

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :1/7

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

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Regulatory & Enforcement Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- incorporates the current four Department of Health (DOH) agencies, the Bureaus of Food Safety, Food and Drug Analysis, Pharmaceutical Affairs and Controlled Drugs, into one unified entity for Taiwan's food and drug safety-related service.- conducts food quality inspection on imports at the port of entry• Council of Agriculture's (COA) Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine (BAPHIQ - www.baphiq.gov.tw)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- responsible for animal and plant quarantine- fulfills a combination of functions similar to USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) e.g. conducts quarantine inspection on fresh produce, meat and poultry, and pet food.• The list of food safety acts and regulations can be found on the DOH website at http://food.doh.gov.tw/english/Acts_Regulations/Foodsafety.asp
Phytosanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required by BAPHIQ for fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables, and plant-based pet foods (e.g. bird treats that contain viable seeds that can germinate)• Taiwan basically only accepts government certifications. For some limited cases, certifications issued by organizations or agencies accredited or authorized by the government are accepted.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Private industry certificates, or certificates issued by state quarantine offices are not accepted.
Meat and Poultry Export Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for meat and poultry products• The Certificate for Export should include information regarding the shipping port, vessel name, shipping date, container number and container seal number• Imports of retail-packed pet food containing meat/poultry ingredients must be imported with a Health Certificate: Export Certificate for Animal Products. Exporters can refer to the guide to exporting pet food to Taiwan, prepared by APHIS: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_taiwan.shtml.
Import Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issued by the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT - http://eweb.trade.gov.tw)• Only required for a few sensitive items e.g. puffer fish, which is controlled for consumer health concerns; or dog meat, which is controlled for the "sake of national image."• Certain types of products are limited to members of specific industry groups. For

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :2/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	example, imports of certain kinds of breeding stock require the prior review by the COA.
Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issued by either the government of the exporting country or government-authorized agency• Helpful for seafood and fresh fruit & vegetable imports
Registration Requirement for GM Soybean and Corn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bioengineered corn and soybeans, and certain processed foods made from them, are subject to specific regulations.• Please refer to Registration Requirement for Genetically Modified Soybean and Genetically Modified Corn available at http://www.doh.gov.tw/EN2006/DM/DM1.aspx?now_fod_list_no=6111&class_no=248&level_no=1
Registration of Imported Food in Tablet/ Capsule Forms (eg. Herbal/ dietary/ nutritional supplements) or special dietary food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food additives, special dietary foods, and foods in capsule and tablet form, may not be imported unless they undergo an extensive examination by DOH and are subsequently registered with, and licensed by, the DOH prior to the exportation of commercial shipments of the product in question.• Please refer to the Guidelines On Registration Of Imported Food In Tablet Or Capsule Forms available on the DOH website at http://food.doh.gov.tw/english/info/food_registration_3.htm
Registration of Special Dietary Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Regulation On Registration Of Special Dietary Food is available on the DOH website at http://food.doh.gov.tw/english/info/food_registration_5.htm
Labeling	
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All processed food products or food additives imported into Taiwan for retail sale must have a Chinese language label (traditional Chinese characters)
Standard Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Product name• Name, weight, volume or quantity of the contents (if a mixture of two or more components, they must be listed separately)• Name of food additives• Name, telephone number and detailed address of manufacturer• Name, telephone number and detailed address of importer, for imported foods• Expiration date (year, month, date) must be printed in that order<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To distinguish the month from the date, the Chinese characters for "month" and "date" may be included on the label.- If the normal shelf-life exceeds three months, the expiration date may be indicated by year and month only.

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :3/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Date of manufacture, shelf-life and conditions of storage may also be used, if required by the health authorities.- Dairy products in liquid form must also indicate shelf life, storage condition• Country of origin
Frozen food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For imported frozen foods, the following information is also required in Chinese on the label:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Type of Frozen Foods (Frozen fresh fish/shellfish, frozen fresh ready to eat oysters, ready to eat fish i.e. Sashimi, frozen fresh meat, fruits and vegetable (fresh ready to eat, which must be heated))- Method and conditions of storage- Cooking instructions if the products require cooking or are not ready to eat
Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The following types of businesses may apply for an exemption from the Chinese labeling requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food processing plants that import food for processing, restaurant- fast food stores, and bakeries, which import food for their own kitchens- importers who import food for processing, for repack or change-pack (ie. not for direct sale to consumers)
Health Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Products with health food claims must prove that they possess the ability to contribute to the health of those consuming them.• Health foods cannot claim to prevent illnesses. Any product claiming to be a health food must receive DOH's approval before being marketed.• Apart from standard declaration, it also has to include the following information in traditional Chinese:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name of food additives- Method and conditions of preservation- Name and address of the responsible business operator; the name and address of the importer shall be specified if the health food is imported- The approved health care effects- Reference number of the permit, the legend of "health food" and standard logo- Intake amount and other important messages for the consumption of the health food along with other necessary warnings- Nutrient and its content- Other material facts designated by the DOH

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :4/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Packaged fruit and vegetable juices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All packaged fruit and vegetable juices that contain less than 100% of original juices should indicate percentage of original juices contained on the outside package
Vegetarian Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All packaged foods that claim to be vegetarian foods should indicate the type of vegetarian ingredients<ul style="list-style-type: none">- E.g. "pure vegetarian foods," "vegetarian & egg foods," or "vegetarian & milk foods"
Labeling of caffeine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All packaged drinks that contain caffeine should indicate content of caffeine on the outside packages<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Packaged drinks that contain 20mg/100mL or more of caffeine must indicate actual mg/mL on the outside containers- Packaged drinks that contain < 20mg/100mL of caffeine must indicate "Under 20mg/100mL" on the outside containers- Coffee, tea & cocoa drinks that contain 2mg/100mL or less can indicate "Low Caffeine" instead of "under 20mg/100mL" on the outside containers- Small packaged instant coffee in powder form must indicate actual mg/serving on the containers
Nutrition labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Any consumer-packaged food marketed in Taiwan that makes nutritional claims- Dairy products, non-alcoholic beverages, edible oil, ice products, baked and cereal products, canned foods, candies, dried foods and preserved foods.• When the nutrition label is provided, it has to provide the following information shown at a conspicuous place on the outer package or container of the product:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heading "Nutrition labeling" followed by the content of energy, protein, fat, carbohydrate (including dietary fibre) and sodium, other nutrients declared in the nutrition claim and other nutrients labeled by the producer voluntarily• Unit of content should be expressed in "per 100g or grams per serving" for solid/ semi solid food ("per 100ml or ml per serving for liquid food).• If the value is expressed on a per serving basis, the number of servings contained in each package of the product shall also be specified• The unit of content of energy expressed in kcal; protein, fat and carbohydrate in gram; sodium and other nutrients in milligram or micrograms as appropriate• Each nutrient may further be expressed in % of Daily Value of Nutrient Intake (Daily Value of Nutrient Intake are available in the Regulation on Nutrition Labeling for Packaged Food - http://food.doh.gov.tw/english/Acts_Regulations/Foodsafety.asp)

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :5/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please refer to the Regulation for rules of rounding-off for nutrients to be expressed in the Nutritional Panel and example of approved format
GM food products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food products containing ingredient of genetically modified soybean or corn which is more than 5% by weight of finished product shall be labeled with the words "Genetically Modified" (GM) or "Containing Genetically Modified".• Food products made of non-GM soybean or corn may be labeled with the words "Non-GM" or "Not GM".• Non-GM soybean or corn adventitiously or accidentally commingled with less than five percent (5%) of GM varieties during harvesting, storage, transporting, or other reasonable causes, still may be taken as Non-GM.• Exemption from GM Labelling: Soy sauce, soybean oil (salad oil), corn oil, corn syrup, and corn starch etc. made of GM soybean or corn• Please refer to Labeling Requirements for Food Containing Ingredient of Genetically Modified Soybean or Genetically Modified Corn available at http://www.doh.gov.tw/EN2006/DM/DM1.aspx?now_fod_list_no=6111&class_no=248&level_no=1
Other Information	Remarks
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fresh produce is randomly inspected for pesticide residues by BSMI and the accompanying Phytosanitary Certificate is checked lot-by-lot by BAPHIQ for completeness and accuracy.• Border inspection of meat products consists of a visual inspection of the product by BAPHIQ, a random test for animal drugs and pesticide residues by BSMI, and a thorough check of the accompanying Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness for accuracy and completeness by BAPHIQ.• The Regulation of Inspection of Food Imports is available at http://food.doh.gov.tw/foodnew/MenuThird.aspx?LanguageType=2&SecondMenuID=5&ThirdMenuID=282 .
Packaging and container requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No legal requirements stipulating packaging materials or sizes to be used• The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA - http://www.epa.gov.tw) is the statutory body responsible for the removal, disposal and recycling of waste, including packaging or containers for food products.• "Regulation on Excessive Packaging Restriction" designates manufacturers, importers, or vendors or sellers to be responsible for the reduction of the use of excessive

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :6/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<p>packaging of certain products, e.g. processed food gift boxes. The regulation, in English, can be retrieved at the EPA website at: http://law.epa.gov.tw/en/laws/648849199.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to Article 15 of the Waste Disposal Act, manufacturers or importers shall be responsible for the recycling, disposal and removal of an article, or its package or container, which is likely to cause serious pollution to the environment after consumption or use.• "Quarantine Requirements for Wood Packaging Materials Used in Imported Commodity", is loosely pegged to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 guidelines, and can be retrieved from COA's Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine (BAPHIQ) website at: http://www.baphiq.gov.tw/public/Data/861817121771.pdf
Food Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imported processed food products that contain artificial food additives are subject to strict tolerance levels and acceptable use requirements as prescribed by Taiwan's DOH.• The DOH has a useful website with additives listed in 17 categories: http://food.doh.gov.tw/foodnew/MenuThird.aspx?LanguageType=2&SecondMenuID=5&ThirdMenuID=183)• Foreign suppliers or their Taiwan importers may submit a formal application to the DOH for approval of new-to-Taiwan food additives.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The DOH requires: (1) animal safety test data; (2) international acceptability of the proposed food ingredients; (3) an evaluation report stating that the ingredients are necessary to manufacture the product; (4) a description of the analysis method; and (5) product specifications.- The DOH will then evaluate the acceptability of these ingredients and make a formal determination within four to six months.
Alcoholic beverages containing over 0.5% of alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated by Ministry of Finance's "Hygiene Standards for Alcohol Products"• The following additives in alcoholic beverages shall be in compliance with the regulations as specified:• 1. Preservatives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) The sorbic acid residue in each liter of alcoholic beverages brewed from fermented fruits shall not exceed 0.2g.(2) The benzoic acid residue in each liter of alcoholic beverages having an alcohol content of 15% or less shall not exceed 0.4g.• 2. Coloring Materials: The residue of lutein in each liter of an alcoholic beverage shall

DOCUMENT REFERENCE

Code :TWN1000

Date :08/06/10

Page :7/7

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	not exceed 10 mg. <ul style="list-style-type: none">3. Other additives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) The sulphur dioxide residue in each liter of alcoholic beverages brewed from fermented fruits shall not exceed 0.4g.(2) The sulphur dioxide residue in every liter of beer and beverages brewed from grains shall not exceed 0.03g.(3) Other alcoholic beverages for consumption purpose shall not contain any sulphur dioxide.
Pesticide and other contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DOH is responsible for establishing and promulgating Taiwan's own maximum residue limits (MRLs), which are different from Codex.Pesticides without a Taiwan MRL are subject to a non-detectable (ND) or zero tolerance standard.Taiwan's Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Foods can be retrieved from: http://food.doh.gov.tw/foodnew/MenuThird.aspx?LanguageType=2&SecondMenuID=5&ThirdMenuID=275Taiwan's pesticide residue levels in livestock and poultry meat can be retrieved from: http://food.doh.gov.tw/foodnew/MenuThird.aspx?LanguageType=2&SecondMenuID=5&ThirdMenuID=211The list of veterinary drug residue levels in foods can be retrieved from: http://food.doh.gov.tw/foodnew/MenuThird.aspx?LanguageType=2&SecondMenuID=5&ThirdMenuID=269

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report

Website of Department of Health, Taiwan (<http://www.doh.gov.tw/>)

Taiwan's Laws & Regulations on Food-related Biotechnology

http://www.doh.gov.tw/EN2006/DM/DM1.aspx?now_fod_list_no=6111&class_no=248&level_no=1)**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.**