

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :IRQ1000

Date :17/06/10

Page :1/3

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

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Safety in Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USAID-Tijara's Provincial Economic Growth Program (http://www.tijara-iraq.com/) began to harmonize Iraq's agricultural and health standards as part of its effort to hasten the country's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). It worked with the Ministry of Health to draft a new Public Health Law and Food Safety Regulations that are compatible with the international standards of the WTO.• Once Codex Alimentarius Commission food safety standards were in place, USAID assisted Iraq's Ministries of Health and Agriculture to write regulations designed to eliminate conflicting areas of responsibility and to ensure the quality of imported seeds and food.• Food safety standards are enforced by the Nutrition Research Institute which tests all imported and domestically produced food for pesticides, viruses, chemical toxins and other bacterial contaminants. Because of the WTO accession process, Iraq has more consistent health standards and is improving ways to enforce them.• Ministry of Health's priority is to establish food safety control procedures based on the HACCP as recommended by WHO• The way in which the Iraqi government promulgates regulations is opaque and lends itself to arbitrary use.• Corruption in all areas remains a significant problem. Often, U.S. food suppliers will sell on a cash basis directly to Iraqi importers so as not to interact directly with Iraqi regulatory officials.• More information on agriculture in Iraq available at http://www.fas.usda.gov/country/Iraq/Iraq.asp
Relevant Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health (http://www.moh.gov.iq/english/index.php)• Ministry of Trade (http://www.mot.gov.iq/) - responsible for formulating the import policy and the annual import program• Iraqi Trade Information Centre (http://www.iraqitic.com/)• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (http://www.mofa.gov.iq)
General Import Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Trade is responsible for formulating the import policy and the annual import program.• Other required import documentation: Commercial Invoice, Packing List, Bill of Lading
Import License	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the imports of the private sector require a license except basic products for some

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :IRQ1000

Date :17/06/10

Page :2/3

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	development projects; special licenses are issued for imports financed by foreign exchange obtained by non-resident Iraqis.
Health/veterinary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for animal products (subject to quarantine and health control) • Exporters should work closely with importers to confirm the continued eligibility of poultry and poultry products for exports to Iraq. • The following website may serve as a guide to exporting animal products to Iraq: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/ireqs/animals/animal_iraq.shtml
Certificate of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not required, but a country of origin statement must appear on the commercial invoice • If requested, it must be certified by a recognized chamber of commerce.
Certificate of Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for antibiotic products, compounds and preparations • Must be legalized by Iraq consulate, must be furnished every 6 months, in English. Prepared by recognized lab.
Blacklist Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued by an Iraqi consular representative and should state that the steamer carrying the goods is not on the Iraqi government's blacklist
Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No general requirement
Pharmaceutical products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Arabic marking required for direction of use, according to the Ministry of Health Technical Affairs Directorate (http://techmoh.net/) • Drug registration information available at http://techmoh.net/reg.%20req.2.pdf
Standard Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Codex (www.codexalimentarius.net/), the following information shall appear on the label of prepackaged foods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The name of the food - List of ingredients - Net contents and drained weight (metric system) - Name and address of the manufacturer/packer/distributor/importer/exporter/vendor - Country of origin (if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer) - Lot identification - Date marking and storage instructions - Instructions for use - Quantitative ingredients declaration
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please check with the importer. • Arabic is the official language; French & English are used in business in Iraq.

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :IRQ1000

Date :17/06/10

Page :3/3

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Other Information	
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% of today's imports are inspected.• All products are tested by Food Control Laboratories established in every province.

Reference:

Muslim Trade Network - Trade Reference Directory for Muslim Countries

<http://www.muslimtrade.net/tradeguideline/iraq/index.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.**