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GAIN Report

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Jordan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report covers updates to Jordan's food and agricultural import regulations and standards.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix) :

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology (JISM), Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), Customs Authority (CA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Powder Milk a. For direct consumption –no import license required	Country of origin certificate (COOC)	U.S. Government or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, and Risk control	CA, MoA
	Sanitary and Phyto- Sanitary (SPS) Veterinary Animal Health Certificate (VAHC)	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Human Health	JFDA
	Fitness for Human Consumption Certificate (FHCC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA
	Product Validity for Consumption in the Country of Origin (PVCCOOC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA
Powder Milk b. For industrial use	Same requirements as listed above. Except an advanced import license <u>is required</u> from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).			
Flavored Milk	COOC, VAHC, FHCC, PVCCOOC, Approved flavor and/or coloring material.	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA, CA
Bovine Meat	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of <i>Commerce</i>	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases- food safety	MOA

	<i>Halal</i> certificate (HC)	Supplier/Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection	MOA
Processed meat	COOC	US Government or Chamber of commerce	Customs valuation, health, and risk control	MOA, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases & food safety	MOA
	HC	Supplier/Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection	MOA
Poultry meat	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Customs valuation, health, and risk control	CA
	HC	Supplier/Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA
	VAHC	FSIS		MOA
		Chicken leg quarters are limited to 2.5 Kg or less package, or approve that CLQs are imported for processing not direct consumption		MOA (ORESTES VASQUEZ: Does the language have to be on the FSIS certificate? If not, no need to include it.)
Pisces (Fish and sea fruits) Frozen and or Processed	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Customs valuation, health, and risk control	CA
	VAHC	Department of Commerce	Health, risk control	MoA

Cheese	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	CA
	SPS-Sanitary Certificate for Exports	USDA AMS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases. Food safety	MOA, JFDA
	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-only first time	Accredited by FDA, USDA-APHIS	Food quality	JFDA
Honey	COOC	US Government or Chamber of Commerce	Customs valuation, health, and risk control	CA
	Residues Free Certificate	FDA, USDA APHIS	Food safety	MOA, JFDA
Fresh fruits and Vegetables	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Customs valuation, health, and risk control	CA
	Quarantine Pest Free Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Certificate (SPS)	USDA-APHIS	Plant health	MOA

These requirements are for consignments coming directly from the United States to Jordan, or transshipped in a sealed container with invoices stating clearly that the final destination is Jordan. If the consignment is destined to a third country and /or the container has been unsealed in a third country then more requirements are needed that might include, but not limited, to the requirements of the third country.

The Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology Organization (JISMO) has limited its mandate to issue the regulation and forward the rest to JFDA. (ORESTES VASQUEZ: Not clear what this means, "forward the rest")

JISMO has amended the standard for Salmonella in bovine and poultry meat, if salmonella is present, an automatic specialized re-testing for pathogenic strains is conducted, should any strain be found, the consignment tested shall be rejected or destroyed at the expense of the importer.

In 2013, a new standard for fish contamination was adopted, outlining the maximum limits of

infestation and foreign materials presence in fish. Suppliers and their importers must read carefully the new standards in order to comply with the standard, as any violations would lead to rejections.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

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According to Article 31 of the Customs Law of 1998 and its amendments, every customs declaration form must include the following:

- A maritime or air bill of lading.
- Commercial invoice indicating value, weight, freight and insurance charges . All invoices should be notarized by the Jordanian diplomatic mission in the country of origin.
- In cases where a Jordanian consulate is not available, certification by the local chamber of commerce is sufficient, subject to the approval of the customs department director .
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority in the exporter's local area.
- Value declaration form for shipments exceeding JD 2,000 (USD 2,820).

The Customs department may request other documents related to the shipment as needed. All unprocessed agricultural products are by law under the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), while processed food is under the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA).

A USDA FSIS certificate is necessary for meat products including poultry products (i.e. veterinary and sanitary certificate). All animal origin meat should be accompanied with a Halal certificate to indicate that the slaughter process went according to Islamic traditions. This general requirement is to satisfy religious requirements of the Government of Jordan.

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

All food consignments received at Jordan's border points for clearance shall be accompanied with relevant documents as follows:

Raw plant material food shall be accompanied with:

- A USDA APHIS sanitary and phytosanitary certificate.
- A vessel inspection certificate for the preparedness and ability to transport cereals.

Vegetable oils shall be accompanied with:

- A certificate of preparedness to haul edible oils.
- A certificate declaring the type of metal used in the tank's lining.
- A certificate declaring the type of paint used for lining.

- A certificate with a list of materials carried by the vessel in its last three trips prior to the current one.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) requires prior approval of the condition of the product to ensure that animal and animal products meet local health standards issued by JISMO. Importation of rice, sugar, and wheat derivatives meet no restrictions, however, the private sector may import these items into Jordan if the products meets local quality standards. Alcoholic beverages may be imported into Jordan, but high tariffs are applied as a revenue source for the government.

Before importing meats, fruits, fish and vegetables, it's advisable to obtain an import license issued by the relevant authority. In this case, the Ministry of Agriculture issues an import license ,indicating the time validity of the license, which is usually three months unless otherwise stated.

For transit shipments to a third country, the license's validity is usually two months except for chilled meat, which is valid for one month.

The original certificate does not need to accompany the product at the time of entry, instead a photocopy or fax copy is considered sufficient, especially with perishables like meat and fruits consignments. The customs authority releases the consignment under bail, or any acceptable forms of security, until the original certificate has been submitted,

The importer can import his shipment to Jordan on multiple basis using the same import license until the license's expiration date or the quantity is fulfilled.

Jordan customs authority accepts U.S. state-issued export certificates, it also accepts suppliers' or manufacturers' export declarations as proof of compliance, but retain the right to investigate without a need to justify. Whenever there is suspicion of any U.S. issued certificate, GOJ authorities pass it to the U.S. Embassy in Amman for consultation with U.S. Government authorities about the authenticity of the certificate. In case that a certificate is found fraudulent, the whole shipment will be rejected.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Jordan Customs developed and launched the Customs Integrated Tariff System (CITS) in August 2005 to assist importers. Web site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Importers can use this system to monitor commodity tariffs, import requirements, and commodity trade agreements. **The CITS system enables importers to review all regulations and requirements of the commodity or product being traded.** All CITS system information is available in Arabic and English.

All imported foods should conform to the Jordanian standards issued by JISMO, and may be imported by the private sector, if they s meet JISMO quality standards, which are set on the basis of the *Codex Alimentarius* (<http://www.codexalimentarius.net>, www.jism.gov.jo). In 2003, JISMO instituted a pre-shipment inspection program, which is voluntary for food importers. Import licenses are not required for most imported goods. Some products require prior approval from either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Agricultural products for which prior approval is required from the Ministry of Agriculture are live animals, fresh, chilled and frozen meat, and frozen animal semen.

Any imported agricultural commodity or food product may be inspected and tested to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. Virtually all prepared and mixed foods are tested at the border.

The JFDA has the authority to inspect food products at the retail and wholesale distribution levels. A representative may enter any establishment and collect samples for testing. If a product fails to meet technical requirements or is found unfit for human consumption, it is removed from all distribution channels and destroyed.

Food additives are regulated by JISM and JFDA. In general, permissible additives and their concentrations are those approved by the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission. However, the technical standards for foods containing specific lists for food additive and their permissible levels of use (ORESTES VASQUEZ: What does this mean?) . These standards should be consulted to make sure that additives are permitted.

Labeling requirements are set by JISMO. Legal requirements for labeling are fairly standard although a statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required (ORESTES VASQUEZ: Is it required or not? If it is not required then get rid of the sentence or get rid of of "although" and substitute by "and") . All labels must either be in Arabic or have a stick-on label in Arabic. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer's name and address, net weight, fortifying matter (i.e. vitamins and minerals to powder milk), lot number , and "use before" or "best before" date. Local labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs). Nutritional labeling is mandatory in certain categories of food including infant formula, food for dietary use.. Web-site: www.jismo.gov.jo

Author Defined:

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APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Jordan Food & Drug Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 4612663

Fax: (962-6) 4612663

Web-site: www.jfda.jo

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/5663774

Fax: (962-6) 560-4691

Web-site: www.mit.gov.jo

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate

OR

Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 5686151

Fax: (962-6) 5686310

Web-site: www.moa.gov.jo

Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology

Tel: (962-6) 5680139

Fax: (962-6) 5681099

Web-site: www.jismo.gov.jo

Jordan Customs Department
P.O.Box 90, Amman, Jordan
Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6
Fax: (962-6) 464-7791
E-mail: Customs@Customs.gov.jo
Web-site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Ministry of Environment
Tel: + (962-6) 5560113
Fax: + (962-6) 5560288
Web-site: <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/>

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
P.O.Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan
Tel: + (962-6) 3 203 5757/8
Fax: + (962-6) 3 203 0912
Web-site: <http://www.aqabazone.com/>

For further help, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, PO Box 354, Amman, Jordan, Phone: (962-6) 5906056, Fax: (962-6) 5920146, E-Mail: Mohamed.khraishy@usda.gov