

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Argentina

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides overall information on regulations and standards for importing U.S. food and beverages into Argentina. However, Post recommends U.S. suppliers interested in the Argentine market to contact local importers to find out about specific rules and regulations that may apply to particular products. Currently, Argentina has limited potential for imports of agricultural products, and unexpected changes in import procedures may require additional efforts to ensure that export operations are feasible.

ARGENTINA: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (FAIRS)

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Section I. Food Laws:

The Argentine Food Code (*Código Alimentario Argentino – CAA*, in Spanish) is the technical rule created by Law #18284, which was passed in 1969 and put into force by Decree #2126 in 1971. It regulates locally produced and imported food products. The main goal of CAA is to protect public health and the good faith in commercial transactions of food products within the national territory of Argentina.

CAA incorporates standards agreed upon within the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) framework, which in turn are influenced by standards from the: 1) European Union (EU); 2) Codex Alimentarius (Codex); and 3) U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). CAA is constantly being updated by joint resolutions from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

<http://64.76.123.199/alimentosargentinos/contenido/marco/marco2.php> (CAA Regulatory Framework)

Decree #815/1999 is a fundamental standard that set the basis for the creation of the National Food Inspection System (*Sistema Nacional de Control de los Alimentos – SNCA*, in Spanish). The SNCA guarantees the enforcement of CAA. In addition, Decree #815 established the creation of the National Food Commission (CONAL, in Spanish), which is an advisory body that provides support and monitoring to SNCA. The members of SNCA and CONAL belong to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. Food regulatory agencies at the provincial level are invited to participate in CONAL. CONAL's Secretariat is located at the Ministry of Health headquarters. Also, the Advisory Committee to CONAL is composed by members of the industry and consumer organizations.

There are three government agencies that have the authority to enforce CAA standards in Argentina:

A. Within the Ministry of Agriculture

- **SENASA** - *Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria, in Spanish – National Service of Agricultural and Food Safety and Quality, which covers food products under Annexes I and II of Decree #815, including fresh, chilled, frozen, and thermo-processed products and by-products of animal, plant and seafood origin. It also covers mixed (with animal and/or vegetable-origin content) canned products containing over 60 percent of animal origin ingredients, and food preparations containing over 80 percent of animal origin ingredients.*
- **INV** - *Instituto Nacional de Vitivinicultura, in Spanish – National Wine Institute, which exerts control over wine and wine products during their production, manufacturing, and marketing stages.*

B. Within the Ministry of Health

- **INAL** - *Instituto Nacional de Alimentos, in Spanish – National Food Institute, which is an agency under the National Administration of Drugs, Food, and Drug Technology (ANMAT – Administracion Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnologia Médica, in Spanish), that regulates consumer-ready food products, health supplements, and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, with the exception of*

wine.

Sometimes, SENASA and INAL have overlapping responsibilities. Thus, FAS recommends that exporters rely on their local importers to get their products registered with the appropriate organization.

Decree #1812/1992 supplements Decree #2092/1991. It regulates all imported food and beverage products (both manufactured domestically and imported), except wine. The main articles of the decree state the following:

- Articles 2 and 3 state that sanitary and phytosanitary controls on imports of animal and vegetable origin not for retail sale will be carried out by SENASA prior to Customs release.
- Articles 5 and 6 state that consumer-ready food products that have proven stability and were registered in the CAA will be tested and inspected by INAL only after Customs has released them to the domestic market. Once the importer has proved to INAL, at the time of registering the product, that the product has been manufactured, packaged, and transported in accordance with Argentine sanitary regulations, INAL will issue a certificate of stability authorizing the shipment release from Customs without the need of inspection.
- Article 7 states that either when the importer of a consumer-ready product is unable to show the certificate of stability, or when the food product has suffered evident damage, INAL has the right to inspect and test the shipment before it is released from Customs.
- Article 8 states that, when there are justified reasons to presume risk for human, animal or plant health because of the introduction of food products to the country, any of the three above-mentioned agencies (SENASA, INAL, and INV) has the right to perform inspections to the shipments prior to product entry into Argentina provided that the importer is informed about this procedure.
- Article 10 states that, for all those food products that require previous inspection, the competent sanitary authority (CSA, in Spanish - i.e. SENASA, INAL, and/or INV) has up to 30 days to issue the free sale certificate.
- Article 11 states that Customs will release the consumer-ready food products that have a stability certificate. In the case of those products requiring a previous inspection, Customs will need authorization from the CSA in order to release the shipment.
- Article 12 states that, if CSA does not authorize the shipment release, Customs may allow the importer to transport the shipment to his/her warehouse. In that case, the product cannot be marketed until the appropriate certificates are submitted to Customs.
- Article 13 states that a random sample from every shipment will be taken by a Customs official before releasing the shipment from Customs.
- Article 14 states that, when the importer does not submit the authorization from CSA in the term

established as per Article 10 of this Decree (30 days) due to his own fault, Customs and CSA will destroy or re-export the shipment and the importer will be liable to a fine, expenses and penal charges resulting from these procedures.

- Article 18 states that, in the case of imported consumer-ready foods, it is considered that CAA requirements are met when products come from the following countries/regions: Australia, Austria, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, U.S., Japan, Norway, New Zealand, EU, Sweden, and countries with specific food safety agreements with Argentina. In all of these cases, the food products must have been manufactured under the same controls as those products destined for human consumption in the domestic market of the country of origin.

As per Resolution #876/1997, consumer-ready food products from Mercosur countries do not need to go through the registration process, except for certain specific products. An importer purchasing food products in Mercosur countries must submit a sworn declaration with the following attachments: free circulation/fit for human consumption certificate, issued by the sanitary/food safety authority of the country of origin; numeric identification (if applicable); original labels; lot number/s; total weight; and, in those cases when the exporter is not the manufacturer of the food product being imported, a certificate signed by the manufacturer stating that he/she is aware of the export operation to Argentina.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

Section II. Labeling Requirements

A. General Requirements

Products imported through SENASA (fresh, chilled, frozen and thermo-processed products and by-products of animal, plant and seafood origin): A label must be affixed to the packaging of imported products in the country of origin. It must include the following information in Spanish:

1. Importer's name and address
2. Country of origin
3. Establishment of origin (official number, and name and address)
4. Ingredient declaration
5. Temperature range for maintenance requirements
6. Minimum durability
7. Nutritional information

Products imported through INAL (consumer-ready foods, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, except wine): Imported processed foods from the U.S. can come in their original package. There is no need to translate the labels. The only special requirement is a sticker label affixed to the retail package (no matter the size/volume) containing the following data in Spanish:

1. Name (approved by INAL) and brand of the product
2. Identification of origin
3. Composition: ingredients in decreasing order of weight, and additives at the bottom of the list
4. Net weight or measure
5. Lot number
6. Expiration date
7. Manufacturer's name and address

8. Importer's name and address
9. Importer's National Register of Establishment number (RNE)
10. National Register of Food Product number (RNPA) (Not mandatory but recommended for marketing purposes)
11. Storage, preparation and usage instructions when required
12. Nutritional information

Date Marking Information

- Definitions of the dates defined for labeling in CAA: the date must be declared through any of the following terms:
 - "best before ..."
 - "valid up to ..."
 - "validity ..."
 - "val ..." (short form of *validez*, in Spanish)
 - "is due ..."
 - "expiration"
 - "vto" (short form of *vencimiento*, in Spanish)
 - "venc" (short form of *vencimiento*, in Spanish)
 - "preferably best before ..."
- Dates are to be used on all products except for:
 - fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes which have not been peeled, cut, or treated in a similar way;
 - wines, liqueurs, sparkling wines, flavored wines, fruit wines, and sparkling fruit wines;
 - alcoholic beverages that contain 10 percent or more of alcohol;
 - bakery and pastry products which, by the nature of their content, are usually consumed within 24 hours after they were manufactured;
 - vinegar;
 - solid sugar;
 - confectionery products which consist of flavored or colored sugars, such as candy;
 - chewing gum;
 - food quality salt (it does not apply to enriched salts);
 - food products which have been exempted by specific MERCOSUR Technical Regulations.

Products imported through INV (wine): A sticker label should be affixed to each imported bottle of wine, containing the following information in Spanish:

1. Brand
2. Legal identification of the product (wine)
3. Alcoholic grade
4. Net content
5. Country of origin
6. Sugar content (if more than 6 milligrams per liter of sugar)
7. Importer's name, address and INV registration number
8. Other components other than wine
9. Warning statements ("Beber con moderación" - "Prohibida su venta a menores de 18 años")
10. Acronym and analysis number (provided by INV once the product was analyzed and approved for free

sale)

All mandatory statements must be printed on labels with legible fonts and clear colors, and their contrast must be easily identified by consumers. The legal identification of the product, alcoholic grade, net content, and country of origin must be printed in more than one label only if they are in the field of vision and cannot be read without having to turn the bottle around.

Organic Products

According to Decree #206/2001, imported products labeled as "organic" must come from a country whose organic standards have been approved by SENASA as equivalent to the Argentine regulations on organic production. Otherwise, they must be certified by any of the Argentine certifying agencies approved by SENASA prior to export.

Biotech Products

There are no labeling requirements for biotech foods in Argentina. Argentina does not have a national regulatory labeling system for biotech foods, and none is likely in the near term. Most Argentine legislators believe that the national interest is not served by mandatory labeling legislation.

B. Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling:

A nutritional fact panel is required in Argentina for imported and domestic food products. Joint Resolution 40/2004-SPRRS and 298/2004-SAGPyA (Article 235 Fifth of CAA) regulates nutrient content claims according to the following term equivalence:

Absolute Nutrient Content and/or Energy Value:

Light, lite, low

Very low

... Free, No..., Without ..., Zero ...

No ... added

High..., Rich...

Source...

Comparative Nutrient Content

Light..., Lite ..., Reduced ..., Less than ...

Increased ..., More than ...

In 2011, evaluation and labeling of prebiotics and probiotics were included in CAA by Joint Resolutions 229/2011 and 731/2011 (SAGyP), and 261/2011 and 22/2011 (SAGyP), respectively.

By Joint Resolution #57/10-#548/10, in Chapter 5, Article 235 was added to CAA on October 6, 2010, and will enter into force once CONAL reviews it and makes recommendations for its implementation. As of January 13, 2014, this has not been done. This resolution regulates all allergenic substances and others that are capable to produce adverse reactions in susceptible people which are listed below must be declared following the list of ingredients on the label if they or some of their byproducts (traces) are present in the food as ingredients or as part of the ingredients:

1. Cereals with gluten
2. Crustaceans and products
3. Table egg and products

4. Fish and products
5. Peanuts and products
6. Soybeans and products
7. Milk and products
8. Nuts
9. Sulfur Dioxide and Sulfites
10. Tartrazine

This information must be presented in contrasting colors to allow visibility and with the following legend:

“Contains ...” followed by the name of the substance and/or “Traces of ...” according to the list above.

Statements/warnings/legends suggesting that the food product may contain a possible allergenic substance are not allowed.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

Overall, Argentina does not officially have any special packaging or container size requirements or preferences, with the exception of certain products such as salt. It is a marketing issue that the consumer determines what type of package/container size he/she prefers.

Although during the past couple of years the Government of the City of Buenos Aires has been working on creating awareness among the population on the importance of protecting the environment and getting involved in recycling waste, there are no official municipal waste disposal laws or product recycling regulations that affect imported food products in particular.

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Argentina uses a positive list of food additives. Article 2 of Decree #2092/1991 states the following:

"... all foods, condiments, beverages, or their raw material and food additives which are manufactured, fractioned, preserved, transported, sold, or exposed, must comply with CAA requirements. When one of those is imported, CAA requirements will be applied. The GOA also considers products from countries which have food controls comparable to those of Argentina, or when they use *Codex Alimentarius (FAO/OMS)* standards, to be in compliance with Argentine standards."

All additives used must be included in the Mercosur positive list of food additives. If the additive in question does not appear on that list, a presentation requesting its registration for use must be submitted to CONAL. This list varies by product and can be obtained from an importer.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

SENASA Resolution #256/2003 establishes the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for products that are traded in the country. The mechanism to set them is as follows: a chemical company that applies for a pesticide to be released in the Argentine market must carry out a two-year study in three different agro-ecological areas of Argentina. The sampling method to be used in these cases must be one that is approved by FAO. Argentina uses the Acceptable Daily Intake (Ingesta Diaria Admisible, in Spanish) suggested by Codex Alimentarius for the Latin American Region 14, as a reference. The required listed number is generally lower than the one suggested by Codex but higher than the one suggested by the EU. If SENASA is doubtful about the MRL established by the

research, they use the Codex number.

The current MRL list is the Annex of Resolution #256/2003. It can be accessed on the Internet at www.infoleg.gov.ar, and then by typing the number of the resolution on the search field.

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

Before the product is shipped, it must undergo a "pre-shipment inspection" in the country of origin, carried out by an international certification company appointed by the GOA. The GOA's objective is to compare the merchandise shipped with the price paid for it in order to avoid under-billing. These companies have offices in all major U.S. ports. (Note: This procedure only applies to the agricultural and food products included in the following HTS Chapters: 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 23).

Health supplements that contain certain ingredients should have a "warning" sign and specific language determined on a case-by-case basis. INAL regulates this requirement according to CAA standards. U.S. bar codes can remain on the package, and most retailers make use of them.

Enriched Flour: By Argentine Law #25630 and Decree #569/2003, all flour-based products must be manufactured with enriched flour, with the exception of diet products, flours destined for the manufacturing of products for the export market, flours for export, and organic flours (Law #25127). The required nutrients are as follows:

Nutrient	Quantity (mg/Kg)
Iron	30
Folic Acid	2.2
Thiamin (Vitamin B1)	6.3
Riboflavin (Vitamin B2)	1.3
Niacin	13.0

Labels must show the content of each nutrient and the legend "Enriched Flour Law #25630 - Harina Enriquecida Ley N° 25630, in Spanish" and state the quantities listed in the table above.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

Product samples with no commercial value (under US\$100) do not pay import duties. Regular mail should be used. Post recommends that exporters coordinate with importers/agents on this matter as a certificate of free circulation must be obtained from INAL for all samples.

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:

Argentina is a signatory but has not yet ratified the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Therefore, brands and trademarks must also be registered in Argentina to ensure brand property. Post recommends that any U.S. company that will launch products in the Argentine market should register them. For additional information on the cost for brand, trademark, patent, or industrial design

registration, you may search the following websites:

<http://www.inpi.gov.ar/index.php?Id=136&criteria=2>

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Products imported through SENASA (fresh, chilled, frozen, and thermo-processed products and by-products of animal and seafood origin): (SENASA Resolution #816/2002). An import permit is required to import products and by-products of animal origin into Argentina. The permit is obtained from SENASA and should be requested by an importer who has already been registered at SENASA, and who has registered the facility for export to Argentina. The application for the permit must state the following:

1. Type of product
2. Country of origin
3. Name of meat establishment
4. Official meat establishment number
5. Address of meat establishment
6. Monograph describing the manufacturing process of the product (endorsed/signed and sealed by the government of the country of origin)
7. Monograph on the packaging type listing the materials that will be used. In addition, the packaging must be approved by the appropriate official authority at the country of origin. The certificate should state that the packaging is approved to be in contact with edible products (this primarily applies to canned products)
8. Two copies of the original label of the product to be imported.

This permit includes the registration numbers of the importer and product. After the permit is granted and within five (5) days prior to arrival of the product at the Argentine port of entry, the importer must advise SENASA of the arrival of the shipment. During the following fifteen (15) days, the importation must be completed. Only with a strong justification can this time period be extended.

U.S. products and by-products of animal origin can only be imported from U.S. plants approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, and must be accompanied by an official health certificate. While SENASA accepts products from any FSIS/FDA-approved facility, it reserves the right to prior inspection and approval of the establishments of origin, when deemed necessary. All U.S. meat plants exporting products and by-products of animal origin to Argentina may be audited by SENASA.

On January 22, 2002, SENASA Resolution #117 was implemented. This resolution defines the methodology to be followed for risk assessment of importation of live animals, their reproductive material, and products and by-products of animal origin as related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) occurrence. In June 2006, the Secretariat of Agriculture of Argentina issued Resolution #315/2006, whose Article 1 states that Argentina will adopt OIE's Terrestrial Animal Code recommendations. However, Argentina still does not recognize the U.S. BSE status of negligible risk. Under those recommendations, Article 2.3.13.1, does not impose restrictions or conditions related to BSE on the following products: dairy products, bovine semen and embryos, hides and furs (except for the head), gelatin and collagen from hides and fur (except for the head), tallow, and bi-calcium

phosphate.

Processed meat products: The same data apply to processed products such as ham, sausages, canned products, etc. In this case, a full description of the product composition in Spanish is required (i.e. percentage of each of its major ingredients, approved by the official sanitary service).

Fresh, chilled, frozen, and thermo-processed pork meat: The United States does not have an agreed upon protocol with Argentina for the importation of these meats. However, a risk assessment is being carried out for the Argentine sanitary authorities to evaluate the U.S. sanitary status and manufacturing controls of pork meat and meat processing.

Dairy products: On December 16, 2010, Argentina published in the Official Bulletin Joint Resolution #137/2010 and #941/2010, which exempts fatty acid limits in milk, as follows:

Article 1 includes Article 155 tris, which states that "The content of fatty acid of industrial production in food products cannot exceed 2 percent over total fat content in vegetable oils and margarines destined for human consumption, and 5 percent over total fat content in other types of foods. These limits do not apply to fat of ruminants, including milk fat."

Products imported through SENASA (products of plant origin): In order to obtain a USDA phytosanitary Certificate required for all plant products entering into Argentina (which must be signed by an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/APHIS *official* inspector, i.e. a federal official and not a state official), the exporter will need to submit an import certificate (AFIDI) to APHIS. This AFIDI can only be obtained from SENASA by the importer in Argentina. The AFIDI will explain in detail all the necessary requirements needed before the product can be exported. Upon arrival in Argentina, SENASA will hold the product at the port of entry for inspection and to verify that it meets all the requirements stated in the AFIDI. SENASA will then issue an import certificate for Customs to release the product.

The AFIDI must state the following:

1. Name of product
2. Destination
3. Origin
4. Phytosanitary (health) certificates including additional declarations

(for specific information on this certificate, please contact the USDA/APHIS Regional Office in Brasilia, Brazil, as follows:

Dr. Conrad Estrada

APHIS Attaché

APHIS International Services, Brasilia, Brazil

Tel. + (55-61) 3312-7589

Conrad.Estrada@aphis.usda.gov

Also, with regard to plant materials, SENASA only accepts products from APHIS-approved facilities, and it reserves the right to prior inspection and approval of the establishments of origin by a SENASA official, when deemed necessary.

Products imported through INAL (processed foods, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, except wine):

Product and importer registration is required prior to importing a product into Argentina. The product must be registered by an importer who has already completed the registration process at INAL. If the product has no problems, its registration should be ready in less than thirty (30) days. The requirements to register imported processed foods are listed below:

A. A new importer must apply only once for a National Register of Establishment (RNE). The requirements are as follows:

1. Letter addressed to the Minister of Public Health
2. Registration form
3. Customs registration form
4. Tax Office (AFIP) registration form
5. Warehouse municipal authorization (cold chambers, for frozen products)
6. Declaration that the establishment meets Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
7. Approval of partnership of the company
8. Payment of fee

B. In order to register the product, the importer along with his RNE, must apply for a National Register of Food Product number (RNPA). The requirements are the following:

1. Letter addressed to the Minister of Public Health announcing intention to register the product
2. Application form
3. Flow chart and monograph of the product manufacturing process, its shelf-life, product specifications, shipping and storage requirements, quality controls, and packaging type
4. List of ingredients and additives
5. Original label and three extra copies
6. Supplementary label with the data stated under "Section II. Labeling Requirements"
7. Certificate of free sale and apt for human consumption issued by the sanitary authority of the country (or state) of origin, or guaranteed by the State Chamber of Commerce
8. Payment of fee

C. Once the RNPA has been issued and the product is in the port, the importer needs to obtain a Certificate of Free Circulation (*Certificado de Libre Circulación, in Spanish*) at INAL. The requirements are listed below:

1. Letter requesting a Certificate of Free Circulation for the product/s
2. Shipment information
3. Copy of the invoice
4. Bill of lading
5. Copy of the RNE
6. Copy of the RNPA + approved label
7. Manufacturing date and shelf life
8. Sanitary Certificate /Apt for Human Consumption Certificate (including lot #, invoice #, issued by CSA – electronic signature not accepted)
9. Certificate of aging (for alcoholic beverages, except for wine), issued by CSA

Once the importer has an RNPA for a given product, he does not need to apply for a new one every time that he imports that same product. However, he must request a Certificate of Free Circulation for each shipment. Since

April 2010, importers of consumer-ready products have reported delays in receiving Certificates of Free Circulation.

In the case of health supplements, items (A), (B), and (C) mentioned above also apply with slight differences. Instead of the RNE, importing establishments need to obtain from INAL a National Register of Establishment of Health Supplements number (RNESD). And instead of the RNPA, a National Register of Health Supplements number (RNSD) is needed. The requirements are as follows:

1. Request register authorization at INAL
2. Each presentation must be signed by the owner of the product, the local legal representative, and technical director of the local establishment
3. Certificate of Free Sale from the country of origin, issued by the national or state sanitary authority, stamped by the Argentine Consulate, or certified by The Hague Convention Apostille
4. Analysis of the product for verification that it complies with the CAA standards
5. The Argentine importer must have a technical director who will be responsible for: the genuine origin of the product, the legitimacy of the document, the shelf life of the product, the quality control of the shipment, the correct labeling, and the appropriate "warning" literature on each package or promotional material, when required.

Products imported through INV (wine):

1. The importer must be registered at INV.
2. An import permit must be issued by INV (form 1815-O. y M.)
3. The import permit must be accompanied by an analytical certificate issued by the appropriate official laboratory or officially-recognized enological laboratory of the country of origin. (The product must comply with the limits of analytical composition required by the INV for similar locally manufactured products.) However, exceptions are applied to wine products from countries that have signed a reciprocal agreement on enological practices to facilitate trade (signatory countries are: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, and the U.S.) – (Resolution No. C. 121/1993, modified by Resolution No. C. 36/2012)
4. After the Customs process is completed, the importer must submit an “Importation for Domestic Consumption Certificate” (form OM -1993 SIM)
5. A sticker must be affixed to each bottle (see Section II. Labeling Requirements).

Once the product arrives at the warehouse, the importer must request an analysis and shipment control by the INV. If the analysis is correct, INV issues a Certificate of Free Circulation. Then, the product is ready to be marketed.

The following is information that U.S. wineries must provide to the Argentine importer:

1. Certificate of Country of Origin
2. Certificate of Free Sale and Fit for Human Consumption
3. Certificate from the Wine Institute analysis of the product

Food Import Restrictions

On February 15, 2011 the Secretariat of Internal Trade issued Resolution #45/2011, which increased the number

of products to that will require a non-automatic import license from 400 to 600. This included a range of products from luxury cars to farm equipment. In addition, the GOA stepped up its controls on imports by requesting pre-approval for an import weeks before beginning the importation process. Other obstacles include the imposition of strict limits on foreign exchange transactions and restriction against the payment of dividends and repatriation of profits, more widespread usage of non-automatic import licenses, and difficulties in obtaining certificates of country-of-origin for products to be imported.

Preapproval – Before beginning the importation process, importers must submit their importation request to the Argentine tax authority (AFIP, in Spanish). The tax authority has 10 working days to comment on the request. If the GOA responds with requests for further information, it then has 10 more days to review it. After AFIP gives its approval, the importation request is then sent through the GOA interagency process for approval. Once approved (by the Secretariat of Internal Trade), an approval certificate is valid for 120 days, giving the company a tight window to complete the remaining steps in the import process.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA)

Avda. Paseo Colón 367, piso 5

1063 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: (54-11) 4121-5353

Fax: (54-11) 4121-5153

Instituto Nacional de Alimentos (INAL)

Estados Unidos 25

1101 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: (54-11) 4342-5674; 4340-0800 (ext. 3538)

Fax: (54-11) 4331-6418

Instituto Nacional de Vitivinicultura (INV)

San Martín 430

5500 Mendoza, Argentina

Tel: (54-261) 4496358; 4496359

Fax: (54-261) 4496306

En Buenos Aires:

Azopardo 1025, piso 7

Tel: (54-11) 4363-6090

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

Office Contact Information

Office of Agricultural Affairs

U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires

Avda. Colombia 4300

C1425GMN Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: (54-11) 5777-4627

Fax: (54-11) 5777-4216

agbuenosaires@fas.usda.gov

www.fas.usda.gov