

2024 AVIA Regulating for Growth – Advertising Matrix for Singapore

	Pay TV	OCC TV	Foreshadowed changes
GENERAL			
Overview of regulation	 The general approach taken is one of coregulation with the industry through codes of practice. There is no pre-vetting of advertisements. Pay TV advertising is regulated both by the government and by an industry body. There are advertising-specific codes, but the general codes applicable to content on pay TV would also apply to advertising. 	 There are OCC TV-specific rules or regulations in the form of the Content Code for Over-The-Top, Video-On-Demand and Niche Services. ASAS' SCAP also applies to all advertising appearing in Singapore, including online advertising. 	
Regulatory Bodies	 The Info-communications Media <u>Development Authority</u> (IMDA) oversees the implementation of the <u>Television and Radio Advertising and Sponsorship Code</u> (the TRAS Code) and the general <u>Content Code For Nationwide Managed Transmission Linear Television Services</u>. The <u>Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore</u> (ASAS) is the self-regulatory body of the advertising industry that oversees the enforcement of the <u>Singapore Code of Advertising Practice</u> (SCAP). 	 The IMDA and ASAS would also be the relevant regulatory bodies. The IMDA oversees the implementation of the <u>Content Code For Over-The-Top</u>, <u>Video-On-Demand and Niche Services</u>. The <u>Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore</u> (ASAS) is the self-regulatory body of the advertising industry that oversees the enforcement of the <u>Singapore Code of Advertising Practice</u> (SCAP). 	
Advertising per hour	 Unless otherwise approved by IMDA, the TRAS Code requires that advertisements and trailers may not exceed 14 minutes per hour. However, advertisements and trailers may run up to 21 minutes per hour during the broadcast of sports programmes in a sports belt or sports channel if the average 	We are not aware of any OCC TV- specific restrictions on advertising per hour.	

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	duration per hour on the same day does not exceed 14 minutes.		
Revenue Restrictions	 We are not aware of any Nationwide Subscription TV-specific restrictions on advertising revenue. 	 We are not aware of any OCC TV- specific restrictions on advertising revenue. 	
Product Placement	 Product placement on pay TV channels is governed by the TRAS Code. This code applies to a pay TV channel's local programmes, locally packaged channels or any other programmes where sponsorship deals are made locally and/or the channel has control over the sponsor's presence. The general principle is that undue prominence must not be given to a sponsor's product in a programme, and that product references must be editorially justified. Stricter rules apply to news, current affairs, info-educational and children's programmes. The TRAS Code also stipulates that programmes should not contain strong elements of advertising and appear like an advertorial. 	We are not aware of any OCC TV-specific restrictions on product placement.	
Foreign Commercials	 There are no restrictions specifically for foreign commercials. But they would be subject to the same advertising regulations mentioned above. 	 We are not aware of any OCC TV- specific restrictions on foreign commercials. 	
Govt Levy	 There are no specific levies on advertising revenue. However, advertising revenue is included in the determination of total revenue when calculating a pay TV channel's broadcasting licence fee (calculated as the higher of 2.5% of total revenue or a fixed amount depending on the type of licence). 	We are not aware of any OCC TV- specific restrictions on government levies on advertising revenue.	

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PSAs	 The general principle in the TRAS Code is that advertisements must be clearly distinguishable from programmes. Advertisements should not simulate a television news presentation in a manner that makes it difficult for viewers to distinguish it from a real-life television news presentation. Expressions such as 'News Flash' and 'we interrupt this programme' are reserved for important news and public service announcements. Their use in advertisements and programme promotions is not permitted. 	We are not aware of any OCC TV- specific restrictions on public service announcements.	
PRODUCT-SPECIFIC Alcohol	The TRAS Code and SCAP contain guidelines for alcohol advertising.	Assuming that the advertisement is published in Singapore, the	
	 Children should not be portrayed in advertisements for alcoholic drinks. 	information regarding the SCAP and Food Regulations applicable under the	
	 Advertisements should not be directed at audiences under the age of 18 or in any way encourage them to start drinking. 	Pay TV section in relation to this category (i.e. Alcohol) is also applicable for OCC TV.	
	 Advertisements should not emphasise the stimulant, sedative, or tranquillising effects of any drink. 		
	 Advertisements should not give the general impression that: (a) a drink is being recommended mainly for its intoxicating 		
	effect; or (b) drinking is necessary for social success or acceptance.Advertisements should not depict activities		
	or locations where drinking alcohol would be unsafe or unwise.		
	 Advertisements should never encourage over-indulgence and excessive consumption. 		

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	Under the Food Regulations, no liquor for which medicinal properties are claimed shall be advertised as food.		
Pharmaceutical	 The SCAP contains guidelines for medicinal and related products containing health claims. The phrase "recommended by the Medical Profession" or any other similar representation or implication of such recommendation is prohibited. General medical claims (e.g. cure, prevention of ageing) should not be used or implied in advertisements. There is a list of medical conditions (including cancer, dermatitis and hypertension) for which related products may not be advertised. Besides the SCAP, the Medicines Act 1975, the Medicines (Medical Advertisement) Regulations, the Health Products Act 2007, and the Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations regulate the advertising of medicines in Singapore. Regulatory guidance documents are also periodically released by Singapore's Health Science Authority (HSA). Examples of guidance includes: the Guide on Advertisements and Sales Promotion of Medicinal Products; the Explanatory Guidance to the Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations 2016; and Guidance for Licensees under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act and Healthcare Services Act. While these codes and guidelines do not have the force of law, they are treated as clarificatory and guiding 	Assuming that the advertisement is published in Singapore, the information applicable under the pay TV section in relation to this category (i.e. Pharmaceutical) is also applicable for OCC TV.	

Pay TV	OCC TV	Foreshadowed changes
 principles that govern the advertising of medicines and medical devices in Singapore. For therapeutic products (TPs), which are health products intended for use by and in 		
humans for a therapeutic, preventive, palliative, or diagnostic purpose, advertisements must comply with the principles and requirements laid out in the Health Products Act and the Regulations.		
 Such principles and requirements include the following: A person may not advertise a health 		
product in a false or misleading way; Advertisements of TPs must not directly or indirectly cause the reader to self-diagnose or self-treat		
 any serious diseases; Advertisements involving TPs must not exploit the lack of knowledge of consumers; 		
 Advertising of TPs must also not encourage inappropriate or excessive use of the TP; 		
 Advertisements must not directly or indirectly cause fear, alarm, distress to the consumers or abuse the trust, exploit the lack of knowledge of any 		
consumer in advertisements; Where advertisements of a TP contain any statement, assertion, certification, award or feature of		
uniqueness or prominence differentiating the TP from any other competing or similar TP, the statement, assertion, certification,		
award or feature must be substantiated by facts or evidence.		

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Gambling	Advertisements for TPs must not compare or contrast a specified TP with any other named TP or a brand thereof. For instance, advertisements directed to members of the public should not contain comparative claims against another TP or brand, for example, by saying the TP "works faster or more effective than Brand xxx". However, comparisons among products within the same brand by the same company to highlight difference between products are allowed. The TRAS Code prohibits advertisements that promote gambling. Public service messages on or related to gambling are allowed.	Advertisements containing unlawful gambling¹ that are published in Singapore² (which includes the gambling advertisements being contained in a film, video or television programme that is, or is intended to be, seen or heard by the public) are an offence under the Gambling Control Act 2022.	
Claims	 The general principle under the TRAS Code is that advertisements must be truthful and lawful. In particular, claims used should not be misleading or highly exaggerated. Claims and comparisons must be capable of substantiation. The SCAP highlights that research results or other statistics should not be misused or misrepresented in a way that implies greater validity they really have. 	The SCAP highlights that research results or other statistics should not be misused or misrepresented in a way that implies greater validity they really have.	

¹ Unlawful gambling includes (i) unlawful betting; (ii) unlawful gaming activity; (iii) unlawful participation in a lottery; and gambling by underaged individuals and excluded persons.

² A gambling advertisement is taken to be published in Singapore if (a) the advertisement originates in Singapore, even if none of the persons capable of having access to the advertisement is physically present in Singapore; or (b) for an advertisement which did not originate in Singapore, or the origin of which cannot be determined, all of the following apply:

⁽i) the advertisement is made available, displayed, distributed or communicated or caused to be made available, displayed, distributed or communicated to the public by a Singapore-connected person takes part in that making available, display, distribution or communication of that advertisement to the public; (ii) the advertisement is accessible by persons physically present in Singapore.

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Food & Beverages – general	The SCAP provides the following:	Assuming that the advertisement is	
	 advertisements should not actively 	published in Singapore, the	
	encourage children to eat	information applicable under the Pay	
	excessively throughout the day or to	TV section in relation to this category	
	replace main meals with	(i.e. Food & Beverages – general) is	
	confectionery or snack foods;	also applicable for OCC TV.	
	 there shall not appear in any 		
	advertisement of any food for sale		
	the words "recommended by the		
	Medical Profession" or any word or		
	words or pictorial representations		
	that may imply or suggest that the		
	food is recommended, prescribed or		
	approved by medical practitioners;		
	 advertisements addressed to the 		
	general public for food products (or		
	food supplements) containing		
	polyunsaturated fats or		
	polyunsaturated fatty acids should		
	not contain any claim that the		
	inclusion of such fats in the diet or		
	substitution for other fats of		
	different chemical constitution		
	offers any specific health benefit;		
	 Protein claims in food advertising 		
	must conform to the Food		
	Regulations;		
	 Advertisements for food offered as 		
	diet aids should give a quantitative		
	statement of the ingredients		
	contained in it on which the claim of		
	special suitability is based;		
	 Diet aids, such as foods, food 		
	substitutes, or appetite		
	suppressants, may not be		
	advertised except in terms that		
	make clear that they can only be		
	effective when taken in conjunction		
	with or as part of a calorie-		

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controlled diet. Such effectiveness		
should be clearly substantiated with		
results of human trials that can take		
into account the placebo effect, i.e.,		
the trials should be independently		
conducted double-blind placebo-		
controlled trials published in peer-		
reviewed scientific or medical		
journals. Due prominence should		
also be given in all advertisements		
to the part played by the diet.		
 The ASAS' <u>Children's Code for Advertising</u> 		
Food and Beverage Products (Children's		
Code) also applies. Special care should be		
taken in marketing communications of food		
and beverage products ³ that are primarily		
addressed to children ⁴ in any media.		
 Under the Children's Code, such marketing 		
communications:		
 should be designed and delivered in 		
a manner to be understood by		
children;		
 should not be misleading or 		
deceptive in relation to any		
nutritional or health claims;		
 should not be ambiguous or provide 		
a misleading sense of urgency;		
 should not feature practices such as 		
price minimisation inappropriate to		
the age of the intended audience;		
 in relation to promotional offers, 		
should not create an undue sense or		
urgency in children or encourage		
the purchase of excessive quantities		
for irresponsible consumption;		

³ The Children's Code defines food and beverage products to mean any food and beverage products advertised in Singapore, including advertising of meals or individual menu items by restaurant owners and other food service providers.

⁴ The Children's Code defines a child as a person 12 years old or younger.

Pay TV	OCC TV	Foreshadowed changes
 in relation to promotional offers, 		
should ensure that the product is		
significantly featured and should		
not encourage children to eat or		
drink a product only to take		
advantage of a promotional offer.		
The product should be offered on its		
merits, and the offer should serve		
only as an added incentive;		
 in relation to premiums, must not 		
urge children or their parents to buy		
excessive quantities of the product.		
They should not directly encourage		
children only to collect the		
premiums, or unduly emphasise the		
number of items to be collected.		
The closing dates for premiums		
should enable the whole set to be		
collected without having to buy		
excessive or irresponsible quantities		
of the product within a short		
timeframe. Children should not be		
urged to buy the product in a hurry;		
o in relation to premiums, should not		
give children a false impression that		
the premium, and not product, is		
the item being advertised;		
 in relation to premiums, must 		
clearly state the terms and		
conditions, as well as limitations;		
 in relation to premiums, should not 		
encourage children to consume the		
product in excess in a bid to obtain		
the premium;		
 in relation to popular personalities 		
or celebrities (live or animated),		
admired figures or role models		
(Icons), must not use such Icons to		
promote or endorse the product, or		

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a premium, in such a manner as to		
extol the virtue of the advertised		
product or undermine a healthy		
diet;		
 in relation to Icons, must not 		
suggest that consumption of the		
product would enable children to		
resemble an Icon;		
 in relation to Icons, must not 		
suggest that the non-consumption		
of the product would imply that the		
children are not being loyal to the		
Icon they admire;		
Under the Children's Code, popular		
personalities or celebrities (live or		
animated) well known to children may		
present factual and relevant statements		
about nutrition and health.		
Under the Children's Code, popular		
personalities or celebrities (live or		
animated) that are primarily popular among		
children should not be used to endorse food		
and beverage products that do not meet the		
common nutrition criteria endorsed by HPB.		
Under the Food Regulations, no person shall		
advertise any prepacked food if the package		
of prepacked food does not bear a label		
containing all the particulars required by the		
Regulations.		
Under the Food Regulations, except where the Regulations prescribe at homeone.		
the Regulations prescribe otherwise, a		
person must not advertise certain specified		
articles of food and/or food containing		
specified certain food additives, incidental constituents in food.		
The Food Regulations also state that an		
advertisement for food, other than a label,		
must not contain any statement, word,		

	Pay TV	OCC TV	Foreshadowed changes
	brand, picture, or mark that is prohibited by		
	regulation 9 ⁵ , other than to the extent		
	permitted under regulation 9A or 9B.		
Food & Beverages – sugar levels	Under the Food Regulations, a person must	Assuming that the advertisement is	
	not publish, cause to be published, or take	published in Singapore, the information	
	part in the publication of, any	applicable under the Pay TV section in	
	advertisement used or apparently used to	relation to this category (i.e. Food &	
	promote, directly or indirectly, the sale of a	Beverages – sugar levels) is also applicable	
	Nutri-Grade beverage graded "D" (this	for OCC TV.	
	includes beverages with a sugar content of		
	more than 10 grams per 100ml), except		
	where:		
	 the advertisement does not contain 		
	a recommendation relating to the		
	consumption of the Nutri-Grade		
	beverage and is published by means		
	of a catalogue, price list or other		
	document for the purpose of		
	supplying the Nutri-Grade beverage		
	by wholesale;		
	 the advertisement only provides 		
	information about the Nutri-Grade		
	beverage's name or price or both		
	but does not otherwise promote its		
	sale and is published (i) on the		
	corporate website of (A) a		
	manufacturer, an importer or a		
	distributor of a Nutri-Grade		
	beverage that is not freshly		
	prepared; or (B) a seller of a freshly		
	prepared Nutri-Grade beverage; (iii)		
	as part of a product launch that is		
	not accessible to any member of the		
	general public other than an invited		

⁵ Regulation 9 prohibits any written, pictorial, or other descriptive matter appearing on or attached to, or supplied or displayed with food that includes any claim or suggestion whether in the form of a statement, word, brand, picture, or mark purporting to indicate the nature, stability, quantity, strength, purity, composition, weight, origin, age, effects, or proportion of food or its ingredients that is false, misleading or deceptive, or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding the value, merit or safety of the food.

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Personal hygiene/ Sanitary (including condoms)	guest; or (iv) in the form of a press or media release; the advertisement complies with all of the following requirements: (i) the advertisement is published at a variety shop or an online variety shop; (ii) the advertisement is for a prepacked Nutri-Grade beverage that is not freshly prepared; (iii) the advertisement displays an image of the Nutri-Grade beverage's Nutri-Grade mark, except that an advertisement that involves communication in an audible message need not display the image but must include the audible message that "The Nutri-Grade of this product is D"; or the advertisement is a menu, poster, sign or other material labelled in accordance with regulation 184D(4A) and (4B). The TRAS Code does not allow advertisements that feature or make references to condoms and other forms of contraception to be broadcast on TV. Public service messages on or related to condoms and other forms of contraception are allowed if specifically approved by the IMDA. The SCAP further advises that condom advertisements should: (a) be in good taste; (b) not promote promiscuity; (c) not include pack shots if they are suggestive or offensive; (d) not have erotic settings; (e) not include superlative claims; and (f) focus on the protective function rather than the pleasure-enhancing aspect of condoms.	The SCAP further advises that condom advertisements should: (a) be in good taste; (b) not promote promiscuity; (c) not include pack shots if they are suggestive or offensive; (d) not have erotic settings; (e) not include superlative claims; and (f) focus on the protective function rather than the pleasure-enhancing aspect of condoms.	rorestiauoweu citaliges

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Tobacco	 The Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act 1993 and the TRAS Code prohibit advertisements for tobacco products or imitation tobacco products (including ecigarettes (e.g. vaping)) and advertisements that make references to smoking unless they are public service messages by the relevant government agencies. References to brand names of tobacco companies in association with other products are also prohibited unless prior approval is given by the relevant government authorities. 	The Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act 1993 regulates and prohibits the publication of any advertisements relating to tobacco products or imitation tobacco product (including e-cigarettes (e.g. vaping)) in Singapore.	
Children	 The TRAS Code advises that particular care be taken when advertising to children, defined as those aged 14 years and under, as they are imitative and less able to distinguish between fact and fiction. In particular, advertisements should not: (a) promote unwholesome values and behaviour to children; (b) contain any visuals, effects or words that might result in harm to them; (c) contain any portrayals or descriptions of dangerous or harmful behaviour that can be easily imitated by children in a manner that is likely to result in physical or mental harm; and (d) contain any portrayals or descriptions of children doing acts which might endanger themselves or others. Advertisements targeting children must not feature skimpily clad men or women from 6:00AM to 10:00PM. Advertisements should not exploit the natural credulity of children and should not strain their sense of loyalty. Advertisements addressed to or likely to influence children should not contain 	 For informative purposes, content in Singapore is classified under one of the 6 ratings: G – General PG – Parental Guidance PG13 – Parental Guidance for Children below 13 NC16 – No Children below 16 years of age M18 – Mature 18, for persons 18 years and above R21 – Restricted to persons 21 years and above For content advertising, please note that online promotional and publicity materials for content rated R21 must contain the appropriate programme rating symbols and consumer advice (the same is encouraged but not mandated for content rated NC16 and M18). Tag-on promotional trailers to programmes must only contain content that matches the rating for the programme that the trailer is tagged 	

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	anything that might result in harming them mentally, morally or physically. • Advertisements should not promote a lifestyle that is promiscuous or that denigrates or is detrimental to family values. • Please see the information provided under the Food & Beverages – General Category in relation to the Children's Code.	on to. For instance, if the trailer contains M18 content and the programme it tags on to is an NC16 programme, the trailer must be edited to NC16 or below. • Advertisements for services containing R21 content and titles is permitted provided that:	
Women	 We are not aware of any specific regulations or restrictions on advertisements targeting women. 	 We are not aware of any specific regulations or restrictions on advertisements targeting women. 	
Property	The SCAP states that advertisements for real property, whether located locally or abroad,	Assuming that the advertisement is published in Singapore, the	

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	whether for sale or for rent, should not mislead or exaggerate on such matters as (a) the land itself and any buildings erected or to be erected thereon; (b) the physical nature - including furnishings and amenities - and appearance of buildings and flats, and their surroundings; (c) the legal title and formalities; (d) rights and easement of any kind; (e) planning, building and sanitary requirements; (f) taxes, rates and other costs; and (g) the price, terms of payment and load facilities.	information applicable under the Pay TV section in relation to this category (i.e. property) is also applicable for OCC TV.	
COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION	 Advertisements should generally not directly or indirectly disrupt racial and religious harmony in Singapore. Moral standards should be adhered to, and advertisements should not promote or justify behaviours such as promiscuity, homosexuality, juvenile delinquency and drug abuse. Advertisements for cinematic movies rated R21 and arts / theatrical performances rated R18 should not be broadcast. Political advertising is not permitted. Advertisements that play on fear and superstition are prohibited. Advertisements on death-related and undertaker services may only be broadcast between 11:00PM and 6:00AM, unless specifically approved by the IMDA. Such advertisements must be: Subtle, tasteful and not offend viewers or have explicit references to morbid details; Scheduled carefully to ensure that they are spaced apart and not concentrated in a single time block; 	 The codes issued by IMDA are meant to apply to all advertisements shown on all TV broadcast services. This would likely include OCC TV services too. This means that the advertising requirements set out in the pay TV column would likely be applicable to OCC TV services. However, in practice, the rules are seldom enforced in respect of offshore OCC TV services received in Singapore, especially if they are not targeting Singapore as their principal market. ASAS' SCAP also applies to all advertising appearing in Singapore, including online advertising. Assuming that the advertisement is published in Singapore, the information applicable under the Pay TV section in relation to this category (i.e. country-specific information) is also applicable for OCC TV. 	

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	 Directed at the appropriate audiences; and Avoid religious overtones. Advertisements for chatline and dating services are prohibited on broadcast media. Advertisements containing dialect are not to be broadcast, unless approved by the IMDA (however, commonly used dialect terms such as "ang ku kueh" or "kopi gao" may still be used if the Mandarin equivalent term is not widely understood). 		
Useful Links	 Info-communications Media Development Authority Television and Radio Advertising and Sponsorship Code Content Code For Nationwide Managed Transmission Linear Television Services Content Code For Over-The-Top, Video-On-Demand and Niche Services Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore Singapore Code of Advertising Practice Food Regulations Health Products Act 2007 Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations 2016 Medicines (Medical Advertisement) Regulations Guide on Advertisements and Sales Promotion of Medicinal Products Explanatory Guidance to the Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations 2016 Guidance for Licensees under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act and Healthcare Services Act 	 Content Code For Over-The-Top, Video-On-Demand and Niche Services Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore Singapore Code of Advertising Practice Food Regulations Health Products Act 2007 Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations 2016 Medicines Act 1975 Medicines (Medical Advertisement) Regulations Guide on Advertisements and Sales Promotion of Medicinal Products Explanatory Guidance to the Health Products (Advertisement of Specified Health Products) Regulations 2016 Guidance for Licensees under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act and Healthcare Services Act 	