

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :1/8

This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into Canada.

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Agricultural Products (CAP) Act and Associated Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designed to set national standards and grades for agricultural products and to regulate the marketing of agricultural products in import, export, and interprovincial trade • The Export and Import Permits Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides for the establishment of a series of lists known as the Import Control List (ICL), the Export Control List (ECL) and the Area Control List (ACL) - the Act sets out criteria that govern the inclusion of goods or countries on the respective lists • Other acts include the Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act, Customs Act, Fish Inspection Act, Food and Drugs Act, Health of Animals Act, Meat Inspection Act, Weights and Measures Act • Food & Drug Regulations available at http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-27/C.R.C.-c.870/index.html
Regulatory Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA - http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - responsible for the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food and Drug Regulations as they relate to food - Responsible for federally mandated food inspection and quarantine services for domestic and imported foods • Health Canada (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index-eng.php) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - food safety policy and risk assessment
Import License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for cheese (issued by CFIA), fish and fish products (issued by CFIA's Fish Inspection Directorate),
Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulated by the Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act • The CFIA has the authority to refuse entry, detain, return, or remove from retail shelves any imported processed food product that does not meet the federal food labeling requirements. • Guide to Food Labeling and Advertising, which details the regulatory requirements for selling packaged foods in Canada is available on the CFIA website at http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :2/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CFIA consolidates federal food label review under its Food Labeling Information Service<ul style="list-style-type: none">- designed particularly for new entrants in the marketplace who are not familiar with the Canadian regulatory system- provided at specified regional locations across Canada- recommended for exporters to submit their labels to the closest regional office- More information at http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/ch1e.shtml#1.6• All prepackaged food products require a label with the following exceptions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- One-bite confections, such as a candy or a stick of chewing gum, sold individually- Fresh fruits or vegetables packaged in a wrapper or confining band of less than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm)
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All mandatory information on food labels must be shown in both official languages, i.e., French and English<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exception: The identity and principal place of business of the person by or for whom the prepackaged product was manufactured, processed, produced or packaged for resale, may be in either English or French• The province of Quebec has additional requirements concerning the use of the French language on all products marketed within its jurisdiction. Quebec French language labeling information can also be found at the Website of l'Office de la langue française: http://www.olf.gouv.qc.ca/
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• net quantities in metric• list of ingredients• durable life date (if shelf life 90 days or less)• common name of product• company name and address• country of origin• minimum type size specifications• conformity to standardized package sizes stipulated in the regulations
Bar code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal Product Code (U.P.C.) or bar code is not required or administered by government• However, virtually all retailers require products to be labeled with a U.P.C.
Nutrition Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory for all food, except fresh fruit and vegetables and raw single ingredient meat

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :3/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<p>and poultry that are not ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments, clarifications and information letters to Industry concerning Canada's Nutrition Labeling regulations are catalogued on the CFIA webpage http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/nutrition/arcarce.shtml
Diet-Related Health Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Regulations now provide for claims, which deal with the following relationships:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- a diet low in sodium and high in potassium, and the reduction of risk of hypertension;- a diet adequate in calcium and vitamin D, and the reduction of risk of osteoporosis;- a diet low in saturated fat and trans fat, and the reduction of risk of heart disease;- a diet rich in vegetables and fruits, and the reduction of risk of some types of cancer;- minimal fermentable carbohydrates in gum, hard candy or breath-freshening products, and the reduction of risk of dental caries.• The Regulations prescribe the exact wording for the permitted diet-related health claims. For full information and example tables, see the CFIA's 2003 Guide to Food Labeling, Section 8, at the link below: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/ch8e.shtml#8.4
Food Allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be declared either in the list of ingredients or in a statement beginning with the words "Allergy and Intolerance Information – Contains:", when the following is present in the prepackaged products: almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios and walnuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, wheat, kamut, spelt, triticale, eggs, milk, soybeans, crustaceans, shellfish, fish, >10 ppm added sulphites, or gluten from the grains of the following cereals: barley, oats, rye, triticale, wheat, kamut and spelt• More information is available on the Health Canada website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/allergen/index-eng.php
Organic Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No distinction is made between organic and non-organic foods with regard to import requirements.• In order to market a product as organic in Canada, the product will need to be certified by a certification body accredited by a Conformity Verification Body (CVB) recognized by the CFIA.• Organic claims are required to be printed in English and French.• A government logo bearing the official program name "Canada Organic Regime" is

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :4/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<p>available to indicate organic compliance to the Canadian regulation (voluntary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAN/CGSB-32.310 Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards available at http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html• CFIA organic products page: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml• Organic Products Regulations, 2009: http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2009/2009-02-14/html/reg1-eng.html
Kosher Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kosher style foods are defined in Canada's Guide to Food Labeling and Advertising, available electronically at: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml• For more information on Kosher Food Marketing in Canada, see GAIN report CA5061
Irradiated Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulations for the labeling of irradiated foods are administered by the CFIA and outlined in the Food and Drug Regulations• Wholly irradiated foods are required to be identified with both a written statement such as "irradiated" or "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and the international symbol• Ingredients that constitute >10% of the final food must be identified in the list of ingredients as "irradiated"• Signs accompanying bulk, displays of irradiated foods are also required to carry the same identification as that shown on package labels.• Advertisements for irradiated foods must clearly reveal that the food has been irradiated.• Shipping containers also require the identification of wholly irradiated foods with a written statement such as "irradiated" or "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" but do not require the international symbol.
Labelling of Shipping Containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labels of shipping containers are exempt from bilingual labeling requirements.• The outer container requires a product description, the name and address of the exporting company and a net quantity declaration in either metric or imperial measure.• If the food in the inner container(s) is not for sale directly to customers (i.e., food service, industrial, etc.), that label may also be in either French or English, but all other mandatory label information, such as the list of ingredients, is required to be shown on the shipping container, not on each individual enclosure.

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :5/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Other Information	
Packaging and Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canadian regulations governing package sizes for fruits and vegetables, processed horticultural products and processed meats stipulate standardized package sizes• Canada's Meat & Poultry Inspection Regulations stipulate the standard package size requirements for processed meat poultry products such as bacon, sausages, sliced meats and wieners.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Schedule II of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Regulations lists all the acceptable package sizes for processed meats. It can be viewed on the Department of Justice website: http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/M-3.2/index.html
Food Additives Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of food additives is strictly controlled by Canada's Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.• The food additive tables in Division 16 of the Regulations prescribe which additives may be used in foods sold in Canada, to which foods they may be added, for what purposes, and at what levels.• Health Canada requires manufacturers to submit a formal request describing the intended use and levels of flavorings not specified in the regulations. This must be supplied together with information relating to the estimated intake of the flavoring by the consumer under normal consumption patterns.
Pesticides and Other Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MRLs in Canada are currently established under the Food and Drugs Act administered by Health Canada.• Canadian MRLs are listed in Table II of Division 15 of the Food and Drug Regulations and can be viewed on the Health Canada Web site at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/protect-proteger/food-nourriture/mrl-lmr-eng.php• The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA - http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/maxres-e.html) is responsible for pesticide registration.• Imported foods which contain unregistered pesticide residues above 0.1 parts per million are deemed to be adulterated under Section B.15.002(1) of Canada's Food and Drug Regulations.• The CFIA analyzes approximately 10,000 samples every year for agricultural chemical residue.
Novel Foods (Genetically Modified Foods)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated by Health Canada, which defines novel foods as: products that have never been used as a food; foods which result from a process that has not previously been used for food; or, foods that have been modified by genetic manipulation (i.e. GM

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :6/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<p>foods).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Novel Foods Regulation (under the Food and Drugs Act) requires that pre-market notification be made to Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB - http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hpfb-dgpsa/index-eng.php) to allow Health Canada to conduct a safety assessment of the biotechnology-derived food prior to permitting its sale in the Canadian marketplace.• For more information on the regulations governing genetically modified foods consult the Agricultural Biotechnology Report for Canada, report CA9040, or http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/index_e.html
Fortification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current Food and Drug Regulations permit food fortification to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- replace nutrients lost in the manufacturing process;- act as a public health intervention;- ensure the nutritional equivalence of substitute foods; or- ensure the appropriate vitamin and mineral nutrient composition of foods for special dietary purposes• For more information on food fortification, visit http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/vitamin/index-eng.php
Temporary Marketing Authorization Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issued by the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada, authorizes the sale of a food that does not meet one or more of the compositional, packaging, labeling or advertising requirements under the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.• A TMAL does not exempt foods from the requirements under the Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act and Regulations.• The purpose of a Temporary Marketing Authorization is to generate information in support of a proposed amendment to the Food and Drug Regulations.• Once the TMAL is issued, those manufacturers or producers of foods which are subject to mandatory label registration through the CFIA (such as registered meats and processed products), will be expected to follow normal procedures to register their labels).• More information is available from Section 2.17 of Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml)
Test Marketing: Processed Food Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada's Processed Product Regulations allow, in special instances only, the test marketing of domestically manufactured or imported processed food products which

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :7/8

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<p>may not meet packaging, labeling, or compositional requirements of the regulations. However, the provision is designed to facilitate the marketing of new products of a type which are new, unique and unavailable in Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information is available from Section 2.16 of Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml)
Special Dietary Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The composition and labeling of foods for special dietary use are regulated under Division 24 of the Food and Drug Regulations and include: formulated liquid diets, meal replacements, carbohydrate-reduced foods, sodium reduced foods, low calorie foods, etc.
Sample Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food samples for research, evaluation, or display at trade shows and food exhibitions are permitted entry, but may not be offered for commercial sale. • Samples containing animal products such as meat or cheese must be declared at the port of entry • Entry at the border will be facilitated if exporters show proof of their food exhibition participation and country of origin. • Up to 10 samples are permitted entry, but the weight of each may not exceed 100 kilograms (about 220 pounds). • Entries for personal consumption are generally restricted to 20 kg.
Non-Resident Importers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required to have a Business Number (BN) and an import/export account registered with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. • For information on registering as a non-resident importer, go to the following website: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/bn-ne/ndn/mprtxprt-eng.html

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report

Canadian Border Services Agency: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>Canadian Food Inspection Agency: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>Acts and Regulations: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml>Guide to Food Labeling: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml>Meat & Poultry Inspection Regulations: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/meaviae.shtml>Fish Inspection Directorate: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/fispoi/fispoie.shtml>Novel Foods: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/index-eng.php>Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade/eicb/agric/agric-en.asp>

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code : CAN1000

Date :01/07/10

Page :8/8

Health Canada: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Food and Drugs Act (including Food Additive Regulations): http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/legislation/acts-lois/fda-lad/index_e.html

Nutrition Labeling: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/nutrition/index-eng.php>

Justice Department (for Canadian Food Laws): <http://www.justice.gc.ca>

Pest Management Regulatory Agency - Maximum Residue Levels: <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/index-e.html>

DISCLAIMER:

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**