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Required Report - public distribution

Date: 12/16/2018

GAIN Report Number: JO18020

Jordan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Annual Country Report 2018

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Report Highlights:

This report outlines the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's regulatory requirements for food and agricultural product imports. This report updates the FAIRS Country Report 2017's Section VI - Other Specific Standards, Table 1 - New Standards and/or Regulations. The report also revises Section VIII - Other Regulations and Requirements (i.e., updates slaughterhouse registration, dairy products – ban on partially hydrogenated oils in processed dairy products, and preserved foods – ban on tartrazine as a coloring in pickled preparations). Import Procedures in Section IX are updated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I:	GENERAL FOOD LAWS	3
SECTION II:	FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS	4
SECTION III:	PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS	4
SECTION IV:	PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS	4
SECTION V:	LABELING REQUIREMENTS	4
SECTION VI:	OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS	5
SECTION VII:	FACILITY AND PRODUCT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	7
SECTION VIII:	OTHER REGULATIONS AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS	7
SECTION IX:	IMPORT PROCEDURES	8
SECTION X:	COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS	10
APPENDIX I:	GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS	13
APPENDIX II:	OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS	13

SECTION I: GENERAL FOOD LAWS

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its accession to the WTO (April 11, 2000) coincides with economic and legislative structural reforms, bringing it in line with international standards and requirements. Two laws govern Jordan's food control regime:

- The Agriculture Law No. 13 (2015).
- Jordan Food Law No. 30 (2015); this law supersedes the Jordan Food Control Law No. 32 (2003).

King Abdallah II and his Cabinet enacted Jordan Food Law No. 30 in May 2015 after its passing the upper and lower houses of Parliament of Jordan (parliament). It entered into force in June 2015. This law gives the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (Jordan FDA) regulatory control over food safety and food quality issues. The statute eases processed food imports, and eliminates multi-agency territorial disputes. The impact of the unification of the regulatory authority has been positive. Under the new food law, the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (Jordan FDA) drafts, updates and revises regulations.

According to Agriculture Law No. 13 (2015), the import of raw, unprocessed food items is subject to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) granting in advance import license approval. Prior import licensing approval ensures compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, as well as facilitates record keeping and statistical tracking. FAS Amman (Post) understands that import license approval is subject to denial to protect domestic producer interests.

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) is responsible for the development of standards and enforcing conformity with existing product standards. It delegates to the Jordan FDA product testing responsibilities for food and agricultural products. The former continues to retain however responsibility for the development of standards (including for food) and ensuring conformity with standards. The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization's responsibilities include the national metrology system; it also grants (voluntary) quality marks and accredits testing and calibration laboratories.

Exporters of U.S. products are strongly advised to review the standards of any item they intend to ship to Jordan. Importers can purchase printed standards from the JSMO for a nominal fee. The Jordan Food and Drug Administration and other government authorities have very low tolerance for food standard violations. Any consignment not meeting the official standard is subject to rejection; if so, it will require re-export or destruction at the importer's expense.

Jordanian drug and pharmaceutical product importers, including vaccines for human use, must comply with Ministry of Health (MOH) regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture however regulates the import of veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, pesticides, meat and meat products, animal feeds, and seedlings.

Food processing and processed foods are under the mandate of the Jordan FDA, whose role is stronger now under the new food law. Ministry of Agriculture officials do assert responsibility for food control, based on historical practices. Although food and or feed grains appear to fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan FDA has the final say. In the absence of a local standard, Jordan applies internationally recognized standards.

SECTION II: FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization and the Jordan FDA regulate food additives. The latter however is responsible for regulatory enforcement. Jordan maintains a list of approved additives; permissible concentration levels largely conform to *Codex Alimentarius* (Codex). Jordan refers to Codex Standard No. 192 for food additive issues. It will nonetheless refer to European Union (EU) regulations in the absence of a Codex standard. The United States is working with the Government of Jordan to adopt U.S. regulations whenever U.S. and EU standards differ.

SECTION III: PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

The Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) Pesticides Division regulates pesticides. Imported agricultural pesticides must conform to the United Nations (UN) – Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) specifications. Standards pertaining to pesticide use and human health must conform to [World Health Organization \(WHO\) standards](#). Jordan utilizes the Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC) handbook to analyze pesticides. Food safety laboratories receive samples that for pesticide residues and contaminants analysis. Labs follow the Association of Official Analytical Chemists analysis methodology and utilize the European Commission's EU Pesticide Database.

Jordan counts with one laboratory capable of testing for pesticide residues in fresh fruits and vegetables. The testing laboratory's turnaround time is two weeks, making it difficult to test perishables prior to consumption. Jordan is increasingly testing non-perishables. It requires that residue levels not exceed the [Codex](#) and or the European standard maximum residue levels (MRL). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan FDA to increase lab capabilities and improve testing methodologies.

SECTION IV: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS

The maximum package size for poultry parts is 2.5 kilograms (kg) for direct consumers. Post also finds that Jordan imposes a 2.0 kg maximum package weight limit on honey imports, to protect the local industry. The measure prevents bulk imports, and limits repackaging.

SECTION V: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Labeling Requirements: The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization sets labeling requirements, which are straightforward. A statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required. All labels must be in Arabic; alternatively, an Arabic language stick-on label is acceptable. The label at minimum must contain:

- Product name.
- The manufacturer's name and address.
- Net weight.
- Fortifying matter (e.g., added vitamins and minerals to powdered milk).
- Lot number and a "use before" or "best by" date.

Jordan's labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs) levels. Nutritional labeling nevertheless is mandatory for certain food categories (e.g., infant formula and food for dietary use). The "best before" standard replaced "shelf life" labeling.

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization will interpret "best before" as being the product's expiry date; the sale of no product is permissible beyond that date. Jordan will scrutinize product labels at border crossing points. Current legislation holds the importer accountable for a product's content as specified on the label. Jordanian officials will reject shipments due to labeling ambiguities and printing errors.

Nutritional Labeling Requirements: Mandatory for infant formula and dietary food.

SECTION VI: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization is the national standard setting body. It prepares, approves, revises, and amends mandatory and voluntary standards and monitors their application. It adopts and approves other countries, regional and international organizations' (Arabic or English language) standards. It also cooperates and coordinates standardization and metrology issues with regional and international institutions. The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization is also the Codex inquiry point. It is also a corresponding member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Organization for Legal Metrology (IOLM).

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization established in 2003 a voluntary pre-shipment inspection program for food and agricultural product imports. Jordan does not require import licenses for all food and agricultural products; however, the Ministry of Agriculture does require import licenses for beef, fruits, fish, and vegetables as well as for a number of other food and agricultural products (e.g., powdered milk).

Imported food and agriculture products are required to conform to the JSMO's Codex-based standards. Alcoholic beverage imports are permissible, but high duty tariffs (ranging from 50 to 200 percent) limit imports. On October 2017, the JSMO announced obtaining international accreditation for its laboratories (including food and agricultural products testing laboratories).

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization issued twenty new standards in 2018 (see table 1). The U.S. exporter is strongly encouraged to become familiar with standards that maybe related to his product. Jordanian standards have a nominal price of \$30 each (Jordanian dinar JOD 1.00 = U.S. dollar 1.41044).

Table 1: JORDAN, Standards and Regulations for Food and Agricultural Products, 2004-18

Standard Regulation	Year	Title	Status
1214	2018	Water – Bottled drinking water	Final Draft Jordanian Document
200	2018	Water - Natural Mineral water	Final Draft Jordanian Document
2197	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Pulses - Determination of glycosidic hydrocyanic acid	Published Document (JS)
2246	2018	Feedstuffs - Alfalfa hay used in feed	Committee Draft (CD)
472	2018	Infant and children foods – Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants	Final Draft Jordanian Document
2205-2	2018	Milk and milk products - Determination of nitrate and nitrite contents Part 2: Method using segmented flow analysis (Routine method)	Published Document (JS)
2229-3	2018	Photovoltaic system performance - Part 3: Energy evaluation method	Draft Jordanian Document (DJS)
203	2018	Canned evaporated milk - Determination of tin content - Method using graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
600	2018	Milk and milk products – Sterilized milk	Final Draft Jordanian Document
2194	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Coffee and coffee products - Determination of acrylamide - Methods using HPLC-MS/MS and GC-MS after derivatization	Published Document (JS)
2195-1	2018	Spices and condiments - Rapeseed - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography	Published Document (JS)
2210-1	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Starch and derived products - Heavy metals content Part 1: Determination of arsenic content by atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
2210-2	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Starch and derived products - Heavy metals content Part 2: Determination of mercury content by atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
2210-3	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Starch and derived products - Heavy metals content Part 3: Determination of lead content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization	Published Document (JS)
2210-4	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Starch and derived products - Heavy metals content Part 4: Determination of cadmium content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization	Published Document (JS)
2196-1	2018	Cereals, pulses and derived products - Oilseed residues - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography	Published Document (JS)
1474	2018	Label – Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims	Draft Jordanian Document (DJS)
2201	2018	Milk and milk products - Determination of lead content - Graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometric method	Published Document (JS)
1279	2018	Meat and meat products - Determination of nitrate content (Reference method)	Final Draft Jordanian Document
2178	2017	Fruits, vegetables and derived products – pomegranate	
2169	2017	Rotational molded polyethylene storage tanks for drinking water	
2167	2017	Fire extinguishers - throw type and automatic-thrown type water-based fire extinguishers	
1340	2017	Milk and milk products - cheese - determination of fat content - Van Gulik method	
1339	2017	Milk and milk products - cheese and processed cheese products - determination of citric acid content- Enzymatic method	
1214	2017	Water – bottled drinking water	
840	2017	Spices and condiments – grinded thyme mix	
600	2017	Milk and milk products – sterilized milk	
484	2017	Pesticides - labeling information on pesticides containers	
465	2017	Cereals, pulses and derived products – packed chickpeas with tahini	
200	2017	Water - natural mineral water	
94	2017	General standard for food additives	
77	2017	Drinks and juices – flavored drinks	
67	2017	Cereals, pulses and derived products – dried dough (pasta)	
94	2010	General standard for food additives	
67	2008	Cereals, pulses and derived products - dried pasta	
840	2007	Grinded thyme mix	
77	2004	Drinks and juices – flavored drink and its concentrates	

SECTION VII: FACILITY AND PRODUCT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A few specific products require registration prior to import to Jordan. Most notably, seeds for planting and products making special dietary claims require prior registration. Exporters are encouraged to work closely with Jordanian importers in fulfilling these requirements.

Exporters of dairy products are required to register their facilities with the Jordan FDA prior to shipment. This registration is a simple verification of the exporting firm's hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) certification. It requires that the Jordanian importer provide a copy of the exporter's HACCP certificate with a completed application to the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.

A new Ministry of Agriculture requirement implemented in 2017 requires that slaughterhouses to be registered with the corresponding national authority prior to export to Jordan. In the case of the United States, this is the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The registration is only required once per facility, though it is yet unclear for how long the registration remains valid.

Exporters are encouraged to contact the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture or FAS Amman for updates prior to shipment.

SECTION VIII: OTHER REGULATIONS AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

a) **Slaughterhouse Registration:** The Ministry of Agriculture requires that any slaughterhouse exporting to Jordan for the first time must register. The following documentation is required:

- Slaughterhouse license certificate from a federal government (i.e., USDA) or any local agency endorsed by the U.S. Embassy in Jordan.
- Registration code.
- Quality assurance certificate – International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22000 or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points (HACCP).
- Halal slaughter observance certificate issued by one of the state's Islamic committees or a nationally accredited Islamic association.

b) **Halal:** Jordanian authorities stipulate that all meat products are halal as defined by the Jordanian government. The Jordanian halal requirements include:

- That the slaughter of animals follow Islamic traditions in the presence of a Muslim male accredited by any Islamic association within that country.
- The product is free of pork products.
- The product is free from alcohol.
- A halal certificate must accompany all meat and products of animal-origin (excluding pork and pork products).
- The halal certificate must be issued/signed by an approved/licensed Islamic center.
- Each consignment requires a halal certificate (including the slaughter date).
- The halal logo needs to be on the production plant's original label.

- c) **Genetically Modified Organisms (genetically engineered):** Food items with a genetically engineered (GE) content/component label are not allowed entry. Trade to date however continues to flow. Jordan's Environment Law No. 6 (2017), through its eventual regulations, potentially may take a moderate and modern approach for addressing GE issues.
- d) **Radiation:** Jordan imposes a mandatory radiation level inspection on food from originating in countries reporting a radiation leak. For example, Japanese products required inspection following the Fukushima incident.
- e) **Dairy Products:** A 2016 standard banned the use of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in processed dairy products. Processed cheeses, or other products that replace milk fat with any other fat, must not use partially hydrogenated oils. Exporters are encouraged to mark clearly the oil used on any products that could potentially contain partially hydrogenated oils. New to market dairy products should expect an increased level of scrutiny by Jordanian customs officials.
- f) **Preserved Food:** The color tartrazine (E102) is no longer permissible in pickled preparations. This regulation is in line with EU and Codex standards, Category 4.2.2 and 4.2.2.3 respectively.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

Jordan maintains a three-tier inspection rate system for imported food products based on the product's health risk. A document review is mandatory regardless of the level of inspection.

- High-risk products, 80 to 100 percent inspection rate.
- Medium-risk products, 25 to 50 percent inspection rate.
- Low-risk products, 5 to 10 percent inspection rate.

Jordanian importers are required to ensure that imported food and agricultural products do not pose a potential threat to public health (i.e., must be free of microbial, parasite, and fungal contamination). At the same time, the Government of Jordan routinely tests inbound consignments for radiation levels and chemical contaminants, as well as for heavy metals, food additives, animal growth promotants (i.e., hormones), and veterinary drug residues. Jordan tests less frequently for pesticides residues. For cheese, if the facility is exporting for the first time, a certificate-of-free sale is required.

Tariffs: As part of its WTO accession agreement, Jordan set a reduced tariff rate ceiling of 0 to 30 percent for most imported products. For certain alcoholic beverages and products, it maintains tariff rates of 180 to 200 percent. Jordan maintains a 150 to 200 percent tariff rate for tobacco and tobacco products. Under the terms of the [U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\)](#), import duties and other trade barriers were phased out in 2010; the exception being alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

Jordan launched its [Customs Integrated Tariff System \(CITS\)](#) in August 2005. The system allows importers to access import requirements, as well as evaluate tariff and trade agreement information.

Customs Law No. 114 (2004): Jordanian and foreign trading companies must obtain an importer card from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) for customs clearance purposes. Foreign companies not domiciled in Jordan are exempt from this requirement. Bonded goods, temporary imports, and imports entering under the provisions of [Jordan's Investment Promotion Law](#) do not require import licenses. Banks and other non-trading entities such as hospitals, hotels, and Jordanian ministries must obtain a more limited MIT importer card that authorizes the import of goods specific to the entity's activities.

Export-Import Documentation: [Jordan's Customs Law](#) (1998), [article 31 and amendments](#) establishes that all customs declarations must include the following (note: Jordanian customs reserves the right to request additional documentation):

- A maritime or airway bill of lading.
- A commercial invoice indicating the value, weight, and freight and insurance charges. All invoices require Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval. In the absence of Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval, Jordan's Customs Director is empowered to accept the country of export's chamber of commerce certification.
- Commercial invoices are required to describe the product in Arabic.
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the competent authority in the export country.
- A value declaration form for shipments exceeding Jordan dinar (JOD) 2,000.

Customs Valuation: [Jordan's Custom Law](#) (1998) includes WTO-compliant criteria for customs valuation, based on certified commercial invoices. Increased transparency restricts the recourse to arbitrary valuation, but does favor undervaluation.

Customs utilizes cost-insurance-freight (CIF) prices for valuation purposes. Jordan converts commercial invoice values into Jordanian dinars at the official rate. In some cases, Jordan's Customs will factor into its valuation calculations exporter discounts. Imported products, as well as locally produced goods are subject to a 16 percent value-added tax (VAT).

Imported products are subject to a VAT based on the CIF value. Agricultural and pharmaceutical products are exempt from the 16 percent sales tax. Jordan's general Sales tax Department levies a special sales tax on specific items such as tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. These are subject to a 13 percent general sales tax in addition to the special sales tax. Non-basic foodstuffs are subject to a 4 percent general sales tax.

Special Import Provisions: Pre-import clearance is required for certain commodities. The clearance, once obtained, acts as an import license. The Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and Health all issue import licenses. The appeal of rejected shipments is permissible.

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for issuing pre-import clearances for live animals, for fresh\chilled\ frozen beef and beef products, as well as for embalmed wild animals, frozen animal

semen, and milk products. The Ministry of Industry and Trade oversees the issuing of pre-import clearances for barley, rice, wheat, flour, sugar, and corn. The Ministry of Health issues pre-import clearances for medications and antibiotics, athletic food supplements, as well as for potassium bromide, food dyes, ice cream, and baby food.

Inspection and Clearance: Jordan maintains the ASYCUDA computerized customs clearance system. This platform simplifies customs clearance procedures. The [Ministry of Agriculture](#) along with the [Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) and the [Jordan Customs Authority](#) form the border committee that inspects inbound food and agricultural product shipments.

SECTION X: COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS

Jordan’s legal system protects the acquisition and disposition of intellectual property rights. Prior to its WTO accession, Jordan passed a series of laws strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights for patents, copyrights, and trademarks. Jordan in the past has enforced foreign copyrights and trademarks despite it not requiring prior registration.

Jordan’s Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) consistent legislation requires the registration of patents, copyrights, and trademarks. The Ministry of Industry and Trade\Registrar of Patents and Trademarks registers patents and trademarks. The Ministry of Culture’s National Library registers copyrights.

Jordan is seeking to become a contracting state to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement (registration of marks). It is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

Law No. 20 of 1998 on Customs

Year of Version:	1998
Date of Entry into Force:	January 1, 1999
Date of Text (Enacted):	1998
Type of Text:	IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature
Subject Matter:	Copyright and Related Rights (Neighboring Rights), Enforcement of IP and Related Laws, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs, Industrial Property, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Patents (Inventions), Trademarks, Undisclosed Information (Trade Secrets).
Notes:	Article 41 of this law, prohibits the entry of imported goods that infringe rights of intellectual property, was repealed and replaced by Article 13 of the Law Amending the Customs Law No. 16.

Law No. 10 of 1999 Amending the Customs Law

Year of Version:	1999
Date of Entry into Force:	January 1, 1999
Date of Text (Enacted):	March 9, 1999
Type of Text:	IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature
Subject Matter:	Enforcement of IP and Related Laws
Notes:	<p>Article 1 provides that the Act should be read in conjunction with the original Act No. 20 of 1998 and shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the original law 01/01/1999. Published in the Official Gazette No. 4338 on 01/04/1999.</p> <p>This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.</p>

Law No. 27 of 2000 Amending the Customs Law

Year of Version:	2000
Date of Entry into Force:	July 2, 2000
Date of Text (Enacted):	June 11, 2000
Type of Text:	IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature
Subject Matter:	Enforcement of IP and Related Laws
Notes:	<p>Article 1 provides that the act should be read in conjunction with the original Act No. 20 of 1998; it is considered as a single act. Published in the Official Gazette No. 4443 of 02/07/2000.</p> <p>This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.</p>

Temporary Law No. 37 of 2010 Amending Customs Law

Year of Version: 2010

Date of Entry into Force: November 1, 2010

Date of Text (Enacted): September 28, 2010

Type of Text: IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature

Subject Matter: Enforcement of IP and Related Laws

Notes: Article 1 provides that this law should be read in conjunction with original Law No. 20 of 1998; it is considered as a single law.

Published in the Official Gazette No. 5062 of 01/11/2010. This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 568-6151 · Fax: (962-6) 568-6310 · Website: www.moa.gov.jo

Ministry of Environment

Tel: (962-6) 556-0113 · Fax: (962-6) 556-0288 · Website: www.moenv.gov.jo

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/566-3774 · Fax: (962-6) 560-4691 · Website: www.mit.gov.jo

Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization

Tel: (962-6) 568-0139 · Fax: (962-6) 568-1099 · Website: www.jsmo.gov.jo

Jordan Food and Drug Administration

Tel: (962-6) 461-2663 · Fax: (962-6) 461-2663 · Website: www.jfda.jo

Jordan Customs Authority

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 · Website: www.customs.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 · Website: www.aqabazone.com

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

USDA\FAS - Office of Agricultural Affairs

U.S. Embassy Amman · P.O. Box 354, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 590-6056 · Fax: (962-6) 592-0146 · E-mail: Amman.AgAmman@fas.usda.gov