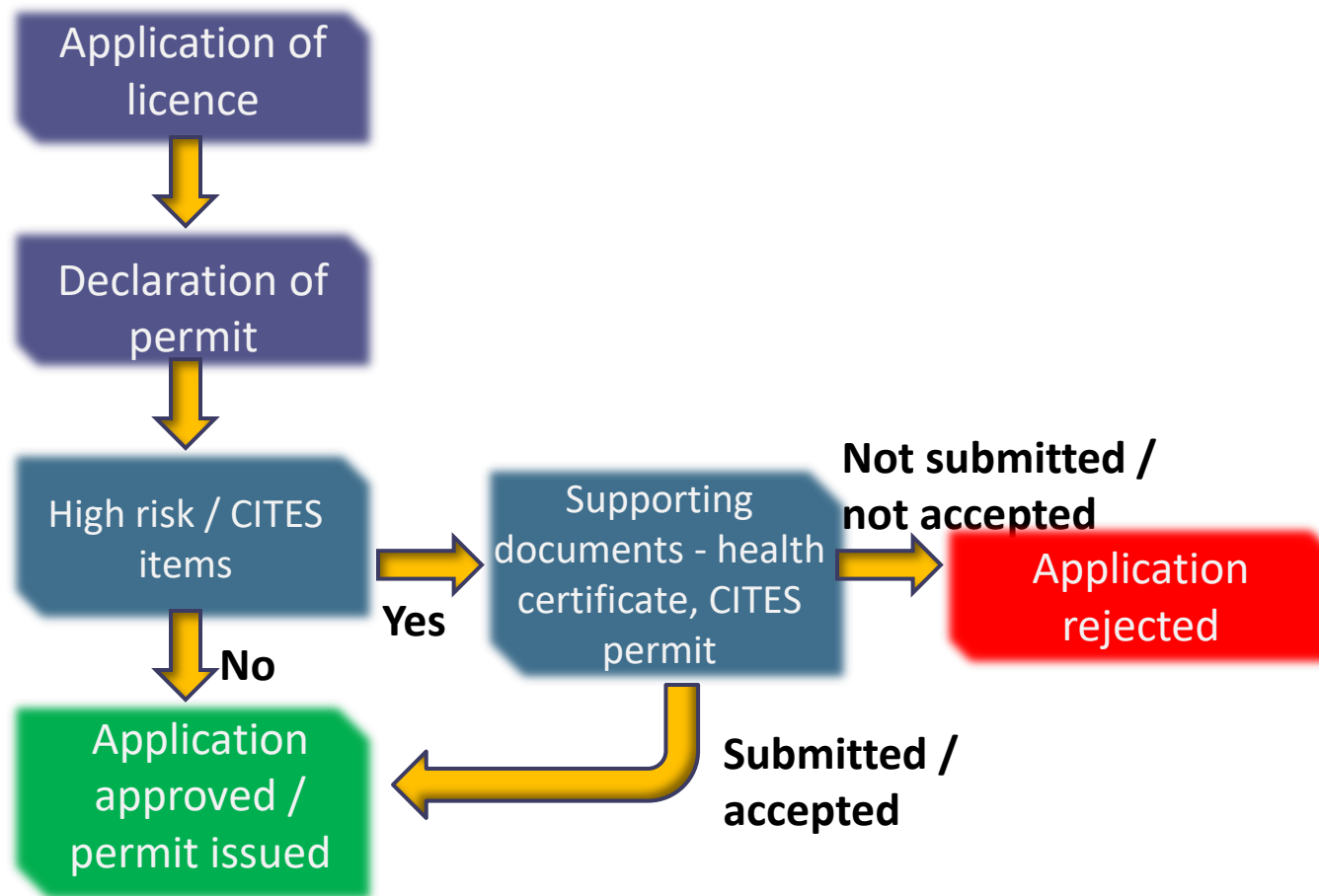
Import requirements - Fish

- Health certificate is required for high risk items
 - Live/frozen oysters
 - Frozen blood cockle meat
 - Frozen cooked prawns
 - Frozen raw/cooked crab meat
- Species listed under CITES must be accompanied by CITES permit
 - Sturgeon
 - Seahorses

Import requirements - Fish

- Mandatory inspection required for high risk items
 - Frozen oysters
 - Frozen blood cockle meat
 - Frozen cooked prawns
 - Frozen raw/cooked crab meat
- Other fish may also be subject to inspection
- Sampling for laboratory examination may be required

Overview of import procedure - Fish



Export Requirements - Fish

- Licence required
- Export permit required
- If required by importing nation, health certificate can be issued

- Transshipment
 - May transhipped through S'pore
 - Licence and permit required

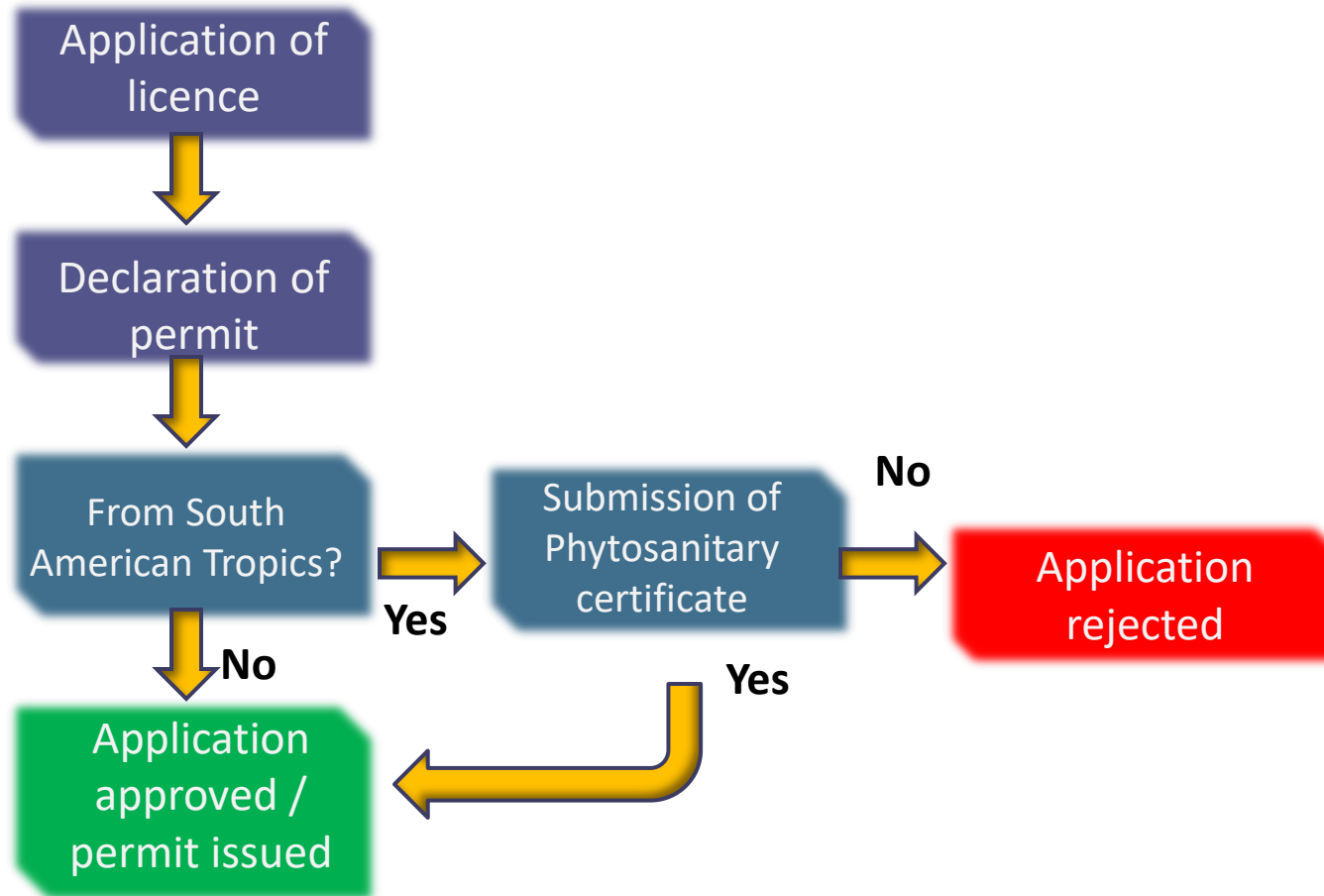
Import requirements – Fresh fruit and vegetables

- AVA issued import permit required for every consignment
- Phytosanitary certificate required for imports from the South American Tropics
 - To certify that produce is free from SALB or sourced from SALB-free areas

Import requirements – Fresh fruit and vegetables

- Labelling –packaging must bear
 - Name and address of the producer
 - Product description
 - Date of export / packing
- Consignments may be subject to inspection
- Sampling for laboratory examination may be required

Overview of import procedure - Fresh fruit and vegetables



Export Requirements – Fresh fruit and vegetables

- Export not regulated by AVA
- Export permit required from Singapore Customs
- Exporters to ensure that produce meets the requirements of the importing country

Import requirements – Processed food

- AVA issued import permit required for every consignment
- Supporting documents required for high risk items
 - Documents include:
 - QC reports / certificates of analysis
 - Health certificates

Import requirements – Processed food

- Some examples of high risk items

Product	Supporting documents required
Mineral water	Authentication certificate, site plan showing water source, health certificate
Bottled drinking water	Processing establishment licence, health certificate
Infant formula	Health certificate or QC report/COA, manufacturer's licence
Coconut products	Microbiological test report, manufacturer's licence
Minimally processed fruit and vegetables	Pesticide and microbiological test report, manufacturer's licence

Import requirements – Processed food

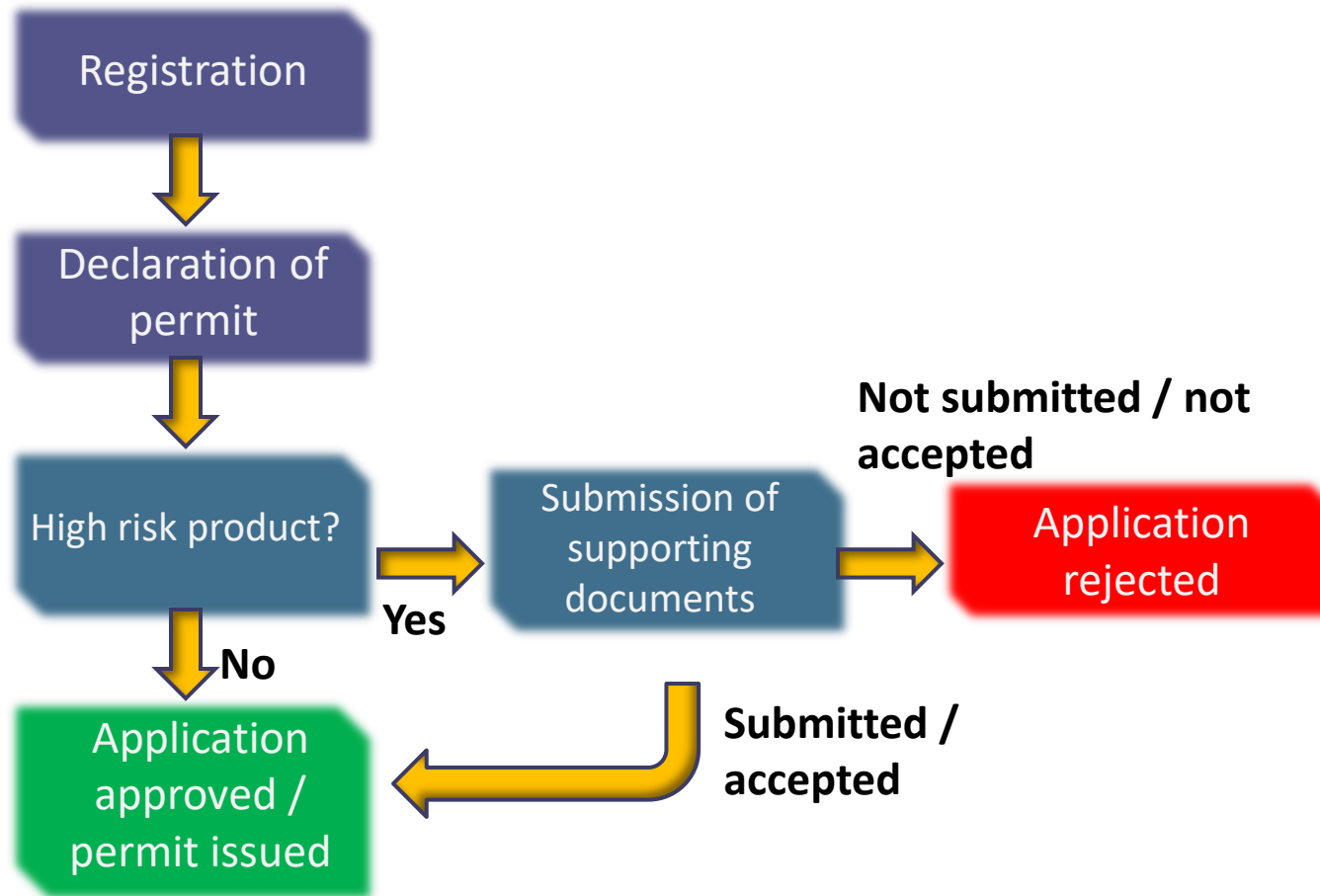
- Basic labelling –
 - Brand name
 - Product description
 - Country of origin
 - Net weight
 - Ingredients list (and nutritional panel, if required)
 - Importer's details
 - Unsubstantiated claims are not permitted
 - <http://www.ava.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/B96B0EC2-1D1E-4448-9C25-ABD8470D2BF4/18008/AGuidetoFoodLabellingandAdvertisements2.pdf>

Import requirements – Processed food



- Processed food with non-permitted ingredients or additives are not allowed for import
- High risk products subject to inspection
- Sampling for laboratory examination may be required

Overview of import procedure - Processed food



Export Requirements – Processed food



- Export not regulated by AVA
- Export permit required from Singapore Customs
- Exporters to ensure that produce meets the requirements of the importing country

Import requirements - Eggs

- Eggs may only be imported from approved sources
 - Accreditation required
- AVA issued import permit required for every consignment
- Consignments must be accompanied by health certificate issued by vet authority of exporting nation
- Labelling
 - Eggs must be individually labelled with a code to identify the producing farm

Export Requirements - Eggs

- Licence required
- Export permit required
- Transhipment
 - Licence and permit required

Export/health certification

- To facilitate export of food to foreign countries
- Instill confidence in the products exported
- Requirements of importing country
 - Different countries have different import requirements
 - Exporters advised to consult importing country on requirements and eligibility

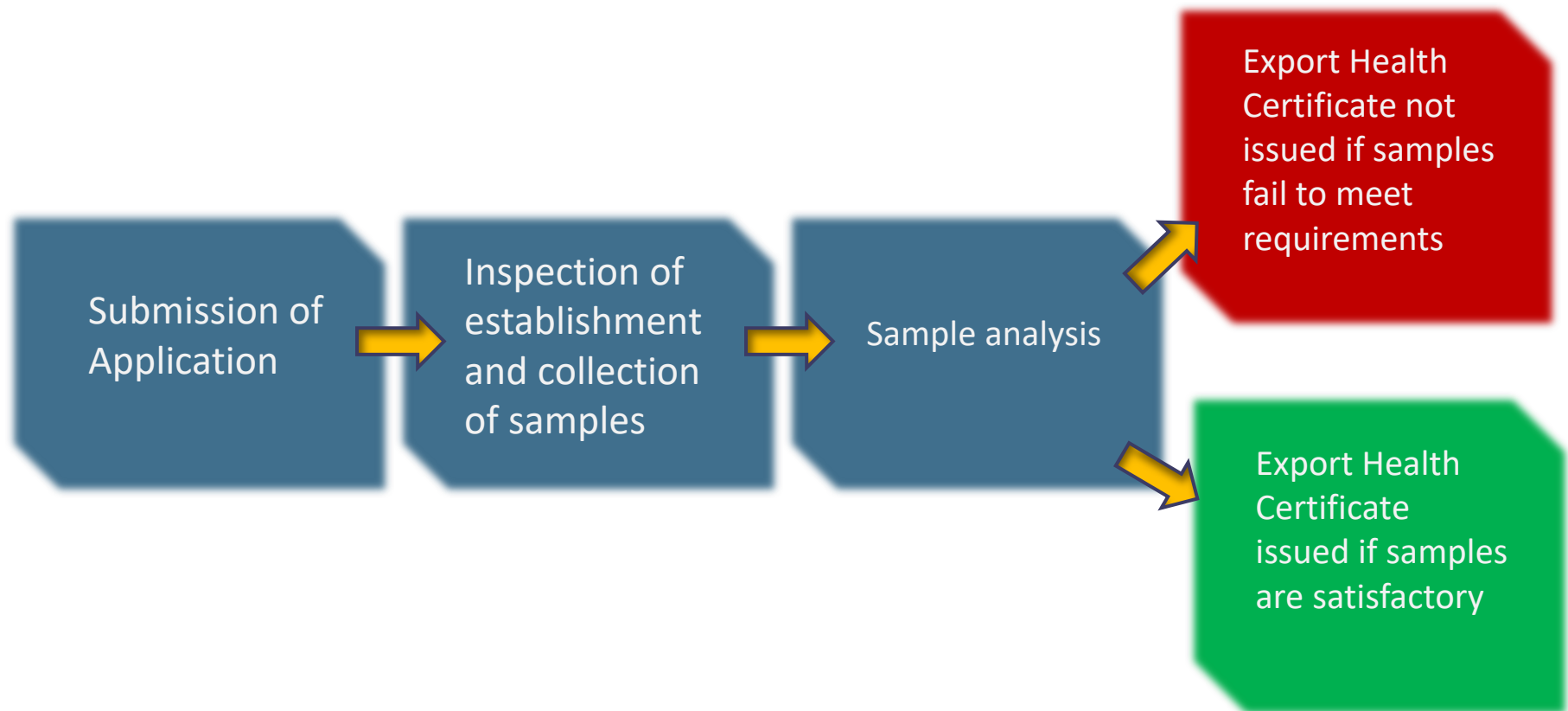
Export/health certification

- Pre-requisites for certification
 - Manufacturing establishment must be licenced by AVA
 - Exported product must originate from S'pore or undergo value-added processing in S'pore
 - Product must comply with the local Food Laws
 - Comply with the standards of importing country

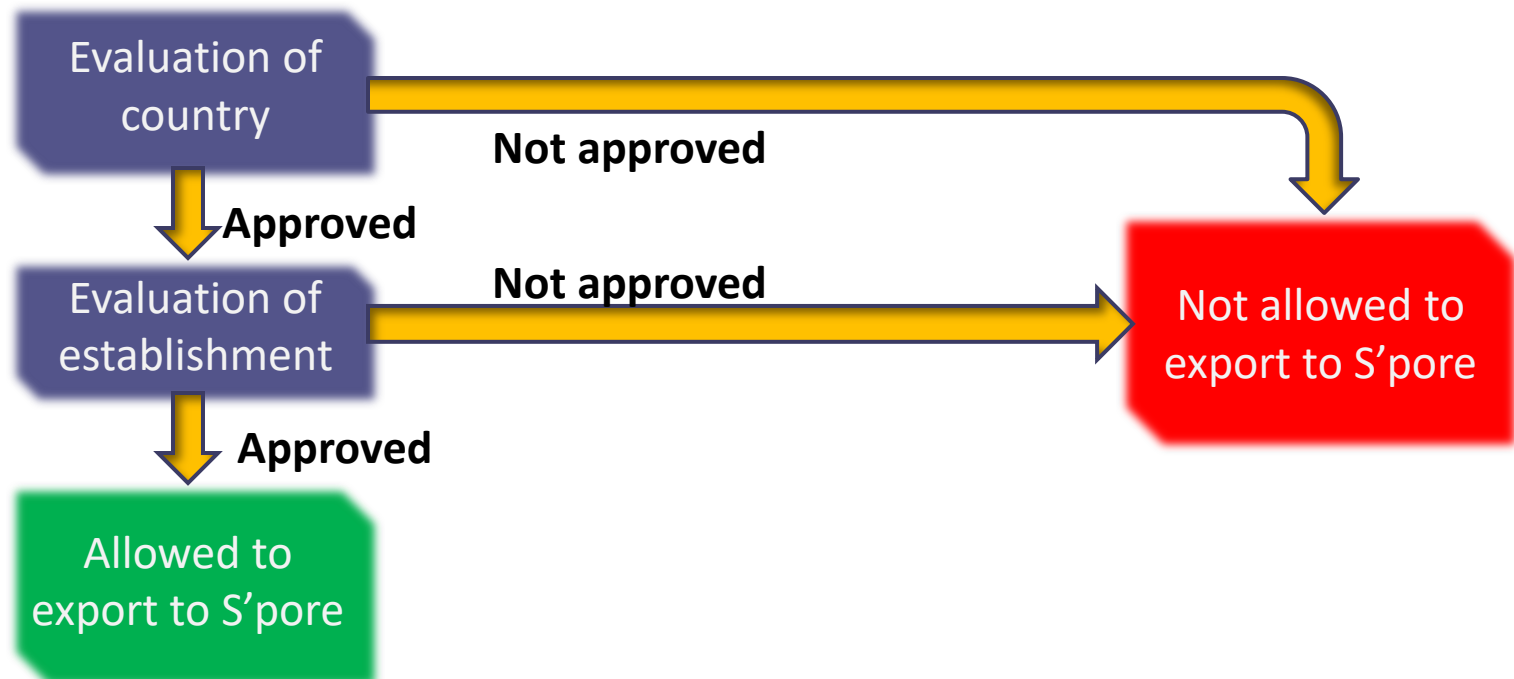
Export/health certification

- Before application
 - Inspection of products and processing lines conducted prior to export
 - Establishments required to meet regulatory requirements for the food product as well as manufacturing facilities

Application procedure



Overview of Accreditation of Overseas Meat Establishments



List of countries allowed to export to Singapore

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/2CFF1FE3-8D20-4E7A-BC89-6368076F427B/18955/ApprovedMeatCountries110415.pdf>

List of establishments allowed to export to Singapore

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/FoodSector/ImportExportTransOfFood/AccredOfOverseasMeatEgg/List-of-overseas-meat-and-egg-processing-establishments.htm>

Evaluation of country

- The set up and organisational structure of the veterinary services
- The animal and poultry disease situations in the country
- National programmes for control and prevention of such diseases
- The legislation to control and prevent the introduction of animal and poultry diseases in the country

Evaluation of country

- The legislation governing slaughterhouses and processing establishments, meat inspection system, storage, handling and distribution of products
- Licensing authority and licensing system of approved export abattoirs and processing establishments
- National microbiological and residue control programmes

Evaluation of establishment

- Details of the abattoir where the animals or poultry are slaughtered
 - name, address and establishment number,
 - site and layout plans
 - number of staff
 - production capacity
 - slaughtering methods,
 - equipment used
 - cleaning and evisceration procedures
 - veterinary public health control measures

Evaluation of establishment

- For further processed meat products and processed egg products
 - details of the manufacturing process
 - flow charts and quality control programmes based on HACCP principles
 - other relevant information pertaining to the products
 - raw meat used for further processing must be obtained from AVA-approved slaughterhouses

Evaluation of establishment

- Name of countries where the products have been exported and a copy of health certificate that accompanied the export

AVA website:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg>