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## **Turkey**

# **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report**

## **FAIRS Annual Country Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural products imports to Turkey. It was prepared by the Office of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in Ankara, Turkey for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products. It should be read **in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards FAIRS Certificate Report**. All FAS reports can be found [here](#). There have not been major changes in food import regulations in Turkey since our 2017 reports.

Note: Please note that 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 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 main target of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize the related laws and regulations with the European Union (EU) *acquis communautaire*. In the scope of EU harmonization, the Turkish Government issued a Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed on June 13, 2010 with the objective of protecting and ensuring public health, food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, as well as plant health and consumer interests, while taking environmental protection into consideration. It covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of food, materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and feed, controls of residues of plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and other residues and contaminants, control of epidemic or contagious animal diseases and harmful organisms in plants and plant products, welfare of farm and experimental animals and pet animals, feeding of animals, animal health and plant protection products, veterinary and plant health services, entry and exit procedures of live animals and products to the country as well as related official controls and sanctions.

The Law gives authority for the principles and procedures relating to the production, packaging, sale, import, and export of spring water, drinking water, natural mineral water and water for medical purposes, and the principles and procedures relating to compliance with technical and hygienic rules, ensuring fulfillment of quality standards and monitoring and control of quality standards of potable and utility water to Ministry of Health (MoH). MoH is also responsible for the principles and procedures relating to the production, import, export, and control of dietary foods for special medical purposes.

For the implementation of Law no. 5996, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs was extensively reorganized by the Decree Law no. 639 under the new name of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) in June 2011. Currently, MinFAL is the competent authority with regard to food and feed safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues in Turkey. Under MinFAL, the General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) is the most important ministerial structure for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies, adoption of legislation related to these policies, relevant official controls and inspections at all stages of processing, distribution, and placing on the market, as well as ensuring animal health and welfare. The General Directorate of Food and Control is the contact point for international organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Another important law is Law no. 5977, which is on Biosafety, and was published in the Official Gazette on March 3, 2010. The objective of this Law is to establish and implement a biosafety system in order to prevent the potential risks of the “genetically modified organisms” and products thereof obtained through modern biotechnological means within the context of scientific and technological advancements; protect human, animal and plant health; safeguard and ensure the sustainable use of the

environment and biological diversity and to determine the procedures and principles governing the control, regulation and monitoring of these activities. It governs all activities, including, but not limited to, the research, development, processing, placing on the market, monitoring, utilization, importation, exportation, transit, transportation, preservation, packaging, labeling, and storage regarding genetically engineered products and products thereof.

Veterinary medicinal products, human medicinal products and cosmetics which acquired a license or received approval from the MoH do not fall under the scope of the Biosafety Law. In the scope of this Law, the Biosafety Board was established in 2011. Since then, as of April 2018, twenty six corn events and ten soybean events have been approved by the Biosafety Board for feed use. No traits have been approved for food use in Turkey. For more information on Turkey's Biosafety Law, please refer to the [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report for Turkey](#).

Enforcement of Turkish food and agriculture legislation is performed by 81 Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates (PAD) and 919 District Directorates (DD). The public laboratories of MinFAL are involved in the official control system. These laboratories include: 39 Provincial Food Control Laboratories, one National Food Reference Laboratory, one Bursa Food and Feed Control Central Research Institute Laboratory, nine Veterinary Control Institute Laboratories, eight Plant Quarantine Laboratories and Plant Protection Research Institute Laboratories, as well as 99 private food control laboratories which are authorized and audited by MinFAL. Auditing of directorates, districts, and laboratories is performed by GDFC officials.

The legal infrastructure of agriculture is mainly based on regulations and/or communiqués and/or circulars rather than on laws. The reason for this is that the Turkish constitutional system does not allow laws to be adopted, amended, or abolished easily. Therefore governments have traditionally preferred to publish regulations, communiqués, directives, or circulars, etc. The majority of the regulations on food and agricultural products are prepared and published by MinFAL. However, there are also regulations published by other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Health. More than one hundred implementing regulations of Law no. 5996 have been published and enforced by MinFAL since 2011. In recent years the Turkish government has been informing international bodies, such as the WTO, more often than the past about possible or actual regulation changes, but it is still not consistent. Exporters should be aware that there may be some variation among Provinces in applying legislation. This may be due to the lack of guidelines for the enforcement of rules in some cases. Most Turkish food and agriculture-related laws, regulations, communiqués, directives, and circulars are available in Turkish on the website of the GDFC [here](#) and a few are in English [here](#).

## **Section II. Food Additives Regulations:**

The food additives section of the Turkish legislation is quite detailed and it was prepared in an effort to conform to EU regulations. The Revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives was published in the Official Gazette on 06/30/2013 and amended on 11/24/2014, 7/16/2016 and 9/22/2017.

The Regulation specifies general conditions for inclusion and use of food additives in the list. It sets the food additive functional groups, names of food additives, defines the food categories, and lists maximum amounts and conditions of additives allowed in defined food categories, as well as exceptions and restrictions. It also lists food items in which food additives are not allowed to be used, and lists certain food additives which are not allowed to be used for certain traditional foods, such as fermented sucuk (traditional spicy beef sausage), heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner, döner, köfte, pastırma, pekmez, pide, bazlama and ciğ köfte. For example E-620-625 (Glutamic acid-glutamates) and E-626-635 (Ribonucleotides), which are flavor enhancers, are prohibited for use in cured meat products such as pastırma, sucuk, heat treated sucuk, poultry döner and köfte. MinFAL states that the reason for this prohibition is to protect the traditional nature of these products and prevent unnecessary usage of additives. In addition, nitrates are banned in the following traditional meat products: fermented sucuk and pastırma, as well as in döner and köfte. MinFAL states that the aim of this prohibition is to prevent additives being used unless considered technically necessary. Enzymes are outside of the scope of this Regulation. The Regulation is available [here](#) in the Turkish Language.

### **Section III. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:**

Pesticides are required to be approved by MinFAL before placing on the market. Validity of approval is 10 years. If the approval conditions are continued, the validity can be extended 10 more years.

MinFAL abolished its previous regulation and published the revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides on 11/25/2016.

The Regulation also covers foodstuffs of plant and animal origin to be used as fresh, processed and/or composite food in or on which pesticide residues may be present. It does not apply to the manufacture of products other than food, or sowing or planting, or products used for authorization of active substances in line with relevant legislation. The Regulation has 5 Annexes:

- Annex 1, animal and plant origin foodstuff categories, sub-categories and names of foodstuffs
- Annex-2, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) of Pesticides which are authorized in Turkey
- Annex-3, MRLs authorized in European Union (EU legislation)
- Annex-4, Pesticides no longer authorized for usage in Turkey
- Annex-5, LOD (Level of Detection) for some pesticides

The Regulation is updated occasionally by MinFAL and available [here](#) in Turkish.

The current Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Pharmacologically Active Substances and Their Classification Regarding Maximum Residue Limits in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin was published in the Official Gazette on 3/7/2017. This replaces the original regulation which was published as no. 28282 dated 05/04/2012 in the Official Gazette and had been amended three times on 7/26/2013, 10/25/2015, and 2/15/2016. Pharmacologically active substances, animal type, target tissue, other conditions such as name of residue and maximum residue limits are set in the Regulation. The Regulation is available [here](#) in Turkish language.

Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Contaminants was published in the Official Gazette no. 28157, dated 12/29/2011, and amended once on 12/19/2012. It sets the maximum levels of the certain contaminants (nitrates, mycotoxins, heavy metals, 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD), dioxins and dioxin-like

PCBs, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and erucic acid) in foodstuffs. The Regulation is available [here](#) in Turkish language.

All three Regulations were prepared by MinFAL within the scope of Turkey's harmonization to the EU, however, there are some differences compared to the EU legislation in these regulations. The Turkish Food Law maintains provisions for regulators to refer to the Codex Alimentarius or EU Directives if the pesticides, contaminants or pharmacologically active substances are not contained in the Turkish Food Codex. Enforcement of these regulations is carried out by Provincial Agricultural Directorates of MinFAL.

#### **Section IV. Packaging and Container Regulations:**

The framework regulation Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food was published by MinFAL on the Official Gazette no 28157 dated 12/29/2011 and it was amended twice on 08/03/2012 and 08/16/2014. This regulation applies to materials and articles, including active and smart packaging materials/food contact materials and articles, which in their finished state:

- are intended to be brought into contact with food,
- are already in contact with food,
- can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use and were intended for that purpose.

This Regulation does not apply to materials and articles which are traded in antiques, or covering or coating materials, such as the materials covering cheese rinds, prepared meat products or fruits which form part of the food and may be consumed together with this food, and fixed public or private water supply equipment.

This regulation sets the general and specific requirements for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and specific requirements for active and intelligent food contact materials and articles and labeling of these.

Under the framework regulation, there are specific communiques for materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film, ceramic articles and plastic materials and articles which set the specific rules for these materials and articles. There is no special packaging or size required by MinFAL's regulations. These regulations are available [here](#) in Turkish language.

#### **Section V. Labeling Requirements:**

##### **General Requirements**

On January 26, 2017, MinFAL abolished the previous Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Labeling and published two separate regulations to replace it which include: The "Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers" (available [here](#) in Turkish) and "The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims" (available [here](#) in Turkish). As with the prior versions of the regulations, these were prepared in parallel to the relevant the EU Directives and Regulations within the framework of EU harmonization.

## **A - Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers**

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers establishes the general principles, requirements and responsibilities governing food information, and in particular food labeling. It applies to food business operators at all stages of the food chain and all foods intended for the final consumer, including foods delivered by mass caterers, and foods intended for supply to mass caterers.

According to the regulation, food information should not be misleading the consumer:

- as to the characteristics of the food and, in particular, as to its nature, identity, properties, composition, quantity, durability, country of origin, method of manufacture or production,
- by attributing to the food effects or properties which it does not possess,
- by stating that the food possesses special characteristics when in fact all similar foods possess such characteristics, in particular by specifically emphasizing the presence or absence of certain ingredients and/or nutrients,
- by implying by means of the appearance, the description or pictorial representations, the presence of a particular food or an ingredient, while in reality a component naturally present or an ingredient normally used in that food has been substituted with a different component or a different ingredient.

Food information shall be accurate, clear and easy to understand for the consumer. Subject to derogations provided for by regulation(s) of foods for particular nutritional uses, food information should not attribute to any food the property of preventing, treating or curing a human disease, nor refer to such properties.

All above mentioned rules are applied to advertising and the presentation of foods, in particular their shape, appearance or packaging, the packaging materials used, the way in which they are arranged and the setting in which they are displayed.

The importer is responsible for the imported food product's food information and label. An imported food item may arrive in its original package, but a permanent "sticker" label, in Turkish, must be attached to the package before it is marketed. Each food has to be labeled clearly, completely and accurately in the Turkish language before placing on the market. Other languages in addition to Turkish may also appear on the label. Labeling requirements are enforced by PAD and DD (provincial and district directorates) officials. Turkish authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations.

The standard U.S. label may not comply with Turkish labeling requirements in the aspects of nutritional labeling, health claims, label size, etc.

### **Compulsory Information:**

The following compulsory information must appear on the packaging or on a label attached to it. The information must be marked in such a way that it is easily visible, clearly legible and indelible. The following information is compulsory on labels of domestically-produced and imported foods:

- (1) the name of the food,

- (2) the list of ingredients,
- (3) certain substances and products (listed in Annex-1 of the Regulation) causing allergies or intolerances
- (4) the quantity of certain ingredients or groups of ingredients;
- (5) the net quantity of the food
- (6) the ‘use by’ date;
- (7) any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use
- (8) the name or business name and address of the food business operator
- (9) facility registration number
- (10) country of origin,
- (11) instructions for use where it would be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions;
- (12) with respect to beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume, the actual alcoholic strength by volume;
- (13) a nutrition declaration.

#### **Additional Compulsory Information:**

In addition to the compulsory information listed above, additional ones for specific types or categories of foods are given below;

- (14) The statement ***“packaged in a protective atmosphere”*** for foods whose durability has been extended by means of packaging gases authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives,
- (15) For foods containing sweeteners;
  - the statement ***“with sweetener(s)”*** or ***“contain sweetener(s)”*** for foods containing a sweetener or sweeteners authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, this statement shall accompany the name of the food
  - the statement ***“contains sugar(s) and sweetener(s)”*** or ***“with sugar(s) and sweetener(s)”*** for foods containing both an added sugar or sugars and a sweetener or sweeteners authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, this statement shall accompany the name of the food
  - the statement ***“contains aspartame (a source of phenylalanine)”*** for foods containing aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt authorised pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, the statement shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients only by reference to the E number. The statement ***“contains a source of phenylalanine”*** shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients by its specific name
  - the statement ***“excessive consumption may produce laxative effects”*** for foods containing more than 10 percent added polyols authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives

(16) For foods containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt

- Confectionery or beverages containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the liquorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, at concentration of 100 mg/kg or 10 mg/l or above, the statement “***contains liquorice***” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients, unless the term ‘liquorice’ is already included in the list of ingredients or in the name of the food. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food
- Confectionary containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the liquorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 4 g/kg or above, the statement “***contains liquorice – people suffering from hypertension should avoid excessive consumption***” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.
- Beverages containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the liquorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 50 mg/l or above, or of 300 mg/l or above in the case of beverages containing more than 1,2 % by volume of alcohol , the statement “***contains liquorice – people suffering from hypertension should avoid excessive consumption***” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.

(17) For beverages with high caffeine content

- The statement “***High caffeine content. Not recommended for children or pregnant or breast-feeding women***” for beverages, with the exception of those based on coffee, tea or coffee or tea extract where the name of the food includes the term ‘coffee’ or ‘tea’, which:
  - o are intended for consumption without modification and contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l, or,
  - o are in concentrated or dried form and after reconstitution contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l,
- The statement shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the beverage, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg per 100 ml.

Foods other than beverages, where caffeine is added with a physiological purpose, the statement “***Contains caffeine. Not recommended for children or pregnant women***” shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the food, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg per 100 g or mg per 100 ml. In the case of food supplements, the caffeine content shall be expressed per portion as recommended for daily consumption on the label.

(18) For foods or food ingredients with added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters, the following should be included:

- the statement “***with added plant sterols***” or “***with added plant stanols***” in the same field of vision as the name of the food;

- the amount of added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters content (expressed in percent or as g of free plant sterols/plant stanols per 100 g or 100 ml of the food) shall be stated in the list of ingredients;
- a statement that the food is intended exclusively for people who want to lower their blood cholesterol level;
- a statement that patients on cholesterol lowering medication should only consume the product under medical supervision;
- an easily visible statement that the food may not be nutritionally appropriate for pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under the age of 5 years;
- advice that the food is to be used as part of a balanced and varied diet, including regular consumption of fruit and vegetables to help maintain carotenoid levels;
- a statement that the consumption of more than 3 g/day of added plant sterols/plant stanols should be avoided
- a definition of a portion of the food or food ingredient concerned (preferably in g or ml) with the amount of the plant sterol/plant stanol that each portion contains.

(19) the statement "*...contains alcohol*" if the ethyl alcohol is used as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of a food notwithstanding the amount of the alcohol.

(20) the statement "*contains ... obtained from pigs*" if the product contains any product/ingredient obtained from pigs notwithstanding the amount of that product/ingredient.

(21) For frozen meat, frozen meat preparations, and frozen unprocessed fishery products; the date of freezing or the date of first freezing in cases where the product has been frozen more than once shall be on the label.

In addition to compulsory labeling, certain foodstuffs such as infant and follow-on formulas, wines, aromatized wines, spirit drinks, food supplements, energy drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, sugar, honey, coffee, meat and meat products, fruit juice, and dairy products have additional specific labeling requirements in their vertical communiques.

Because of difficulties in fighting adulterated foods such as baby foods, honey, alcoholic drinks, energy drinks, black tea, food supplements and vegetable oil, MinFAL decided to implement an additional single code system for these food categories. This system is called "Product Verification Monitoring System (PVMS)" but its implementation has been delayed until December 31, 2018. According to PVMS, consumers will be able to verify purchased food products information by using a 19 digit number. Alcoholic beverages have been excluded from the scope of the PVMS, and because the related sectors were not ready to implement the system, implementation has been postponed several times. Currently PVMS will target six food categories: food supplements, honey, energy drinks, black tea, liquid vegetable oil, infant formula, follow-on formula, and supplementary baby foods. For more

information on the system, please refer to GAIN Report: Turkey Delays Implementation of New Labeling System PVMS dated 1/11/2018 [here.](#))

## **B- Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutritional and Health Claims**

This Regulation shall apply to nutrition and health claims made whether in the labeling, presentation or advertising of foods to be delivered as such to the final consumer. Nutrition and health claims may be used in the labeling, presentation and advertising of foods placed on the market. The use of nutrition and health claims shall not:

- (a) be false, ambiguous or misleading,
- (b) give rise to doubt about the safety and/or the nutritional adequacy of other foods,
- (c) encourage or condone excess consumption of a food,
- (d) state, suggest or imply that a balanced and varied diet cannot provide appropriate quantities of nutrients in general,
- (e) refer to changes in bodily functions which could give rise to or exploit fear in the consumer, either textually or through pictorial, graphic or symbolic representations

### **Nutritional Claims**

Nutritional labeling is mandatory when there is a nutritional claim and/or health claim made either on the label, or in some sort of presentation or advertisement of a foodstuff. Food supplements are outside of the scope of this requirement. This requirement is valid also for foods for special dietary purposes without prejudice to their vertical legislation. Nutritional labeling includes energy value, fats, carbohydrates, proteins (where required), fiber, and salt/sodium, vitamins and minerals. Nutritional claims and their requirements are given in detail in the Regulation. Some examples for the nutritional claims *allowed* in the Regulation on Labeling are as follows:

- If the energy value in 100 grams of solid food is not more than 40 kcal, a nutritional claim such as “low calorie/energy” might be on the label;
- If the energy value or nutrient amount is reduced 30 percent with respect to a similar product, the claim “reduced calorie/energy or nutrient” might be on the label;
- If the amount of alpha linolenic acid (ALA) amount is minimum 0.3 gr per 100 gr or 100 kcal food, the claim “source /contains / added Omega 3 fatty acids” might be on the label;
- If the 100 gr or 100 ml foodstuff contains less than 0.5 gr of sugar, the claim “sugar free” might be on the label.

To see the whole group of nutritional claims and their requirements allowed, please see the regulation [here](#) in Turkish language.

### **Health Claims**

Health claims on the label, in a presentation, or in an advertisement of the health claims of the foodstuff, *are allowed* if at least two of the following conditions are met with respect to nutrient profile:

- maximum sodium amount is 100 mg/100kcal
- maximum 10 percent of energy value comes from saturated fatty acids
- maximum 10 percent of energy comes from added sugar

- minimum 55mg/100kcal calcium inherent

Claims *not* allowed are those which refer to:

- -negative effects on health unless foodstuffs is consumed
- -weight loss amount or rate
- -advices of doctors or other medical persons

Health claims are evaluated and authorized by the Scientific Committee established under GDFC.

Some examples of health claims under specified conditions which *are allowed* are as follows:

- “Biotin contributes to normal macronutrient metabolism”
- “Biotin contributes to the maintenance of normal hair”
- “Calcium contributes to normal muscle function”
- “Chitosan contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Choline contributes to the maintenance of normal liver function”
- “Glucomannan contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Lactase enzyme improves lactose digestion in individuals who have difficulty digesting lactose”
- “Monacolin K from red yeast rice (*Monascus purpureus*) contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Walnuts contribute to the improvement of the elasticity of blood vessels”
- “Zinc contributes to normal DNA synthesis”
- “Plant sterols and plant stanol esters have been shown to lower/reduce blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a risk factor in the development of coronary heart disease”
- “Calcium helps to reduce the loss of bone mineral in post-menopausal women. Low bone mineral density is a risk factor for osteoporotic bone fractures”
- “Supplemental folic acid intake increases maternal folate status. Low maternal folate status is a risk factor in the development of neural tube defects in the developing fetus.”
- “Vitamin D is needed for normal growth and development of bone in children”

To see the whole group of health claims and their requirements allowed, please see the Regulation [here](#) in Turkish language.

### **Labeling for Food Additives**

Labeling rules for food additives are indicated in Article 8 of the Regulation on Food Additives which was published in the Official Gazette no. 28693, dated 06/30/2013 and it was amended three times in 2014, 2016 and 2017. In this Regulation, in addition to compulsory information, there are specific labeling requirements for food additives which will be sold to consumers, as opposed to those which will be used in processing. This regulation is available [here](#) in Turkish language.

### **Labeling for Food and Feed containing, consisting of, or deriving from GMOs**

In addition to general labeling rules, specific labeling rules for food and feed containing, consisting or deriving from genetically engineered products are set in the Article 18 of the Regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms and its Products published in Official Gazette no. 27671, dated 08/13/2010 and amended once in 2012. Currently, there are no genetically engineered events approved for food use in

Turkey. As of April 2018, there are 26 corn events and 10 soybean events approved for feed use. Imported feed into Turkey must be labeled “contains GMO” if it contains approved genetically engineered content over 0.9 percent within a given shipment. These regulations are available [here](#) in Turkish language.

### Labeling for Organic Agricultural Products

If a product is produced in Turkey and marketed domestically in line with the requirements of the Turkish organic legislation in force, then the label should have the Turkish organic logo and the word “organic”. Imported organic products are controlled/inspected according to the Turkish organic legislation and re-certified as organic if it complies with the organic legislation. This situation is also indicated on the label. Both domestically-produced or imported non-organic agricultural products should not have packages or boxes or labels designed as if the product is organic. For example, labels of non-organic products should not have the words, prefix or suffix such as “bio”, “biyo”, “eco”, “eko”, “org” which implies and misleads the consumer that the product is organic. Ninety five percent of agricultural ingredients of processed products should be produced in compliance with the organic laws in force for the product to be labeled as organic.

Please see Chapter five of the Regulation on Organic Agriculture Principles and Practices [here](#) in Turkish language. Chapter five of the Regulation gives detailed requirements about packaging and labeling of organic agricultural products to be marketed in Turkey.

### Section VI. Other Specific Standards

MinFAL has followed a dual approach in preparation of food regulations. “Horizontal” legislation covers aspects which are common to all foodstuffs such as additives, contaminants, labeling, hygiene, official controls, etc. “Vertical” legislation applies to specific products such as food supplements, wine, spirit drinks, meat and meat products, infant and follow-on formulas, honey, fruit juices, etc.

Some of the important horizontal regulations are below, and they are accessible [here](#) in Turkish:

Name of the Regulation	Important articles
<b>Official import controls of plant originated food and feed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed</li> <li>-Importers should get an electronic username and password for pre-notification</li> <li>-Importers should electronically fill attached-pre-notification form (form is attached to the regulation) for plant origin food; feed and food contact material and attached copies of certificate, ingredient list, and other documents which will be determined by MINFAL.</li> <li>-Border Inspection Post or provincial directorates provide a date of inspection</li> <li>-Frequency of analysis is determined by risk analysis</li> <li>-If there is non-compliance, importers can either use special treatment, declare change in intent of use, send it back, or confiscate the product</li> <li>-If there is a protocol between two countries, electronic certificate will be accepted</li> </ul>

	-Turkish translated labeling should be done before actual import control carried out.
<b>Measurements to monitor certain substances and their residue on live animals and animal products.</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 96/23/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 97/747/EC -If inspectors detect residue on imported animals or animal products they will increase the frequency of analysis from the same country of origin
<b>Food hygiene</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 852/2004/EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Defines general hygiene criteria for premises including HACCP criteria and good management practices
<b>Plant Quarantine</b>	- Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed - Includes the determination of harmful organisms hindering import and the issues that plants, plant products and other substances shall be subject to in terms of plant health in the entry and exit procedures into Turkey and also the official controls. - Products brought into free zones from abroad, those imported into Turkey from free zones and those dispatched to outside the customs area Turkey from free zones are subject to the provisions of this Regulation. -Determines the rules for official control, entry-exit gates, import controls, transit controls, list of plants, plant products and other substances banned for entry, list of harmful organisms that are banned to enter into Turkey, special conditions that plants, plant products and other substances are subjected, and Phytosanitary Certificates
<b>Food establishments registration and approval</b>	- Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Defines which establishments requires registration and define criteria of how they should register
<b>Official controls of food and feed</b>	- Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -MinFAL has authority to delegate some of their control and inspection authority to accredited private food control offices or some NGOs. Import and export controls are excluded. -Authorizes MinFAL to publish the list of approved establishments, approval-suspended premises, approval-cancelled establishments, it will increase transparency. -Defined traceability, responsibility, general requirements for imports and exports -Establishes rapid alert system
<b>Pre-notification and veterinary checks of</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 282/2004/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 136/2004/EC

<b>animal and animal products entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed :</li> <li>-Pre-notification of imports of animals and animal products</li> <li>-Veterinarians responsibilities to check and sign forms</li> </ul>
<b>Specific rules for animal products official inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 854/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Approval of premises</li> <li>-General hygiene rules</li> <li>-Raw meat inspections</li> <li>-Role and duties of official veterinarian and their assistant</li> <li>-Live animal inspections and animal welfare</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks and pre-notification on animals and products entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU harmonization regulation, 97/78/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Pre-notification and veterinary checks at the border inspection post</li> <li>-Issuance of veterinary entry document electronically or by using other communication tools.</li> <li>-Frequency of veterinary controls</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks on live animals entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 97/794/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-One day before arrival, importers should inform amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection</li> <li>-Veterinary controls should contain documentary checks, as well as physical checks</li> <li>-First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks on products entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-One day before arrival, importers should inform amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection</li> <li>-Veterinary controls should contain documentary checks and physical checks</li> <li>-First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts</li> </ul>
<b>Animal hospital regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Criteria to setup animal hospital including staff qualifications</li> </ul>
<b>Animal and animal products entering the country are to be subjected to veterinary controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC</li> <li>- EU harmonization regulation, 2007/275//EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> </ul>

	-Attached list of regulation classifies which products are animal and animal products
<b>Animal welfare regulation</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Defines criteria of animal farms including barns, cages for chickens etc.
<b>Criteria of livestock markets registration, inspections</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Animal welfare during animal transportation</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Criteria of animal transportation vehicles including ships and trucks -Responsibilities, training, inspections and reports
<b>Animal byproducts that are not intended for human consumption</b>	-EU harmonization regulation 1069/2009/EC -Categorization of byproducts -Collection and transportation criteria
<b>Semen, ovum and embryo production center establishments regulations</b>	-Registration, approval and certification of centers
<b>Special hygiene regulation for animal products</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 853/2004/EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Defines criteria for animal slaughtering and animal products processing facilities
<b>Feed hygiene</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 183/2005/EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Registration and approval of feed premises
<b>Placing on the market and use of feed</b>	EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009/EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Principles of labeling and presentation
<b>Methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009/EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed

<b>Turkish food codex on maximum residue limits of pesticides</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1337/2008//EC -EU harmonization regulation, 2065/2003//EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on food additives</b>	EU harmonization regulation, 1333/2008//EC - Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on microbiological criteria for foodstuff</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 2073/2005//EC
<b>Turkish food codex on labeling</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 2000/13/,/79/112/,2002/67/,/608/2004/,90/496,87/250,1924/2006 EEC
<b>Turkish food codex on contaminants</b>	- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation,1881/2006/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food</b>	Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -EU harmonization regulation,1935/2004/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on composition and labeling of foodstuffs suitable for people intolerant to gluten</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 41/2009/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on sampling, testing method for dioxin and similar products</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1881/2006/EC
<b>Regulation on food irradiation</b>	Based on the Decree Law 560 and Turkish Law 2690 of Turkish Atomic Energy Agency -principles of food irradiation, re-irradiation -requirements for licence, permit, registration

Some food products are regulated by MinFAL as **vertical legislation**, through individual Communiqués to meet special requirements. The production, processing, storage, transportation and placing on the market, product criteria and specific labeling requirements are set in these Communiqués.

Some vertical Communiqués under Turkish Codex Regulation:

- Communiqué on Aromatized Wines
- Communiqué on Wine
- Communiqué on Beer
- Communiqué on Spirit Drinks (hard alcohol)
- Communiqué on Energy Drinks
- Communiqué on Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Communiqué on Fruit Juices and Similar products
- Communiqué on Coffee and Coffee Extracts
- Communiqué on Chocolate and Chocolate Products
- Communiqué on Food Supplements
- Communiqué on Fermented Milk
- Communiqué on Infant Formulas
- Communiqué on Follow-on Formulas
- Communiqué on Cereal-based Supplementary Baby Foods for Infants and Young Children
- Communiqué on Foods for Athletes (i.e. energy bars, isotonic/protein/carbohydrate drinks, etc.)
- Communiqué on Black Tea
- Communiqué on Frozen Food
- Communiqué on Gluten-Free Foods
- Communiqué on Ice cream
- Communiqué on Jams marmalades jelly
- Communiqué on Lentils
- Communiqué on Pasta
- Communiqué on Rice
- Communiqué on Salt
- Communiqué on Sugar
- Communiqué on Vegetable Oils
- Communiqué on Olive
- Communiqué on Egg and Egg Products
- Communiqué on Meat and Meat Products
- Communiqué on Wheat Flour
- Communiqué on Honey
- Communiqué on Spices

A complete list of Communiqués is accessible at the website of MinFAL [here](#) in Turkish

## **Section VII. Facility and Product Registration Requirements**

Turkey is gradually implementing approval requirements of facilities in exporting countries. There is no general approval process for these facilities.

*For animal sourced food products for human consumption*, if the model export certificate requires facility approval number, then the facility must have an approval number from the related agencies of that country.

*For animal byproducts*, such as hides and skins, if the facility is already on the EU-approved list, there is no need to conduct approval procedure and the facility is directly accepted as approved by MinFAL.

If the facility is not in the EU-approved list, then approval by MinFAL is required. This has been started with hides and skins. MinFAL published the approval process and questionnaire for hides and skins in Turkish and English language, accessible at the [link](#) here.

If there is no EU approval number, hides and skins facilities in the United States should contact the relevant U.S. agencies for the approval procedures to be started. Then the U.S. agencies would need to inspect the facility according to Turkey's relevant requirements and guarantee that the facility is in compliance with the relevant Turkish requirements in place. MinFAL may prefer to inspect the facility itself to find out the compliance of the facility with Turkish requirements. In this case, as a first step, MinFAL will send a questionnaire to the relevant U.S. agencies for the exporting facility; communication between the two governments is crucial in this process. After receiving the completed questionnaire from the U.S. agencies, MinFAL visits the exporting facility to audit it and also meets with the relevant U.S. agencies.

*For bovine semen*, the facility must be on the EU approved establishment list.

*For live cattle*, the assembly center, if any, must fulfil the conditions for its approval determined by the competent authority in the United States.

Once the facility is approved and no new problems arise, there is no expiration date for registration/approval of that facility. There is no cost or fee for the exporting facility/country for the approval process. MinFAL's current list of approved establishments is accessible [here](#) in Turkish language.

*For plant origin food products*, upon the importer's request, MinFAL may register/approve the facility of the exporting country for the purpose of decreasing the frequency of the physical inspections at import (taking samples of the product at Turkey's border). The first step of the approval procedure is that MinFAL will send the questionnaire (Questionnaire for Pre-export checks of mission in order to approve the establishment of the exporting country) to the importer. The importer then delivers the questionnaire to the exporter and the exporter provides all the necessary information related to the competent authority of the exporting country, legislation, facility information, and product information which is requested in the questionnaire. MinFAL then reviews the filled-out questionnaire and visits the facility to inspect it and meets with the relevant agency which is responsible for the official controls of that facility. After the visit, MinFAL prepares an evaluation report and if the results of the visit comply with the Turkish requirements, then facility is approved within about two months. Once the facility is approved, the products exported from this facility are subject to a decreased rate of inspection. Analysis frequencies may be decreased to the levels of three to five percent after the approval. Approval is valid

for 3 years if all conditions remain same. There is no cost or fee for the exporting facility/country for this approval process.

There is no product registration or approval procedure in place for animal or plant origin products, except food supplements.

*Food supplements* require product approval to be imported into the Turkey. The food business operator (importer, producer, seller, etc.) should make an application for each product to MinFAL with the required information given below:

- trade name or brand of product,
- name and address of the company
- ingredient list of product in percent,
- specification document of product,
- recommended daily intake dose
- if applicable, HACCP and/or GMP documentation
- if product contains herb(s) as an ingredient, botanical and Latin names of the herb(s), part used
- fee payment document
- other documents where MinFAL requests

Food supplement applications are made to the provincial directorates of MinFAL. Evaluations and approvals of the products for consumers (other than products for children ages 2-4) are made by provincial directorates of MinFAL. The products for 2-4 year old children are evaluated and approved by the committee established under the GDFC at the central government level. Once it is approved by relevant provincial directorate, then it can be sold throughout the country. Applicants must pay an approval fee for each product approval, and the fee amount is updated each year. There is no expiration date for approval unless conditions change.

## **Section VIII. Other Certification and Testing Requirements**

Imports of *food products* into Turkey are allowed only if they comply with the regulations related to import controls and Turkish Food Codex. Turkey is harmonizing its food import regulations and Turkish Food Codex Regulation with those of the EU. If the product in question is not covered by the Turkish Food Codex, officials can refer to international regulations such as International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius, or relevant EU Directives if Turkey is not harmonized yet, on a case-by-case basis.

For the import of *animal, animal products and certain plant materials for production* such as seed, seedling, sapling and flower bulbs, a “**Control Certificate**” is required. This is considered as pre-import permission and it states whether or not the product is eligible for import. Please see Appendix I-HS codes of commodities which require Control Certificate prior to import.

According to import control regulations, food and feed of plant origin and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, do not require Control Certificate approval to be imported. Instead, there is a pre-notification system in place for these commodities. The importer should register the required information for each product in the electronic system which is called Food Safety Information System (FSIS) of GDFC, which is accessible by the importer. Required information is:

product name, product category, country of origin, name of importer, name of exporter or manufacturer, ingredient list, and label of product. This information is evaluated and approved by the authorized Provincial Food, Agriculture, and Livestock Directorate (PAD) if it complies with the legislation in force. Later, the importer notifies the PAD about shipment details by filling the “Shipment Notification Form” through Food Safety Information System and then uploads the Certificate related to product to be imported within a minimum of 3 days and a maximum of 20 days before the arrival of the commodity. When the product arrives at port/Turkish Customs, import procedures are started. Please see details in Section IX on page ## of this report on import procedures.

### **Control Certificates for Plant Products**

For *seeds, seedlings, saplings and certain plant materials for production such as flower bulbs*, HS codes are given in Appendix-I, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by GDFC or authorized PADs according to the type of the products prior to import. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for six months and this time period cannot be extended.

The Biosafety Law does not allow the production/cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Turkey, therefore import of GE seed, seedlings, saplings and certain plant materials for production such as flower bulbs are not allowed.

For seeds, seedlings, saplings and production materials, an individual preliminary permit application is required for each Control Certificate. For preliminary permit of **seeds of field plant, vegetables, feed plants, grass plants, medicinal and aromatic plants** the following documents are required:

- a. Petition for Application,
- b. Filled Control Certificate Form,
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro forma invoice:
  1. Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months),
  2. Type and variety of seed to be imported,
  3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported,
  4. Name, authorized signature and seal of importer,
  5. Contact details of exporter,
- d. Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GMO,
  1. A document given by exporter certifying that seed is not GMO. In cases that document is a copy, it must be vouched for by the importer. Exporter can also declare non-GMO statement on pro-forma invoice,
  2. If non-GMO is not documented by the exporter, then an analysis report certifying that it is non-GMO shall be required,
- e. Seed Certificate,
  1. There is no certificate requirement at the imports for the purposes of trials, breeding, providing material for gene bank
  2. for the imports of propagating materials;
    - a. OECD certificate is required for seeds of field and feed plants

- b. For other plant groups OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- 3. for commercial purpose imports ( trade purpose)
  - a. OECD certificate is required for seeds of field and feed plants. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then, additionally ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re-certificated in Turkey, ISTA-Orange certificate is not required.
  - b. For grass seed, OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then additionally ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required. For mixed grass seeds, these certificates or reports will be required for each seed in the mixture.
  - c. For tobacco seed, OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
  - d. For flint corn seed, sweet corn seed and vegetable seeds OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate is required. If laboratory analysis results are not indicated on the OECD certificate then additionally ISTA-Orange certificate is required.
  - e. For medicinal and aromatic herbs, OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- 4. at the imports for export purpose;
  - a. OECD certificate is required for seeds of field and feed plants. If analysis results of laboratory for the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate then additionally ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re- certificated in Turkey, ISTA-Orange certificate is not required.
  - b. For other plant groups OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- f. Preliminary import permit bank receipt evidencing that application fee has been paid,
- g. Other documents where MinFAL requires.

For additional information on the seed sector in Turkey, please see FAS GAIN Report on Turkey Planting Seeds Sector Overview [here](#).

For preliminary permit **of seedlings, sapling and production materials** the following documents are required:

- a. Petition for Application,

- b. Filled Control Certificate Form,
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required being included in invoice/pro-forma invoice:
  - 1. Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months),
  - 2. Type and variety of seed to be imported,
  - 3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported,
  - 4. Name, authorized signature and seal of importer,
  - 5. Contact details of exporter,
- d. Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GMO,
  - o A document given by exporter certifying that seed is not GMO. In case such document is a copy, it must be approved by importer. Exporter can also declare non-GMO statement on pro-forma invoice,
  - o Unless non-GMO documented by exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is non-GMO shall be required,
- e. Preliminary import permit bank receipt evidencing that application fee has been paid,
- f. Other documents where MinFAL requires.

### **Control Certificates for Animal Products**

***For animal and animal sourced products***, as HS codes are given in the Appendix-I (a), a **Control Certificate** is required to be approved by GDFC or authorized PADs according to the type of the products. Once issued, a Control Certificate is valid for four months. However, for the HS codes; 0504, 1504, 1516.10, 1517, 1518.00, 1901, 1902, 1905, 2103.90.90, 2104, 2105.00, 2106, 2202.99, the Control Certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months. These time periods cannot be extended.

A Control Certificate is not required for live animals given in Appendix-I(a) intended for;

- Racing or exhibitions for a certain time of period.
- Presents to be introduced to civil or military statesmen,
- Exhibitions at private or public zoos,
- Donations and scientific research for universities and other research institutes.

The importer should make an application with the following documents for the approval of Control Certificate:

1. Filled Control Certificate Form
2. Proforma invoice or invoice
3. Sample veterinary health certificate (This is not required for live cattle intended for slaughtering, feeder and breeding and sheep/goat)
4. Document of Country of origin (It is not required if the veterinary health certificate includes the origin of the products)
5. Ingredient List

6. For food supplements, food for special dietary purposes and for products and feed where national legislation does not exist, specification document
7. Label/draft label
8. Commercial Activity Certificate or Trade Registry Gazette where importer is registered
9. Other documents, where MinFAL requests, according to the nature of the commodity to be imported.

After approval of Control Certificate, it is registered to Turkey's Food Safety Information System for animal-sourced food products. Once issued, a Control Certificate is valid for a period of four or twelve months, depending on the product. After receiving a Control Certificate, the **importer should inform** the veterinary border inspection post and/or PAD **about the arrival of the shipment at least one working day before** arrival of the commodity by filling and submitting the **Veterinary Entrance Document**. When the commodity arrives at port/Turkish Customs, then import procedures are started. Please see details in Section IX on import procedures.

For the products given in Appendix-1(b); a Control Certificate is not required but the products are subject to veterinary controls/inspections of Veterinary Border Inspection Posts or PADs.

### **Import Process Complexities and Exceptions**

While many U.S. and foreign foods are imported into Turkey without any problem, some companies have encountered difficulty understanding and complying with demands from import officials for certificates that are not normally issued in the United States. Requirements and standards for some imported foods may be stricter or different than both those currently applied in the EU and those applied to Turkish domestically-produced products.

MinFAL might implement an exemption for the import controls of food and feed which is not for commercial use if:

- it is for scientific purposes, for exhibition, for sportive or cultural activities
- it is for consular or diplomatic representatives' own use
- it is for sample purposes only
- it is donated during a time of crisis

**Requirements for sending samples** are slightly different than for products intended for consumption. For the import of samples, there is no pre-permission or Control Certificate required. Technically, there are no documentation requirements if the sample is for an exhibition or scientific research.

For commercial samples, the importer needs to fill out a special form supplied by PAD and provide a copy of the pro-forma invoice (if it is free of charge, just state that on the invoice). Once the PAD receives the filled-out form, they prepare a letter to the relevant customs office to notify them to release the sample. Note that there is no health certificate requirement.

### **Section IX. Import Procedures**

For food and feed of plant origin, other plant-origin agricultural products and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, the importer notifies the PAD about the shipment details by

filling the “Shipment Notification Form” through the Food Safety Information System (FSIS) and uploads the Certificate(s) related to product to be imported within minimum 3 days and maximum 20 days before arrival of the commodity.

When the product arrives at Turkish ports/customs, import procedures are started. Depending on product type, the importer should present the approved Control Certificate (if required for that commodity) together with originals of the invoice, ingredient list, certificate of origin, plant health certificate or free sale certificate or health certificate, as well as other import documentation, such as bill of lading, etc. After the identity and documentary checks, where required, PAD inspectors carry out physical checks, including taking samples of the product according to the analysis frequency requirement, which is set by PAD. If a sample is taken, it is sent to MinFAL’s official laboratory or a private laboratory authorized by GDPC for physical, chemical, and microbiological analysis. In addition, if the product is a bulk or semi-processed commodity, it is checked by plant quarantine inspectors for consistency with the legislation in place. The process normally takes up to one week depending on the type of analysis.

Import of the product is allowed if the results of the checks and analysis are found to be acceptable and consistent with regulations. If the inspection results do not comply with Turkish legislation requirements, the importer may request secondary sample tests within seven days. In the case that the secondary test results show that the product is not complying with Turkish import requirements, the shipment is rejected by PAD. Then, the shipment may be sent back to the exporting country or a third country, as decided by the importer.

#### *Live Animals and Animal Products*

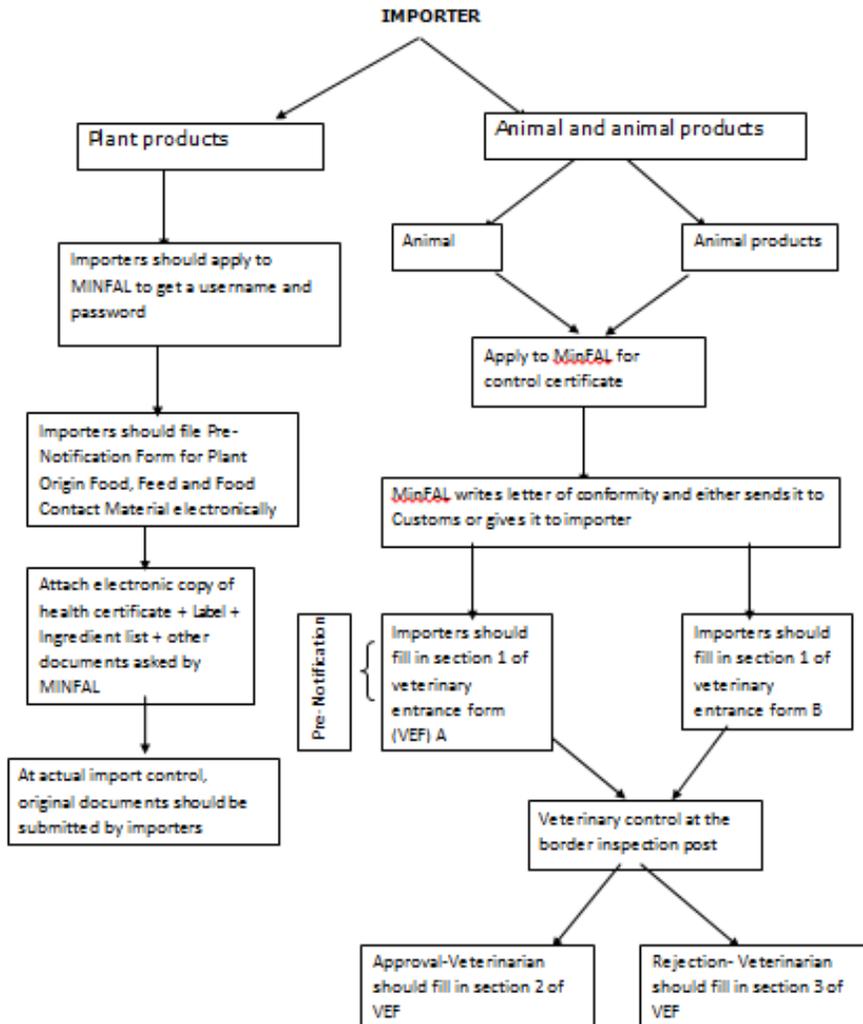
The importer should inform the Veterinary Border Inspection Post about the arrival of live animals at least one working day before arrival by filling and submitting the Veterinary Entrance Document. For animal-sourced products the importer should inform the Border Inspection Post in advance.

When the commodity arrives at the port, the importer fills out an application with the Control Certificate and the originals of documents which were approved before import stage. Official inspectors carry out the veterinary checks (documentary, identity, and physical checks if needed). If the result of these checks is compliant with the relevant legislation in force, then the products are released.

Additionally for live animals, once documentary and identity checks are carried out at the border, then they are sent to a quarantine place (which might be at the importer’s farm) and tests are carried out by taking samples from the animals for the diseases which the health certificate includes. Frequency of samples is determined by GDPC according to the risk assessment or national monitoring plans. If the test results are compliant with the legislation, then the Border Inspection Post sends a conformity letter to the customs to release the product in question. The process normally takes up to one week, depending on the type of analysis needed. Analyses are carried out by official control laboratories and private laboratories which are authorized by GDPC.

For animal/animal products certificates, according to the Turkish import regulation, export certificates have to be signed by an official veterinarian in exporting countries within two days prior to shipment, but exporters should note that MinFAL removed the two days requirement for semen shipments since they are frozen. Since February 2018, semen export certificates from the United States do not have to

be endorsed within two days prior to shipment. MinFAL now accepts the export certificates to be endorsed within the validity period, which is 30 days, from the United States. More information available [here](#) on the latest update to semen import regulations in Turkey.



**Section X. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws**

The Law on Industrial Property No.6769 was adopted on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 by the Turkish Parliament and entered into force by its publication in the Official Gazette No. 29944 dated January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Law consolidates and updates a number of existing decrees about intellectual property rights over the years into a single, enforceable piece of legislation regulating trademarks, patents, designs, utility models, geographical indications and traditional product names in line with EU standards and Turkey’s local requirements. The Law encompasses applications, registrations and post-registration processes regarding trademarks, geographical signs, design, patent, utility model and traditional product names and legal and criminal sanctions concerning the violation of these rights.

Many organizations are now applying for geographical indication protection of agricultural products in Turkey. There are 402 GI applications in the registration process in Turkey, including two food products of Italian origin: GRANO PADANO and GORGONZOLA. Currently four international GIs have been protected including: CHAMPAGNE, PROSCIUTTO DI PARMA, SCOTCH WHISKY, and PARMIGIANO REGGIANO in addition to 269 Turkish products. Once GI applications are published in the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office Bulletin there is a three month objection period. For detailed information please see FAS GAIN report on [Geographical Indications in Turkey](#) dated 12/27/2017 [here](#).

**APPENDIX I(a) - HS Codes of commodities which require obtaining a Control Certificate:**

**HS CODES of Animal and animal sourced products**

01.01	03.08	1518.00
01.02	04.01	1601.00
01.03	04.02	16.02
01.04	04.03	1603.00
01.05	04.04	16.04
01.06	04.05	16.05
02.01	04.06	19.01
02.02	0407.00	19.02
02.03	04.08	1904.90.10.10.00
02.04	0409.00	1904.90.10.90.00
0205.00	0410.00	19.05
02.06	0504.00	2103.90.90
02.07	05.06	21.04
02.08	05.07	2105.00
0209.00	0510.00	21.06
02.10	05.11	2202.99
03.01	15.01	23.01
03.02	15.02	30.01
03.03	1503.00	30.02
03.04	15.04	3503.00
03.05	1506.00	3822.00
03.06	1516.10	38.26
03.07	15.17	

Control Certificate is valid for 4 (four) months for the commodities above. However for those HS codes: 0504, 1504, 1516.10, 1517, 1518.00, 1901, 1902, 1905, 2103.90.90, 2104, 2105.00, 2106, 2202.99 the control certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months.

**HS CODES of Seed, seedlings, saplings and flower bulbs which require a Control Certificate**

0601.10.10.00.00	0602.90.91.00.00	1005.10.90.00.00
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0601.10.20.00.00	0602.90.99.00.00	1006.10.10.00.00
0601.10.30.00.00	0701.10.00.00.00	1007.10.10.00.00
0601.10.40.00.00	0703.10.11.00.00	1007.10.90.00.00
0601.10.90.10.00	0703.20.00.00.12	1008.21.00.00.11
0601.10.90.90.00	0712.90.11.00.00	1008.21.00.00.12
0601.20.30.00.11	0713.10.10.00.11	1008.50.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.12	0713.10.10.00.19	1008.60.00.00.11
0601.20.30.00.13	0713.20.00.00.11	1201.10.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.14	0713.31.00.00.11	1202.30.00.00.00
0601.20.90.10.11	0713.32.00.00.11	1204.00.10.00.00
0601.20.90.10.19	0713.33.10.00.11	1205.10.10.00.00
0601.20.90.90.00	0713.33.10.00.19	1205.90.00.00.00
0602.10.10.00.00	0713.34.00.00.11	1206.00.10.00.00
0602.10.90.00.00	0713.35.00.00.11	1207.10.00.00.00
0602.20.10.00.00	0713.39.00.00.11	1207.21.00.00.00
0602.20.20.00.00	0713.40.00.00.11	1207.30.00.00.00
0602.20.30.00.00	0713.50.00.00.11	1207.40.10.00.00
0602.20.80.00.19	0713.60.00.00.11	1207.50.10.00.00
0602.30.00.00.00	0713.90.00.00.13	1207.60.00.00.00
0602.40.00.00.00	1001.11.00.00.00	1207.70.00.00.00
0602.90.30.00.00	1001.91.10.00.00	1207.91.10.00.00
0602.90.45.00.11	1001.91.20.00.11	1207.99.20.00.19
0602.90.45.00.12	1002.10.00.00.00	1207.99.20.00.11
0602.90.46.00.00	1003.10.00.00.11	1207.99.91.00.00
0602.90.47.00.00	1003.10.00.00.19	12.09
0602.90.48.00.00	1004.10.00.00.00	1209.29.80.00.17
0602.90.50.00.00	1005.10.13.00.00	1212.99.41.00.00
0602.90.70.00.11	1005.10.15.00.00	1212.99.49.00.00
0602.90.70.00.12	1005.10.18.00.00	

**APPENDIX I(b) - HS CODES of commodities which are not required to obtain a Control Certificate but are subject to veterinary controls/inspections**

0502.10	35.02
0504.00	3504.00
05.05	3507.10.00.00.00
0508.00	3825.10.00.00.00
05.11	3913.90
1212.99.95	3917.10
1213.00.00.00.00	41.01

1214.90	41.02
15.04	41.03
1505.00	4205.00.90
1521.90	4206.00.00.00.00
1522.00	43.01
1702.11	51.01
20.04	51.02
20.05	51.03
23.01	6701.00
23.09	95.08
2835.25.00.00.00	9705.00.00.00.00
2835.26.00.00.00	
2932.99	
3006.92.00.00.000	
3101.00	
35.01	

## **APPENDIX II - Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts**

### **General Directorate of Food and Control (GDPC) Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL)**

Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 287 33 60

Fax : +90 (312) 258 76 93

### **The Main Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authorities:**

#### **Istanbul Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Bağdat Caddesi. No.307 Erenkoy, Kadıkoy , Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (216) 468 21 00

Fax: + 90 (216) 355 37 15

E-mail: [istanbul@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:istanbul@tarim.gov.tr)

#### **Izmir Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Kazim Dirik Mahallesi Sanayi Caddesi No: 34 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey

Phone: + 90(232) 435 10 02

Fax: + 90 (232) 462 24 93

E-mail: [izmir@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:izmir@tarim.gov.tr)

#### **Mersin Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Gazi Mah. 1303 Sokak No:13/A Yenisehir, Mersin, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (324) 326 40 13  
Fax: + 90 (324) 326 40 12  
E-mail: [mersin@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:mersin@tarim.gov.tr)

**There are 41 provincial food and feed control laboratories, the four largest being:**

- 1) **National Food Reference Laboratory - Ankara, Turkey**  
Phone: +90 (312) 327 41 81 ; Fax: + 90 (312) 327 41 56  
E-mail: [ugrl@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:ugrl@tarim.gov.tr)
- 2) **Ankara Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Ankara, Turkey**  
Phone: + 90 (312) 315 00 89; Fax: + 90 (312) 315 79 34  
E-mail: [ankara.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:ankara.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr)
- 3) **Istanbul Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Istanbul, Turkey**  
Phone: + 90 (212) 663 39 61 or + 90 (212) 663 39 62 ; Fax: + 90 (212) 663 42 96  
E-mail: [istanbul.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:istanbul.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr)
- 4) **Izmir Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Izmir, Turkey**  
Phone: + 90 (232) 435 14 81 or + 90 (232) 435 66 37 ; Fax: + 90 (232) 462 41 97  
E-mail: [izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr)

#### **Turkish Patent and Trademark Office**

Hipodrom Caddesi No:115 (06330) Yenimahalle-Ankara/Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (312) 303 10 00; Fax: + 90 (312) 303 11 73

#### **Main Food Traders Associations Contact List**

##### **Turkish Food and Drink Industry Association Federation**

Chairman: Semsî Kopuz  
General Secretary: İlknur Menlik  
Address: Altunizade Mah. Kısıklı Cad. Tekin Ak İş Merkezi No:3 Kat:2 Daire:7 34662 Bağlarbaşı-Üsküdar Istanbul/Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (216) 651 86 81; Fax: + 90 (216) 651 86 83  
E-Mail: [genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr](mailto:genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr)  
Web: <http://www.tgdf.org.tr>

##### **All Food Importers Association**

Chairman: Mustafa Manav  
General Secretary: Melehat Ozkan  
Address: Büyükdere Cad. Somer Apt. No:64 Kat:5 D:13 Mecidiyeköy-İstanbul/Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (212) 347 25 60 ; Fax: + 90 (212) 347 25 70  
E-Mail: [tugider@tugider.org.tr](mailto:tugider@tugider.org.tr)

Web: <http://www.tugider.org.tr/>

### **Turkish Feed Manufacturers Association**

Chairman: Murat Ulku Karakus

General Secretary: Serkan Ozbudak

Address: Oveçler Mah. Cetin Emec Bulvari Lizbon Caddesi No:38/7 Çankaya-Ankara/Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 472 83 20 (pbx); Fax: + 90 (312) 472 83 23

E-mail: [info@yem.org.tr](mailto:info@yem.org.tr)

Web: <http://www.yem.org.tr>

### **Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey**

Chairman: Kamil Ozcan

General Secretary: Dr. Onur Sahin

Address: Eskişehir Yolu üzeri Mustafa Kemal Mh. 2120 Cd. No:5 Gözüm İş Merkezi D:1-2 06520 Çankaya-Ankara/Turkey

Phone:+90 (312) 219 45 64

E-Mail: [dsymb@dsymb.org.tr](mailto:dsymb@dsymb.org.tr)

### **Turkish Red Meat Producers Association**

Chairman : Bulent Tunc

General Secretary: Adnan Gultek

Address: Umit Mah. 2527. Sokak No:7 Umitkoy Ankara -Turkey

Phone:+90 (312)219 51 84

E-Mail: [info@tuketbir.org.tr](mailto:info@tuketbir.org.tr)

### **APPENDIX III - Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

U.S. exporters are advised to contact the FAS offices in Ankara or Istanbul for additional information and/or a list of private sector firms which can provide assistance with customs clearance and import regulation issues. In most cases, the importing company or agent should be familiar with (and ultimately responsible for) existing regulations.

#### **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Offices in Turkey:**

American Embassy

110 Ataturk Blvd.

Kavaklıdere, Ankara

Tel: + 90 (312) 455 55 55

Fax: +90 (312) 467 00 56

Email: [agankara@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agankara@fas.usda.gov)

American Consulate, Istanbul

Kaplıcalar Mevki Sokak

Istinye, 334460 Istanbul

Tel: +90 (212) 335-9000

Fax: +90 (212) 335-9077

Email: [agistanbul@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agistanbul@fas.usda.gov)

### **APPENDIX IV – Acronyms used in Report**

**DD:** District Directorates  
**EFSA:** European Food Safety Authority  
**EU:** European Union  
**EPPO:** European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization  
**FSIS:** Food Safety Information System  
**GDFC:** General Directorate of Food and Control  
**GMOs:** Genetically Modified Organisms  
**GMP:** Good Manufacturing Practice  
**HACCP:** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points  
**ISO:** International Standardization for Standardization  
**MinFAL:** Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock  
**MoH:** Ministry of Health  
**MRLs:** Maximum Residue Limits  
**OIE:** World Organization for Animal Health  
**PAD:** Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates  
**PVMS:** Product Verification Monitoring System  
**WTO:** World Trade Organization