

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :OMN1000

Date :20/05/10

Page :1/5

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

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gulf Standards Organization (GSO; http://www.gso.org.sa)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– responsible for developing food and other standards in the GCC (of which Oman is a member)– The committee is working to harmonize existing standards with the Codex and other international organizations, though differences still exist.
Relevant Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Directorate for Specifications and Measurements, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI - http://www.mocioman.gov.om/MOCI/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– responsible for formulating food safety regulations and standards• Health Quarantine Department, Ministry of Health (MOH - http://www.moh.gov.om/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– responsible for inspection of imported semi- and fully-processed food products, including sugar• Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– responsible for inspection of live animals and plants, red meats, poultry meat, agricultural materials, timber, grains, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and other unprocessed agricultural products at all points of entry into the country
Pre-clearance Approval for Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplier is strongly encouraged to work closely with the local importer or agent to<ul style="list-style-type: none">– obtain pre-clearance approval for labels, particularly for new-to-market products, and– ensure that the product complies with local food regulations
Product Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be registered at MOH which will issue an import permit for every shipment prior to Customs clearance
Health certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issued by appropriate government agency in country of origin to attest that products fit for human consumption• Must be notarized by both the local Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Oman Embassy/ Consulate in country of origin (If the latter is not present, another Arab diplomatic mission is acceptable)
Halal slaughter certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For meat and poultry products• By approved Islamic centre in country of origin (MUIS)• Both an Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Oman Embassy/Consulate must notarize this certificate (If the latter is not present, another Arab diplomatic mission is acceptable.)
Phytosanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For plants or plant origin, such as plywood, timber, rice, fruits, plants, and seeds

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :OMN1000

Date :20/05/10

Page :2/5

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Veterinary permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all animals and animal products
Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the respective Ministry • The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) issues import permits for agricultural products under its jurisdiction - live animals and plants, red meat, poultry meat, agricultural materials, timber, grains and other unprocessed agricultural products • Non-alcoholic beer requires an import license issued from the MOCI
Other Import Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial invoice • Packing list • Bill of lading (airway bill for air cargo and sea bill for sea cargo) • Certificate of origin <p>Commercial invoices and certificates of origin must be authenticated by an Omani Consulate or representative (any Arab Embassy) in the country of origin before the goods are exported to Oman.</p>
Labeling	
Standard	GSO 9/2007 and GSO 150/2007 for labeling and shelf life
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual labels are required, provided one of the languages is Arabic • Exemption: Products imported specifically for the hotel, restaurant and institutional sectors • Arabic language stickers are permitted in lieu of the original Arabic or bilingual label provided the sticker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complies with all labeling requirements and is applied by the manufacturer – Does not conceal required information on the original label – Does not contradict information on the original label – Is extremely difficult to remove
Standard declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product and brand name - Country of origin - Ingredients, in descending order of proportion - Additives, if any - Origin of animal fat (e.g., beef fat), if applicable (has to be Halal slaughtered) - Net content in metric units (volume in case of liquids) - Production and expiry dates - The name and address of the manufacturer, producer, distributor, importer, exporter or

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :OMN1000

Date :20/05/10

Page :3/5

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	<p>vendor shall be declared on the label</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Special storage, transportation and preparation instructions, if any.• Exemption: Products arriving clearly marked as samples not intended for sale• Consignments rejected for minor labeling and other infractions may be granted a one-time waiver provided the product is found to be safe for human consumption.
Special foods, diet, health and infant foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No special regulations govern importation• Must contain details ingredients information (vitamin, mineral, supplements, additives including colorings, preservatives, etc), nutritive values per 100 g, health warnings if any and instructions for proper use and storage.• US nutritional panel is allowed• Baby foods must be inspected and approved by the Medicine Control Section, MOH• Suppliers should verify with the import agent if an import permit is required for the particular specialty food shipment
Date marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DD/MM/YYYY for shelf life < 6 months,• MM/YYYY for shelf life > 6 months• Dates of production and expiry ("Sell by", "best before" or "use by date"): Required for perishable products ≤3 months shelf-life such as eggs/ dairy products• Production date only: Required for minimally processed products such as rice, dry beans, and grain (<3 months shelf-life), and products deemed to be extremely shelf-stable such as salt and sugar• Shelf-life labelling not required: for fresh fruits and vegetables (as indicated by OS 246/1993)• Dates must be engraved, embossed, printed or stamped directly onto the original label or primary packaging at time of production, using indelible ink. Stickers with date stamps imprinted are not accepted.• If printed in multiple languages, the date must be the same. Any discrepancy in the date will lead to rejection of the product/shipment.
Other Information	
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipality food inspectors randomly check food products in wholesale and retail markets regardless of origin.• In addition to a visual label inspection, a sample may be analyzed to verify the accuracy of the label versus actual product content.

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :OMN1000

Date :20/05/10

Page :4/5

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory testing of non-alcoholic beer at point-of-entry
Pork and pork products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be clearly identified that it contains pork• Subject to a 100 percent tariff• Pork and pork products must be sold in a separate section of the retail outlet that is headed with a sign "Pork products, not for Muslims"
Poultry and poultry products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tested for Salmonella randomly• Omani guidelines allow for a maximum tolerance of salmonella in 20 percent of the samples tested
Packaging and Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General requirements for packaged special foods are covered under GS 654/1996, GS 839/97, and GS 1024/2000)• Boxing for fresh fruits and vegetables is regulated under GS 124/1990
Products shipped in bulk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must meet GSO labeling requirements• Must be accompanied by small sample (e.g. 1L oil) for lab verification which meets labeling requirements too
Food Samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Samples destined for food shows and other types of promotional events• Exempted from local label and shelf-life regulations• Must be accompanied by health certificates and invoices that state the products are not for sale and are of no commercial value
Pesticide Residue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residues monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries• GSO 382/1994 and GSO 383/1994 for Maximum Limits of Pesticide Residues in Agricultural and Food Products - Part I and Part 2 respectively• Codex is used as guideline.• Oman will recognize a non-listed color or color additive if approved under Codex or other International Standard.
Not permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As regulated in Decree No 74/2000 complement OS58/1995, shall not contain alcohol, pork, lard and their derivatives.
Food additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept any food or coloring additives approved by Codex even those not listed in GS 23/1998• Common name and index number of colour additives must be indicated• E number is permitted
Irradiated food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No regulation governing the importation of irradiated food products, but such products have encountered problems at Custom entry points in the past.

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :OMN1000

Date :20/05/10

Page :5/5

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Copyright and/or Trademark Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oman Ministerial Decree No. 38/2000 gave legal recognition of international copyright laws and legal protection on trademarks.• The Ministry of Commerce is responsible for brand registration, which usually can be completed in a short time.
Import Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processed or value added food products are subject to a five percent import duty, ad valorem CIF basis• Pork and pork products, alcoholic beverages and dried lemons are assessed a 100 percent import duty• Bananas and edible oils in retail pack are levied a 25 percent protective tariff• Dates are assessed a 20 percent tariff

Ref: 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.**