

30 April 2020

Health Promotion Board  
3 Second Hospital Avenue  
Singapore 168937

Tel. 6435 3500  
Fax. 6438 3848

[www.hpb.gov.sg](http://www.hpb.gov.sg)

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: Revision to the Healthier Choice Symbol (HCS) Guidelines - April 2020**

As part of HPB's continuous efforts to support the War on Diabetes, and to ensure a greater clarity on the food categorisation, the HCS guidelines will be revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- 1) Beverages
  - a. Grouping of all drinks sub-categories under the "Beverages" category
  - b. Sugar criteria for "Beverages" category revised to  $\leq 5\text{g}/100\text{ml}$ , with additional saturated fat criteria for cream-based drinks
- 2) Sugary Foods
  - a. Introduction of new Sugary Food categories and sub-categories, for example, "Sweet Snacks" and "Chocolate Confectionery"
  - b. Tightening of sugar criteria for existing sub-categories, for example, "Ice Cream"
  - c. Inclusion of sugar criteria for existing sub-categories, for example, "Yogurt"
  - d. Introduction of interim and final sugar targets for 2022 and 2024
- 3) Re-categorisation and renaming for most categories and sub-categories, for example, a new "Protein" category which contains sub-categories that were previously under "Dairy", "Meat" etc.
- 4) Cessation of "Fresh Eggs and Egg Substitutes" HCS endorsement

For details of the revised guidelines, please refer to the HCS Nutrient Guidelines April 2020 as attached.

As a transitional measure, industry partners with existing HCS-certified products in the affected categories will be given a grace period to meet the revised guidelines. This is to allow time for the industry to reformulate their HCS-certified products as well as to deplete existing stock of products that do not meet the revised guidelines.

For the effective date and grace period end date, please refer to the table below:

Items	Effective Date	Grace Period End Date
Beverages	1 May 2020	30 April 2021
Sugary Foods	1 August 2020	Interim Target: 31 July 2022 Final Target: 31 July 2024
All other changes	1 May 2020	30 April 2021



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There will be no action required from companies affected by the re-classification of sub-categories and/or categories with **no changes** in the HCS nutrient guidelines and HCS taglines.

Thank you for supporting HPB's efforts in the War on Diabetes.

For further clarifications, you may write in to: [HPB\\_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg](mailto:HPB_HCSadmin@hpb.gov.sg) or call 6435 3715/ 6435 3905 / 6435 3302 / 6435 3301.

Yours Sincerely,

HCS Programme Team  
Healthy Food & Dining Division  
Health Promotion Board