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

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Regulatory body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (EOSQ - http://www.eos.org.eg/public/en-us/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Located in the Ministry of Trade & Industry– Has sole responsibility for establishing, adopting and publishing food standards and codes of practice
Enforcement body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health (http://www.mohp.gov.eg/) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (http://www.mfti.gov.eg/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Responsible for applying standards as well as registration and approval of all specialty and dietary foods.• General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Responsible for inspection and certification of imported goods– Located in the Ministry of Trade and Industry– Formed with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Health, and GOEIC– Each ministry performs its analysis on the same product sample and issues its results to GOEIC. If one ministry rejects the product, GOEIC, in turn, also rejects the product.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In cases where no mandatory Egyptian standards exist, the Codex standards are acceptable.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– In the absence of an Egyptian or international standard, authorities often refer to the Analysis Certificate accompanying the product.• If a local product standard for a specific imported item does not exist, Egyptian authorities may apply the standard for that product used in the country of origin. Importers report that they frequently encounter problems because of ill-defined product standards.• Some modifications to regulations are announced in the "Official Gazette." Others are implemented without official notification. Once a ministerial rule (e.g., decree, law, etc.) is issued, importers are strongly advised to periodically check with the various government clearing authorities to see if it has been amended (for example, by internal memoranda). Laws often change and invariably take effect as soon as they are announced.• Egyptian authorities claim that all product standards and requirements applied to imported food are identical to those applicable to domestically produced products. In fact, Egyptian authorities are stricter in enforcing product standards on imported food products than on locally produced food products.
Pre-registration for specialty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the Institute of Nutrition under the Ministry of Health

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and dietary foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importers are required to submit a form in order to obtain a license for dietary products• Registration of a product takes 4 to 6 months• Registration for an imported product is not approved if a similar local dietary product is available in the market
Importation of meat and live animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated by Ministerial Decree No. 1647• Products must be shipped directly from the country of origin to Egypt• An importer must submit a request to the General Administration for Veterinary Services indicating:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the number of animals or type of and meat being importedb) country of originc) shipping portd) expected date of shipment arrivale) means of transportation
Special Requirement for Live Animals, Poultry and Meat Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated by Ministry of Trade and Supply issued Decree No. 465• Products must be packaged in appropriate bags as required by the Egyptian standards. Labels must be inserted inside the package as well as on the outside carton (see Labeling Section)• Release by the veterinary authorities depends heavily on the veterinary pre-approval license. If there is any discrepancy between the pre-approval license and the shipping documents, the product will be rejected.• Importers should check with the Veterinary Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture for more information and instructions.
Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicating the name of exporting country, number of parcels, type of meat (for animal products), date of inspection, production and expiration dates, name of exporter, port of entry and name of consignee
Veterinary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for meat, poultry, fish and dairy products• Issued in country of origin, indicating that animals used in making the product were examined before and after slaughter and they are free from contagious diseases• If the product is further processed in another country during transit, the appropriate certification may be executed in the country where additional processing is done
Batch number Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for all food products in order to facilitate product sample withdrawal.• Each batch will be considered as a different item for sample withdrawal purposes. Samples will be drawn from each batch having different production and expiration dates.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Products with different dates are considered to be different items and should be identified as such on the Release Certificate and Batch Number Certificate.
Temperature certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for frozen, deep frozen and chilled products.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– E.g. for frozen meat, a certificate assuring that a temperature of -18°C was maintained before export.
Halal certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For fresh meat• To attest that it is slaughtered under Islamic condition
Other required certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis cert if applicable (e.g. foods containing food colours)• Weight and packing certificate
Import Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The following documents must be presented to the customs office in order for a shipment to be released<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Bill of Lading– Commercial Invoice– Certificate of Origin (countersigned by the Chamber of Commerce and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin)– Health Certificate– Packing List– Weight List– Insurance Policy– Import/Export Permit of the importer - If the importer is an agent of a foreign manufacturer, the latter has to present an Agency Authorization Certificate for the products being imported.– Form 11 from a local bank advising that payment has been transferred to the supplier. This form guarantees payment to the supplier
General Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificates should be countersigned by the local Chamber of Commerce (Singapore: http://cms.sicc.com.sg/) and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin.• Importers must present ONE set of all import documents to the GOEIC.
Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labels can be printed on the package or be of a permanent adhesive type.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is acceptable in foreign language as long as accompanied by Arabic language.• Information only in English (or other foreign language) is not allowed, with the exception of production and expiration dates
Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must include the following:

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Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name and address of manufacturer- Brand or trademark if appropriate- Country of origin- Type of product and grade- Name and address of importer- Production and expiration dates- Product use instruction (optional)- Product ingredients- Storage instructions or temperature- Net weight- Gross weight and total number of the packages per case or carton- If the product contains preservatives, percentage of each should be indicated- If product is meat or poultry, the following statement must appear: "Slaughtered according to the Islamic ritual" or "Halal slaughtered"• Exemptions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small items whose greater surface is 10 cm square or less.- Milk and beverage packs whose quantity is 200 milliliters or less.- Wrapped dried sweets (candy, jelly candy, toffee, etc. and fun size chocolates sold by weight (kilogram or lb.) not by bar as these are considered unpacked product.
For meat and poultry products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imported products no longer have to be packed in labeled plastic bags• The new guidelines now only require that a label be inserted into clear plastic bags.• The inserted label should include country of origin, date of production, and expiration date.• Labels can be printed on the package or be of a permanent adhesive type.• No specific size or placement requirements for labels.• Labels must be placed on every package weighing ≥ 50 grams
Date marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DD/MM/YYYY for food products for which the expiration period is 6 months or less• MM/YYYY for food products for which the expiration period exceeds 6 months• "Best-Used-By" dates are not acceptable in Egypt• Products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package.
Shelf life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOSQ) issued its decree #ES:2613-2/2008 determining a new shelf life for the food products (fish and its products, dairy products, meat and its products, and other food products namely: salt, yeast, margarine, mineral and natural water, soft drinks, and vegetable seed oils).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to Ministry of Trade and Industry decree # 285 for 2006, product must arrive at the port of entry with the following periods remaining of its established shelf life:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 3 months minimum for products that have shelf life of more than 6 months– One month minimum for the products that have shelf life of 3-6 months– One week minimum for the products that have shelf life of less than 3 months– 3 days minimum for the products that have shelf life up to 10 days• The shelf life of a product is calculated from the date of production until the date of completion of all customs procedures and import certification at the Egyptian port of entry. (It often takes about two weeks for the product to complete all customs formalities.)
Other Information	
Inspection	Upon arrival at ports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyses are conducted to assure that the product is fit for human consumption, free from contagious diseases, and in compliance with Egyptian product specifications• Laboratory tests and analyses by the Ministry of Health• Ministry of Agriculture conducts veterinary inspection of dairy, fish, meat, and poultry products• All tests are conducted in government laboratories.• Importers are supposed to be notified of all test results within 7 days after samples have been drawn. However, for canned products, mineral water, and frozen products, tests results must be submitted within 14 days after samples have been drawn.
Food Colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decree number 73 of 2001 mandates that colors used on the inner and outer package should not be harmful to human health and should be fixed. If the color could be easily altered, its use is not permitted.• Acceptable artificial colors are not always allowed in all food products. Exporters should check with the Ministry of Health to verify the acceptability of any food coloring.• There are no exceptions to the regulations governing food colorings.• The scientific name of the color ingredient and the percentage of concentration must be indicated on the Analysis Certificate.• Egyptian authorities will not allow a product to be imported if it contains an unauthorized color, even if the use of the color is acceptable in another country.• The list of artificial colours allowed in food products are allowed is given in Ministry of Health issued Decree No. 411
Food Preservatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated in Ministerial Decree No 478, 1995

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All preservatives must be identified along with the allowed concentration expressed as a percentage in parts per million calculated on the acid base.
Food Flavourings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Health does not maintain a list of approved flavourings.All flavourings accepted under CODEX or WHO are also approved for use in Egypt
Pesticide and other contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under the care of Ministry of Agriculture. Egyptian standards for pesticide residues in food are derived from FAO and WHO standards.All pesticides must be registered before they can be used. The registration process includes the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">An application submitted to the Pesticides Committee (PC) of the Ministry of Agriculture showing the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Registration certificate valid for the country of origin.Toxicological data prepared by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).Copies of all environmental impact studies.Field and laboratory evaluation results and recommendations.LabelUpon review, the PC refers the application to the Recommendation Committee, which sets the recommended usage rates.The Recommendation Committee then forwards the application to the Research Station for field evaluations and monitoring.
Packaging and Container Regulations	No special packaging or container size requirements, regulations, or preferences
Product Rejection	A product may be rejected for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Not fit for human consumptionIncorrect labelingProhibited colors, additives, or preservativesIncorrect or missing certificates (however, authorities usually allow importers extra time to submit corrected documents)Failure to comply with Egyptian product specificationsLess than 50 percent of the established shelf life remains for the product
General Administration for Trade Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Takes approximately from 9 to 12 months to register a logo or a brand nameOnce approved, it is announced in the "Trademark Newspaper."A number of certificates and documents including the following items must be submitted

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	<p>during the registration process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A sample of the logo and brand name- A certification of the company's incorporation in the home country- A certificate issued by the Commercial Register in Egypt affirming that the proposed name of the company or logo has not already been registered in Egypt. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company must apply for a "Trademark Examination Form" to check whether a similar trademark for the product already exists in the market.• If a foreign company wishes to protect its logo, the company has to supply the General Administration for Trademark with an example of its logo as registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).• The foreign company should employ an agent in Cairo to follow the trademark registration process.

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report

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.**