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Tanzania

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report-Tanzania

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Report Highlights:

This report updates import requirements and regulations for food and agricultural products currently required by the Government of Tanzania. The report includes the regulations against which Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) evaluates U.S exports to Tanzania, labelling and packaging requirements and import procedures.

Section I: Food Laws.

In Tanzania the importation of food is governed by Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 2003 which established the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA). The TFDA controls importation of food, in order to ensure their safety, quality and effectiveness. Import Control of these products aims to achieve the following:-

- To guarantee quality and safety of food
- To encourage importers to source products from reputable suppliers.
- To meet concern by local manufacturers that substandard products subject them to unfair competition.
- To promote indigenous innovations.
- To prevent spreads of diseases and pests.

Section 5(l) of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2003 provides for requirement for compliance to standard of imported foods. Sections 36 – 38 restrict persons to carry on business of an importer if they are not registered as an importers and food they intend to import and provide for requirements for importation of foods.

Requirements for importation of food:

Applicants are granted import permits after complying with the following requirements:

- i. Registration of an importer and food products to be imported. This is done by filling the online forms available at <http://mis.tfda.or.tz/portal/en/online-registration-form>.
- ii. Application for importation by filling the online forms through TFDA imports and exports portal <http://mis.tfda.or.tz/portal/>.
- iii. Foods must be inspected and approved by the inspector at the port of entry before being released for distribution in the market.
- iv. Regular laboratory analysis of foods to check for compliance.
- v. Samples from suspect foods can be taken for laboratory analysis.
- vi. Shelf life of non-perishable foods should be more than six months by the time it arrives at the official port of entry.
- vii. Foods found non-complying at the port of entry shall be returned to the country of origin at the expense of the importer or can be destroyed at the expense of the importer.

Tanzania's food regulatory system is generally consistent with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international treaties including CODEX, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and International Plant protection Convention (IPPC).

The following are the main regulations against which TFDA evaluates U.S exports to Tanzania:

1. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Fortification) Regulations, 2011.
2. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Hygiene) Regulation, 2006
3. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Registration of Foods), 2011
4. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Marketing of Foods and Designated Products for Infants and Young Children), 2013
5. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Transport of Meat) Regulations, 2006

6. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Treatment and Disposal of unfit Food),2006

Other laws which evaluate U.S exports to Tanzania:

1. The Plant protection Act, 1997 arrangement of sections
2. The Plant Protection Regulations, 1998
3. The Plant Protection Act,1997 Regulations Schedules 1-16
4. The Cereal and other Produce Act,2009
5. The Seeds Act (No.1),2003
6. The Coffee Industry Act, 2001
7. The Crops Laws (miscellaneous amendments) Act, 2009
8. The Protection of New Plant Varieties (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act, 2002
9. The Cereals and other Produce Regulations, 2011
10. The Finance Act,2015
11. Value Added Tax (General) Regulations,2015
12. National Biotechnology Policy of 2010
13. National Environmental Policy of 1997
14. National Trade Policy of 2003
15. The Fisheries Act of 2003

Section II Labeling

In Tanzania regulation of food labelling is done by TFDA. The authority has the task to evaluate and register prepackaged foods before approval for distribution and marketing in the country. The evaluation includes assessment of labelling information to ensure that it complies with the specifications of the TFDA (Food Labelling Regulation), 2006 and the Codex standard 1-1985. According to the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Labelling Regulations), 2006 and the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex stan 1 -1985), the prepackaged food labelling should include name of the food, list of ingredients, net content, name and address of the manufacturer and country of origin. Other information includes the batch /lot identification, date markings (manufacture and expiry dates), Quantitative Ingredient Declarations (QUID), storage conditions, nutrition information (composition) and instructions for use. All these information are essential to help consumers in making choices of food depending on preference, dietary recommendations/restrictions and other reasons. The government of United Republic of Tanzania require and English and or/Kiswahili label on all consumer food products

Section III Packaging

The Tanzania Standard (TZS 538-1991) has defined packaging as an art and the operations involved in the operation of commodity; including food for packaging; handling, storage sale and delivery. In Tanzania the packaging technology considers the facts about the product nature and other characteristics, facts about the transport hazards, acts about market, and about packaging materials and forms, machinery. In Tanzania the major packaging materials acceptable for most Agricultural products are:

- Metal cans and metal ended composite containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Molded, rigid and semi rigid plastic containers
- Collapsible tubes made in both metal and plastic
- Folding and rigid paper board boxes and cartons
- Molded paper containers

- Flexible packaging
 - Papers
 - Films(Plastic films, including low density polythene and medium and high density polyethylene, polypropylene, cellulose(cellophane))
 - Foils (Aluminum)
 - Cloth or vegetable fibers (cotton, jute, linen, sisal and coconut) from any country

Section IV: Import Procedures

Import means goods and services brought to Tanzania from a foreign country. Import procedures have to be followed in order to clear goods from Customs control as per the East Africa Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA) 2004.

Imports to Tanzania are subjected to different stages whereby the importer is advised to make declaration through his appointed Clearing and Forwarding Agent by lodging documents at least seven days before arrival of the vessel.

Importation procedures:

- The importer is required to appoint a Licensed Clearing and Forwarding Agent (CFA) to clear goods
- [List of Clearing and Forwarding Agents](#)
- Documentation process is done online through Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) and can be completed before arrival of the goods
- Customs agents/importers are urged to complete a Declaration and self-assessment through Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) and attach along with other relevant import/ supporting documents at least 7 days prior to the arrival of the goods

Import documents include:

- Final Invoice
- Agent's Authorization Letter from the importer
- Import permits from TFDA, TBS etc.
- Exemption documents (If applicable)
- Packing List
- Transport documents i.e. Bill of Lading/Airway Bill/Road Consignment note

Note: TRA rejects illegible and incomplete with insufficient descriptions through Integrated Query System (IQS) which is available in TANCIS.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.tra.go.tz/index.php/import-procedure> and <http://www.tra.go.tz/index.php/pre-arrival-declaration>

Section V Other Certification and Testing Requirements

In Tanzania, all matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products are handled by the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA). To obtain a Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC), imported products must satisfy the Tanzanian import requirements as evaluated by TFDA; the FIRC provided by the Director General of the TFDA and it is valid for one year. A registered Food Importer shall be required to apply for Import permit by filling in prescribed forms as stipulated under Schedule III and Schedule IV for registrable and non-registrable foods respectively. Application for Import permit should be accompanied by the following documents:

- (a) Proforma invoice from the supplier
- (b) Certificate of analysis from manufacturer of the exporting country
- (c) Health certificate from competent regulatory body of the exporting country
- (d) Phytosanitary certificate (in case of importation of unprocessed cereal and plant origin products)
- (e) Radiation free certificate, where applicable
- (f) Zoo sanitary certificate in case non-processed foods of animal origin
- (g) Certificates from relevant bodies for specific food products (e.g. Sugar Board, Dairy Board)
- (h) Bill of lading/Airway bill
- (i) Certificate of origin
- (j) A copy of previous import permits which shows that the consignment was inspected at port of entry

Prior to application for importation of non-registrable products pre-shipment samples for analysis whose cost will be incurred by importer as prescribed in the Fees and Charges Regulations, 2011 shall be submitted. As elaborated in the link below;-

http://www.tfda.or.tz/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=38:fees-and-charges&Itemid=388

The Authority, upon receiving applications for import permit and other supporting documents:

- (a) Examine the applications to authenticate whether the applicant is registered as food importer
- (b) Examine the proforma invoice to ensure that the food and Food supplements intended to be imported are those granted marketing authorization (registered) by the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) Calculate the applicable and statutory fees of 0.75% FOB value of goods to be imported to be payable to the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority

(d) On completion of above scrutinization and if satisfied with the submitted data, the application shall be received and processed.

(e) After completion of the above process the applicant shall be issued with Import Permit

Once satisfied that all importation conditions of food consignment have been fulfilled as required in the Act, the Food inspector shall release the consignment and stamp all documents with an APPROVED FOR RELEASE stamp.

Where the consignment does not meet the requirements for importation, the inspector shall not release the consignment and stamp the documents with STOP RELEASE stamp.

Consignment which has not been physically inspected at port of entry shall be inspected at owner's premises after payment of fee as prescribed in Fees and charges Regulations, 2011.

Section VI: Copyright and/or Trademark Law

In Tanzania Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) aspects was introduced by colonial administration, and this was in 1922 through Chapter 217 of the Patent Legislation and the introduction of Trade Marks and 1924 through "Chapter 218 of the Copyright Legislation. After the independence there was no any significant change on the contents of IP legal system, however in 1966, the Copyright Ordinance Cap. 218 were repealed by Copyright Act No. 61 of 1966. The new Copyright Legislation was enacted in 1999. It is the current Copyright Legislation in force but it is poorly enforced. Exporters must be aware that IPR protection can be difficult-to-impossible.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) implemented a new product conformity assessment programme for the control of certain categories of imported goods. Goods covered under the programme imported into Tanzania require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC). TBS has appointed two inspection companies SGS and BUREAU VERITAS to conduct Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to standards programme. Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to standards programme started on 01 February 2012. The new PVoC contract began from 1st May, 2015. The objective of PVoC is to ensure that all imports of regulated products comply with the approved Tanzanian technical regulations, (i.e. Tanzanian or other approved international standards), prior to shipment. The Certificate of Conformity (CoC) issued by PVoC partners shall be provided for customs clearance. [http://www.tbs.go.tz/images/uploads/PVoC_HARMONISED_PROCEDURE_\(SUMMARISED\).pdf](http://www.tbs.go.tz/images/uploads/PVoC_HARMONISED_PROCEDURE_(SUMMARISED).pdf)

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

Ubungu Area, Morogoro Road / Sam Nujoma Road

P O Box 9524, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.

Tell: +255 22 245 0298 | +255 22 245 0206 | +255 22 245 0949

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Website: <http://www.tbs.go.tz>

Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)

Off Mandela Road, Mabibo - External,
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Tel +255 22 2450512 / 2450751 / 2452108
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Tel: +255-22-2127898/97,
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E-mail: ps@mit.go.tz
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Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

Permanent Secretary
Veterinary Complex,
131 Nelson Mandela Rd,
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Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)

Commissioner General
Samora Avenue
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Dar es Salaam
Website: www.tra.go.tz

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)

Director General
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