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

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Laws & Regulatory Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The existing laws on food safety are fragmented and appear in different institutions notably the<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS - www.kephis.org/): responsible for plant health protection and quality control for agricultural inputs and produce- Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS - www.kebs.org/): prepares standards relating to products, certification of industrial products and quality inspection at ports of entry among others. Imported foods are allowed to enter upon issuance of Certificate of Release by Bureau.- Department of Veterinary Services (DVS): has the mandate of animal health protection
Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For meat and meat products (includes comminuted meat which is canned, preserved or otherwise treated in hermetic containers, whether or not other ingredients has been added; cooked/cured/processed meat)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To be approved by a permit delivered by Veterinary Services of Kenyan Ministry of Livestock. Import/export forms can be obtained from http://www.livestock.go.ke/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=82• For genetically modified plants products<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Authorisation from National Biosafety Committee required before issuance of import permit (http://www.biosafetykenya.co.ke)
Import permit and health / phytosanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for seeds, cuttings, bud wood, fresh fruits, flowers, plantlets, timber, and agricultural produce• Must obtain a Plant Import Permit from KEPHIS also accompanied by health certificate (phytosanitary or its international model or its equivalent). The website provides more details - http://www.kephis.org
Certificate of conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Export Verification of Conformity to Standards (PvoC) programme• Undertakes physical inspection prior to shipment, sampling testing and analysis in accredited laboratories, audit of product process, documentary checks and assessment of conformity to Kenyan standards• Mandatory for products listed in http://www.kenyapvoc.com/72618/872288/Products-Covered.pdf• Not necessary for products listed in http://www.kenyapvoc.com/72618/872288/2153914

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Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are three routes for certification namely;<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Route A: Consignment inspection and testing (mainly for first time exporters)- Route B: Product registration, inspection and limited testing (frequent exporters)- Route C: Product licensing (manufacturing companies that are consistent with shipment compliance)• FEES<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Route A: 0.47 % of FOB value subject to a minimum of USD 180- Route B: 0.425 % of FOB value subject to a minimum of USD 180- Route C: 0.25 % of FOB value subject to a minimum of USD 135• The website provides more details (http://www.kenyapvoc.com/).• In cases where consignments without COC have to undergo destination inspection<ul style="list-style-type: none">- May be subjected to penalty of 15 % of the CIF value of the goods plus 15 % bond and the testing and inspection costs
Customs Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form C63 Imports/Exports/Transit/Warehousing Declaration form for clearance of imports (http://www.revenue.go.ke/customs/pdf/C63.pdf and http://www.revenue.go.ke/customs/pdf/C63_Cont.pdf)
Labeling	
a) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weights and Measures Act require products to be labeled with metric measurements and packaged in even units.• Labeling information not to appear at the bottom of the container.• Where both the inner and the outer labels are used on a package of food, the label declarations required by these regulations should appear on both the inner and outer labels.• Food sold in bulk is exempted of label declarations.
b) Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trademark name and date of manufacture, origin and expiry date must be shown in English and/or Kiswahili.
c) Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brand/trade name (on the main panel),• common name of food (should indicate the true nature of the food; on the main panel),• Name and address of manufacturer/ packer/distributor/importer/exporter/vendor, and an indication of the capacity in which he has acted• country of manufacture of product• net content• date of manufacture

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Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expiry date• listing of ingredients
d) Net content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For a food packaged in liquid medium (water, aqueous solution of sugar and salt, fruit and vegetable juices in canned fruits and vegetables only, or vinegar, either singly or in combination), shall declare the drained weight of food
e) Listing of ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In descending order (excluding water), except• in the case of dehydrated food which is intended to be reconstituted by the addition of water, the ingredients may be listed in order of proportion by mass in the reconstituted product provided that the list of ingredients is headed by a statement such as 'ingredients when reconstituted'• in the case of food consisting of a single ingredient
f) Expiry date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should be clearly declared on label and instructions for the proper storage of the products, if different from ambient conditions
g) Date marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should have date clearly marked including the date of manufacture and the date of packaging (the date on which product is placed in the container in which it will be ultimately sold).• Likewise, best before, sell by or use by dates should be clearly marked.
h) Storage instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In addition to the date, any special conditions for the storage of food shall be indicated if the validity of the date depends thereon.
i) Packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No packaging container size regulations for food products in Kenya
j) Genetically Modified Organism containing products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) stipulates that imported GMO foods be accompanied with a certificate of analysis.• Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) requires additional declaration in phytosanitary certificates stating the genetic modification status of the product.
k) Irradiated food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be labeled
l) Product containing permitted artificial sweeteners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall be declared on the label that it contains saccharin, cyclamate, aspartame and acesulfame K and their salts, as a non-nutritive sweetener.
m) Nutrient claim and requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sugar/ carbohydrate reduced diet• Shall contain not more than 50% of the glycogenic carbohydrates normally present in foods of same class• Sugarless, sugar free, low carbohydrate

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It contains not more than 0.25% glycogenic carbohydrates. Where statement is made, label should be presented with the carbohydrate content in grams per 100g• Calorie reduced foods<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Must not contain more than 50% of total calories normally present in foods of same class- 'Low calorie' foods- Must contain not more than 15 calories per average serving; and 30 calories in a reasonable daily intake. Calories contained should be provided on label when statement is made• Sodium reduced foods<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The amount of sodium contributed by a reasonable daily intake recommended for sodium reduced diet shall not exceed one-sixth the sodium contained in reasonable daily intake of same food.- Low sodium food- It should contain not more than 10 mg of sodium in an average serving; and 20 mg sodium in a reasonable daily intake. The sodium content has to be provided on label when statement is made
n) Minimum Shelf-life	• 75% remaining upon arrival in Kenya.
Other Information	
Standards compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must comply with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).• Goods must be inspected against specifications provided by importer and KEBS specifications by evidence of test report or certificate conformity from ISO/ IEC 17025 accredited laboratory or preferable from any conformity assessment body recognized by International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA).
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspection is carried out at ports of Kenya by KEBS. Imported foods are allowed to enter upon issuance of Certificate of Release by Bureau.
Food Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food additives used as oxidants, sweeteners, colorants, curing agents, flavor enhancers, flavorants or preservatives, in a given foodstuff must appear on the label. The common chemical name of the product should be used on the labels.• Where no specifications for a food additive are set out in any part of these regulations or established under the Standards Act, the Codex applies.
Pesticide and other Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated by the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB)• Refer to the CODEX standards for tolerance levels

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Other Fees & Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other than the Import Declaration Fee of 2.25 % of C.O.B. value, agricultural imports are charged a fee of 1 % of C.I.F. value to support KEPHIS. The Kenya Bureau of Standards charges an inspection fee of 0.2 % of C.I.F. value on all imports.

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.**