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

| <b>Certification/ Requirements</b> | <b>Remarks</b>  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Food Laws/Standards                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A member of the European Union (EU)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- follows all EU directives, regulations and obligations</li></ul></li><li>• The German Food Law<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- consists of about 230 different ordinances, including the Food Labeling Ordinance, Packaging Ordinance, Dietetic Foods Ordinance, various hygienic and veterinary requirements, as well as numerous other special product or product group rules and regulations.</li><li>- Basic regulations of the German food law are laid down in 61 articles of the Lebensmittel- und Bedarfsgegenstaendegesetz (LMBG), last amended September 1997</li><li>- Food and Feed Law Book (Lebensmittel-, Bedarfsgegenstaende- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch - LFGB) developed in 2005, provides basic definitions, procedural rules and goals of the German food law.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both acts define general food safety and health protection rules, address labeling requirements, regulate inspection, detention and seizure rules of suspect food.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Products that are in conformity with any applicable standards adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will be considered as conforming to the general marketing standard. Marketing standards include criteria such as quality, size, labeling, packaging and presentation and can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFV-Standards.htm">http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFV-Standards.htm</a></li></ul> |
| Regulatory/ Enforcement Agencies   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV - <a href="http://www.bmelv.de">www.bmelv.de</a> )<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Responsible for food, agriculture and consumer protection</li></ul></li><li>• Bundesamt fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL - <a href="http://www.bvl.bund.de">www.bvl.bund.de</a>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- under the supervision of BMELV</li><li>- monitors compliance with German food law regulations</li><li>- risk management</li></ul></li></ul>  |
| Registration of Novel Foods        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Required for the introduction of novel foods</li><li>• Novel foods and feeds ≠ biotech food. This term also applies to food/feed products new to the EU e.g. exotic fruits and juices which have not to a significant extent been marketed in Europe.</li><li>• The biotech division and the novel foods/feeds division of BVL (<a href="http://www.bvl.bund.de/">http://www.bvl.bund.de/</a>) are responsible for registration and approval of biotech products and novel foods</li></ul>  |

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| <b>Certification/ Requirements</b>                       | <b>Remarks</b>   |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The person/company introducing a novel food has to submit a request to the BVL, and a copy of this request has to be sent to the Commission's Health and Consumer Protection Directorate (<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm</a>)</li></ul>   |
| Import licenses (AGRIM certificates)                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Required for most agricultural products including grains, milk, meat, olive oil, most fruits and vegetables, wine and sugar</li><li>Also required for food supplements such as vitamin concentrations</li></ul>  |
| Meat and Poultry - Import Derogation for Product Samples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sample shipments of food products containing meat, poultry or cheese from plants not approved for export to the EU require a derogation (special import permit) from the (state) veterinary authority at the first port of entry into the European Union.</li><li>The request for derogation can be made informally by letter, fax, or email stating the quantity, origin, and composition (e.g. raw or cooked meat) of the product as well as the intended purpose (machinery testing, trade show display, product competition, etc.) and place of destination. Based on this information the veterinary office will issue the import permit, specifying the veterinary certificates they require in that particular case.</li></ul>  |
| Animal/Public Health Certification                       | <p>Required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All animal products imported into the EU</li><li>Red meat &amp; poultry meat: Products containing any amount of red meat or poultry meat must be certified.</li><li>Egg products &amp; dairy: Certification of products containing egg products or dairy products depends on the composition of the product in relation to the definitions in the relevant Community legislation. As a rough guideline, if foodstuffs contain more than 50 percent egg products/dairy products, the Commission believes they should be considered as such. More details are available from <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animalproducts/other/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animalproducts/other/index_en.htm</a> .</li><li>Other processed products: Although there are no harmonized EU certificates for processed foods such as canned vegetables, soup broths, etc., EU member states often require that shipments be accompanied by a certificate signed by officials from country of origin. Exporters should check with their importer or with the Office of Agricultural Affairs in the importing Member State to determine which documentation is required.</li><li>Animal Products: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/feed_sector_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/feed_sector_en.htm</a></li><li>Meat and poultry (including game and fowl) products can only be imported from plants approved by the EU.</li></ul> |

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| Phytosanitary Certificate              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Required for plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, and raw/unprocessed nuts</li><li>• See EU Directive 2000/29</li></ul>   |
| General Import Conditions              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please refer to the EU page: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/index_en.htm</a></li></ul>  |
| <b>Labelling</b>                       |   |
| General Information                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulated by Lebensmittel-Kennzeichnungs-Verordnung (LMKV - Food Labeling Ordinance of Dec. 1999)</li><li>• There are numerous other special labeling requirements pertaining to specific foods or food groups.</li><li>• Since many other requirements are applicable, such as the actual size of letters and placing of the various elements on the label and picture shown, food manufacturers and exporters are urged to contact their potential German importer before making changes in labels on products labeled for distribution in Germany.</li></ul>   |
| Language                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In German.</li><li>• Multi-language labels are allowed</li></ul>  |
| Required Information                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name of the product as commonly used in the trade, or its description</li><li>• Ingredients listed in descending order of weight</li><li>• Quantitative ingredient declaration (QUID)</li><li>• Alcohol content</li><li>• Uncoded minimum shelf-life date</li><li>• Storage Conditions</li><li>• Net quantity in metric units (For solid food packed in "liquid," the drained weight must be shown in addition to the total quantity of fill)</li><li>• Name and address of manufacturer, packer or importer in Germany/EU</li><li>• Coded lot identification</li><li>• Bar codes</li><li>• Instructions for use should be given as necessary</li></ul> |
| List of ingredients and food additives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The list of ingredients should start with the word "Zutaten".</li><li>• Certain ingredients may be designated by the name of their category group rather than the specific name e.g. refined vegetable oils excluding olive oil, refined fats, flour blends, starch, fish, cheese, spices, herbs, gum bases, crumbs, sugar, dextrose, glucose syrup, milk protein, cocoa butter, crystallized fruit, vegetables and wine</li></ul>  |
| Alcohol content                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol measured at 20°C, need to be shown as 'Alkohol (or alc.) ...% vol'</li></ul>  |

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| Uncoded minimum shelf-life date    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (interpreted as the date until which the product maintains its maximum level of quality under proper storage conditions).</li><li>• The words to be used are 'Mindestens haltbar bis ...'</li><li>• If the product for microbiological reasons may cause a health threat after a certain storage period, it has to carry an uncoded latest consumption date using the words 'verbrauchen bis ...'</li><li>• Not necessary for fresh fruits and vegetables, alcoholic beverages of more than alc. 10%, portioned ice cream, table salt, crystal sugar, flavored and/or colored sugar candies, chewing gum, wine-like beverages</li></ul>  |
| Coded lot identification           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needed for all products which do not show a minimum shelf-life containing day and month identification</li><li>• The marking shall be preceded by the letter "L" except in cases where it is clearly distinguishable from other indications on the label</li></ul>   |
| Bar code                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• European Article Number (EAN) also referred to as International Article Number (IAN) system with 13 digits</li></ul>   |
| Health Claims                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical claims or images attributing to a foodstuff the property of preventing, treating or curing human diseases are explicitly prohibited in the German/EU labeling directive.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- This rule does not apply to dietetic foods.</li></ul></li></ul>  |
| Dietetic Foods Ordinance           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The German Dietetic Food Law defines the properties foods must have in order for the manufacturer to label them as dietetic.</li><li>• It requires that foods and beverages labeled as dietetic must differ substantially from other regular foods.</li><li>• Health-related statements are strictly limited. Examples for such statements are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Diaetetisches Lebensmittel geeignet zur Behandlung von ...(Dietetic food suited to treat ...);</li><li>- Diaetetisches Lebensmittel geeignet zur Behandlung von ... nur unter staendiger aertzlicher Kontrolle verwenden (Dietetic food suited to treat ... only use if under continuous medical supervision)</li><li>- zur besonderen Ernaehrung bei ... im Rahmen eines Diaetplanes (special diet for ... if part of a diet plan)</li></ul></li></ul> |
| Nutritional Value Labeling         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nutritional value labeling is not mandatory in Germany unless a nutrition claim is made on the label or in advertising messages.</li><li>• The EU Nutritional Value Labeling Directive 90/496/EEC establishes rules for the separate</li></ul>   |

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|                                    | <p>labeling of the caloric and nutritional values of foods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though not mandatory for all foods, it establishes certain conditions, which must be fulfilled if the industry wishes to provide information that either emphasizes a particularly low caloric content or a particularly high nutritional value of a certain food.</li> <li>• Where nutritional labeling is provided, the information to be given should consist of one of the following: the energy value, plus the amount of protein, carbohydrates and fat; or the energy value, plus the amount of protein, carbohydrates, sugar, fat, saturated fats, fiber and sodium.</li> <li>• The energy value and the proportion of nutrients must be declared in specific units per 100 grams or 100 milliliters. Information on vitamins and minerals must be expressed as a percentage of the recommended daily allowance.</li> </ul> |
| Beef Labelling                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory that labels for all bovine meat must indicate the following sets of information: "geboren in: name of third country" - born in "gemaestet in: name of third country or third countries" - reared in</li> <li>• For beef derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered in the same third country, the above indications may be combined as "Origin: name of third country" a reference number ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or animals "geschlachtet in: third country / approval number of slaughterhouse" "zerlegt in: third country / approval number of cutting plant"</li> <li>• A traceability code linking the meat to the animal or a group of animals representing the production of maximum one day.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Other Information</b>           |  |
| Inspection                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Products can be checked at import or at all further stages of marketing</li> <li>• Specific detailed inspection requirements exist for animal products. Inspections are done under supervision of a veterinarian at a limited list of ports and border inspection posts</li> <li>• In some instances, German inspection agencies at the point of entry may require the importer to arrange for further inspection of an imported product to satisfy the importers' legal duty to exercise due care and diligence. The importer may engage a private food chemist to determine if the product is free of illegal substances and residues and labeled properly.</li> </ul>  |
| Fruits, Vegetables and Nuts        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh fruits and vegetables and unprocessed/raw nuts must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. The certificate is issued upon inspection of the commodity being exported to determine that it is free of insects, plant diseases, and other organisms</li> </ul>  |

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|                                     | <p>considered harmful by the Germany.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Almonds must be accompanied by a Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program – VASP certificate issued by laboratories approved for the VASP program. Peanuts must be tested and certified prior to export based on the EU Pre-Export Certification Program.</li><li>Frozen foodstuff do not require phytosanitary certificates</li></ul>   |
| Irradiation                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Harmonization of EU rules on food irradiation has been slow and only a few products have so far received EU-wide approval. See <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/irradiation/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/irradiation/index_en.htm</a></li><li>Treatment with ionizing rays is only permitted for dried aromatic herbs and spices and for monitoring purposes.</li><li>Ultraviolet rays may be used to sterilize drinking water, fruit surfaces and hard cheese during storage. Treated products have to be labeled as 'bestrahlt' or 'mit ionisierenden Strahlen behandelt'.</li><li>Treated herbs and spices or products containing treated herbs and spices imported from a non-EU country have to be accompanied by a certificate providing the name and address of the treatment installation, type of treatment, company name ordering the treatment, recipient of the treated products, date of treatment, type of packing material during treatment, parameters describing the supervision of the treatment process and validated test results.</li><li>Per special approval, it is possible that ionized products legal in other EU Member States may be imported into Germany. Applications need to be directed to BVL (<a href="http://www.bvl.bund.de">www.bvl.bund.de</a>).</li></ul> |
| Organic Foods                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Importers of organic products are required to notify the competent regulatory authority of the Member State of their activity.</li><li>Foodstuffs which shall be marketed as organic products have to meet requirements laid down in EU Regulation 2092/91 (<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF</a>) amended by Regulation 1804/99 to include livestock products.</li><li>Imports of organic products are regulated by EU Regulation 1991/2006 (available at <a href="http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/agriculture/food/l21118_en.htm">http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/agriculture/food/l21118_en.htm</a>)</li><li>Applications for import authorizations of organic products into Germany should be directed to BLE (<a href="http://www.ble.de">www.ble.de</a>).</li></ul>  |
| Packaging and Container Regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The German Law on Weights and Measures provides the legislative basis for the Consumer Packaging Ordinance (CPO).</li></ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulations for materials in contact with food have been EU-harmonized, see <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/foodcontact/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/foodcontact/index_en.htm</a> .</li><li>• Materials in contact with foodstuffs have to bear an indication 'fuer Lebensmittel' which can be replaced by a specific symbol designated in Council Directive 80/590/EEC.</li><li>• The CPO provided for minimum heights of numbers used on the label designating the quantity of fill.</li><li>• The size of packaging must not be misleading to the consumer and must not lead to the expectation of a higher than actual fill.</li><li>• Mandatory container sizes are established for following product groups: wine, including fruit wine, beer, liqueur, milk, water, lemonade, fruit juice, sugar, chocolate and cocoa.</li><li>• Underfilling tolerances are strictly regulated.</li></ul> |
| Packaging Waste Recycling - Green Dot System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amendments to the German Packaging and Waste Avoidance Law requires importers of consumer products, including food stuffs, to enter into a contract for recycling of packaging material with one of the licensed national recycling companies.</li><li>• Traditionally, the German industry has been using the "Green Dot" symbol to assure that packaging material will be recycled in a controlled system. Since the Green Dot symbol is also used in other European countries, it is recommended to have the symbol printed on the package.</li><li>• Typically, the national producer or the importer pays a license fee to use the Green Dot, depending on the type and amount of packaging being used.</li><li>• For further information on the Green Dot packaging material disposal and recycling program, please contact your potential German importers.</li></ul>  |
| Food Additives                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food additives are fully harmonized within the EU, see <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/additives/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/additives/index_en.htm</a> .</li><li>• Regulated by the Food Additives Ordinance</li><li>• Only certain food additives are approved for use with foods, and only under conditions specified in this ordinance</li><li>• Food additives must appear clearly visible on the label, written in easily legible print (minimum character height of 2mm) and in combination with the product name or identification</li></ul>   |
| Vitamin - Enriched Foods                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The basic rules for foods containing added vitamins are defined in Regulation EC 1925/2006.</li><li>• The German Bill on Food Vitamin Fortification establishes rules for the use of vitamins in foods.</li></ul>   |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vitamin-enriched foods must be clearly labeled in the list of ingredients or immediately next to the trade name of the product.</li><li>• The label must indicate the type of vitamin and the quantity based on 100 grams of food.</li><li>• Since vitamins are not yet fully harmonized, importation of modern food supplements such as vitamin concentrations may require a special import permit for Germany if the product is already legally marketed in another EU-country.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- As a rule of thumb, German authorities only tolerate a vitamin concentration of three times the recommended daily allowance (RDA). However, upon specific request higher vitamin concentrations may be tolerated if a risk assessment approves this approach.</li></ul></li></ul>   |
| Genetically Engineered Foods and Feeds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under the EU labeling regulations, processed products produced from biotech crops, such as soybean oil, must have a "GMO" label even though no "GMOs" are present in the final processed product.</li><li>• An adventitious presence of more than 0.9 percent genetically engineered material in one single ingredient has to be labeled on the final product. See <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/index_en.htm</a> .</li><li>• The relevant authority for the approval of new biotech events and for monitoring the trade of products derived from biotechnology is the BMELV<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The label "without biotech" is available, but voluntary</li><li>- In order to better identify products labeled "without biotech" the BMELV launched a new logo which can be used cost-free by food companies.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| Functional Foods – Food Supplements    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In Germany, the marketing challenge of functional foods in many cases is its definition and demarcation from pharmaceutical products, which require special and specific product approval.</li><li>• A German Federal Court ruling determined that products may only be classified as foods if a pharmaceutical effect is not evident to the consumer and consumers do not expect pharmaceutical effects if they consume the product according to the producers dosage advice.</li></ul>   |
| Pesticides and Other Contaminants      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tolerance levels for pesticide residues were harmonized within the EU in 2008.</li><li>• An EU database on pesticide MRLs is available at <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/database_pesticide_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/database_pesticide_en.htm</a>.</li><li>• For application of an import tolerance for a not-yet-regulated substance in Germany contact the BMELV (<a href="http://www.bmelv.de">www.bmelv.de</a>).</li><li>• The Bundesamt fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL -</li></ul>  |

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|                             | <p><a href="http://www.bvl.bund.de">www.bvl.bund.de</a>) is responsible for scientific evaluation of pesticide residues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since 2007, a private environmental protection organization has been intensively testing fruits and vegetables for pesticide residues. Test results are announced in press statements, which continue to receive nationwide attention. In reaction to this development, the leading German retail chains implemented stringent quality control requirements. Under these private requirements, pesticide residue levels should not exceed 70 percent of the permitted legal levels. Reports indicate that suppliers violating the new contract standard are at risk to be delisted from the approved suppliers list of the particular retail chain.</li></ul> |

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report  
Council Directive 90/496/EEC on nutrition labelling for foodstuffs

**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.**