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Egypt

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and

Standards

Country Report

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Report Highlights:

Egypt continues to make efforts to reform its import procedures. However, some agricultural imports are still subject to high tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
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"This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Cairo, Egypt for U.S. agriculture products and exporters. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY."

INTRODUCTION

In a new development to reform its import/export regime, the Government of Egypt (GOE) took a very significant step to streamline the inspection process for consignments. A new Presidential Decree No. 106 of 2000 was issued to centralize the process of inspection and certification of imported goods under the General Authority for Import/Export Control Authority (GOEIC) of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade. Also, in August 2000, the government of Egypt also issued Decree 524, which sought to simplify sample withdrawal and examination procedures. This decree requires the authorities to issue sample examination results within seven days from the date of sample withdrawal. The size and number of inspection samples per consignment are also specified by this decree.

SECTION I

FOOD AND TRADE LAWS

a. In February 2000, Presidential Decree No. 106 was issued to centralize the process of inspection and certification of imported goods under the General Organization for Export/Import Control (GOEIC) of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade. In the past, there were five government entities involved in the import clearance process. With the new decree, inspection will only be done through GOEIC. However, there will be representatives from other ministries such as, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health monitoring the inspection process. Release certificate is not issued unless all authorities approve the consignment and hence GOEIC issues a release or approval certificate.

b. In November 7, 1999, the Government of Egypt (GOE) issued Decree No. 423 for 1999 amending decree no. 619 for 1998 which prohibited the importation of consumer and durable goods from countries other than the country of origin. The amended decree permitted the shipment of imported consumer and durable goods from the manufacturing companies, or any of its branches and distribution centers. Also, instructions have been given to the implementing agencies to facilitate the acceptance of invoices issued by the manufacturing companies, where the country of origin is mentioned on such invoices, as an alternative to the certificate of origin. These invoices can be signed by the Egyptian Commercial Office in the exporting country without any fees.

c. In mid March, 1999, the Egyptian Central Bank issued instructions to all Egyptian banks not to open letters of credit (LC) for commodity imports unless the importers deposit 100 percent in cash of the total value of the imported shipments for consumer goods or 50 percent in cash for the imports of intermediate goods and raw materials. However, end users of grains may import with a lower deposit to be determined by banks, perhaps 20 percent or less for the most credit worthy importers. According to some observers, this decision by the Central Bank was made in an attempt to slow down the growth in imports and reduce the pressure on the foreign currency reserve account, which has suffered from the growing negative balance of trade.

The Central Bank decision to require 100 percent cash deposit for opening of LCs for the importation of consumer goods has had a negative impact on some U.S. agriculture exports to Egypt, particularly consumer ready products and the utilization of GSM 102/103 credit guarantee programs. The impact on the total Egyptian imports of U.S. bulk agricultural products such as wheat, corn and soybean may not be severe, given the fact that most of the imports of these products is done either by government agencies for large trading companies. Egyptian imports of high value consumer-ready products, however, have been negatively affected most by the new regulation, since many of the importers of these products are small or medium companies which do not have the financial means to put down 100 percent cash payments to open their letters of credit. Also, the value of GSM-102 program is drastically diminished if importers do not receive the benefit of deferred payment.

d. Egypt's tariff rates for several products are still relatively high compared to other developing countries with large internal markets and diversified economies. For example, the tariff on alcoholic beverages, such as beer is 1200%, vermouth 3000% and the tariff rate for poultry meat is still at 80% (although Egypt agreed it should be 70% and tariffs on grated cheese is 30%). However, the tariff rate for alcoholic beverages for the tourist industry is 300% (See appendix III). In addition to the customs tariff, a sales tax ranging between 5% and 25% is added to the final customs value of the imported item.

e. In general, Egyptian regulations state that all food items, except those products which are banned, may be freely imported into Egypt. On July 1997, a nine-year old import ban was lifted on whole poultry, but left in place the ban on poultry parts. The ban was to be replaced with a tariff rate of 80 percent to be gradually reduced over a ten-year period. However, fearing an anticipated heavy influx of low price chicken parts, particularly from the U.S., a GOE decree was issued to assess the tariff rate on the basis of a reference price of \$1,500 per MT and ban the importation of poultry parts. This is attributed to the Islamic Halal slaughtered practices which require that slaughter must be done by a hand held knife and without stunning the birds before slaughter.

The GOE lifted the ban on U.S. cattle 6/13/01. However, animals must be tested for EBL multiple times prior export. All animals must be free of EBL in order to be exported to Egypt. Although this disease is not considered to be of commercial importance in the U.S. and is already present in the Egyptian herds. FSIS, USDA conducted a risk assessment in Egypt in 1999 and developed a plan that would effectively prevent the importation of EBL positive cattle from the U.S. Following the European BSE crises, in November 27, 2000 the Egyptian Government banned imports of live animal, frozen beef, biological compounds, hormones, and feed concentrates from animal

origin (i.e. MBM) originating in Europe. The ban will likely remain in place for the foreseeable future.

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f. Egyptian authorities stress that all product standards and requirements applied to imported food are identical to those applicable to domestically produced products. All product specifications used in Egypt include the following information:

- Name of product
- Ingredients
- General provisions governing the condition of the product
- Specifications
- Packaging and labeling statements
- Means of testing and analysis
- Production dates
- Authorities setting the standard for the product

After a product standard is approved, the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control assigns it an identification number. The number also includes the year in which it is announced (e.g., 1812/1996).

In reality, Egyptian authorities are more strict in enforcing product standards on imported food products than on locally produced food products. If a local product standard for a specific item does not exist, Egyptian authorities may apply the standard for that product used in the country of origin. Importers report that they frequently encounter problems because of ill-defined product standards.

All modifications to regulations are announced only in the “**Official Gazette.**” Once a ministerial rule (e.g., decree, law, etc.) is issued, importers are strongly advised to periodically check with the various government clearing authorities to see if it has been amended (for example, by internal memoranda). Laws constantly are being changed and invariably take effect as soon as they are announced.

RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

The Food Institute of the Ministry of Health is responsible for registering and approving all speciality and dietary foods. The importer has to submit a form to get license for dietary products. The license is valid for 5 years only. After five years, the importer has to submit a new request for license renewal. It takes from 4 to 6 months to register a product. The renewal of the license costs about US\$ 290.

The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (EOS) in the Ministry of Industry has sole responsibility for establishing, adopting and publishing food standards and codes of practice. While the EOS issues all product standards, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economy to apply those standards. Anyone who wants to have a new specification established and included on the list of approved Egyptian specifications must present proof that the desired specification standard already exists and is approved for use in some other “acceptable” country.

In cases where no mandatory Egyptian standard exists, the following standards are acceptable:

- Egyptian Product Standards
- International Standards (ISO/IEC)
- European Standards (EN); in the absence of EN standards, British (BS), German (DIN), and French (NF) standards may be applied
- American Standards (ANS)
- Japanese Standards (JAS)
- Codex Standards

In the absence of an Egyptian or international standard, authorities often will refer to the Analysis Certificate accompanying the product. If no suitable standard exists for a product, a committee may be formed to develop a new standard. However, it may take up to two years or more for the new standard to be implemented after it is approved.

Tests and analyses are conducted on all imported food products upon arrival at port. Analyses are conducted in accordance with the specifications, regulations, and other instructions.

The following tests are mandatory on all imported food products upon arrival at port:

- Laboratory tests and analyses by the Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture veterinary inspection of dairy, fish, meat, and poultry products
- Labeling and product compliance with the Egyptian Standards (General Organization for Export / Import Control “GOEIC / Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economy”)

All tests are conducted in government laboratories. Tests and analyses by private laboratories are not permitted or acceptable.

Tests and analyses are conducted to assure that the product is (1) fit for human consumption, 2) free from contagious diseases, and 3) in compliance with Egyptian product specifications.

Since inspection is now centralized in GOEIC, a committee is formed with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Health, and GOEIC. Each authority issues their results to GOEIC. If any authority rejects the product, GOEIC, in turn, will also reject the product.

Number of samples withdrawn have not been reduced as a result of centralizing the inspection with GOEIC. Fees for confiscating a container not in compliance with the Egyptian standards has been increased from \$180 to \$1,300.

Importers are supposed to be notified of all test results within 7 days after samples have been drawn. However, for canned products and mineral water, tests results must be submitted within 14 days after samples have been drawn.

A product may be rejected for the following reasons:

- Not fit for human consumption
- Incorrect labeling
- Prohibited colors, additives, or preservatives
- Incorrect or missing certificates (however, authorities usually allow importers extra time to submit corrected documents)
- Failure to comply with Egyptian product specifications
- Less than 50% of the established shelf-life remains for the product

If a product is rejected, it may be:

- re-exported from the entry port. Shipments with special conditions are excepted, but should receive a prior approval from the Ministry of Health;
- confiscated; or
- appealed by filling a request for reconsideration within 7 days from the date of rejection. Appeals are submitted to GOEIC.

SECTION II

LABELING AND PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

Egypt maintains restrictive labeling requirements for imports of food products. With the exception of the production and expiration dates, information printed in English (or other foreign language) is not allowed. Dates are accepted in English, but the word "Production" and "Expiry" MUST be written in Arabic. Arabic language is mandatory. Labels can be printed on the package or be of a permanent adhesive type. Products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package. Information on the label cannot be erased, scratched, or altered in any way. Requirements are more restrictive for meat and poultry products.

All labels must include the following information:

- Name and address of manufacturer
- Brand or trade mark, if appropriate
- Country of origin
- Type of product and grade
- Name and address of importer
- Production and expiration dates. Production and expiration dates may be mentioned separately on the top of the package. They can be applied by laser, imposed, or printed. In such cases, there is no need to repeat them on the label.
- Product use instructions (optional)
- Product ingredients
- Storage instructions or temperature
- Net weight
- Gross weight and total number of the packages per case or carton
- If the product contains preservatives, the percentage of each preservative should be indicated
- If the product is meat or poultry, the following statement must appear: "slaughtered according to the Islamic ritual" or "halal slaughtered"

In November 1997, the Ministry of Trade issued decree No. 465 which calls for the insertion of labels inside the packaging of imported products, including information on the name and address of each importer in Arabic. This requirement necessitates separate production procedures for products destined for the Egyptian market which will increase production costs and limit marketing options for U.S. exporters.

Currently, it is permitted to amend any information on the label. However, amendments must be done inside the Customs Authority. Any amendments can be done on information by a sticker. However, if dates need to be amended, it must be printed on the package (outer and inner package). Amended stickers for dates are not acceptable.

Labels can be printed on the package or be of a permanent adhesive type. Products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package. Information on the label cannot be erased, scratched, or altered in any way.

The package label must show the production and expiration dates without the use of codes. For example,

Day -- Month -- Year may be used for food products for which the expiration period is 6 months or less.

Month -- Year may be used for food products for which the expiration period exceeds 6 months.

There are no specific size or placement requirements for labels. However, labels with all required information must be placed on every package weighing 50 grams or more.

On November 1997, the Ministry of Trade and Supply issued Decree No. 465 adding new labeling requirements to the importation of meat and poultry products. The decree requires that all products must be packaged in sealed bags.

Labels must be inserted **inside** the package as well as on the outside carton. The information on the label may be in two or more languages, as long as one is Arabic. The label must include the following information:

- Country of origin
- Producer's name and logo (if any)
- Name of slaughterhouse
- Slaughter date
- Name and address of importer
- Name of entity which issued the "Islamic Slaughter" certification.

N.B. Such entity must be approved by the Commercial Office of the Egyptian Embassy (or Consulate) in the country of origin.

SECTION III

SHELF-LIFE

Egyptian shelf-life requirements for food products differ in many respects from the standards used by other countries. "Best-Used-By" dates are not acceptable in Egypt. The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (Ministry of Industry) is responsible for setting all product

standards and shelf-life specifications, ostensibly to protect the consumer. Shelf-life requirements constitute an integral part of Egyptian product standards.

In most cases, reference to a product's shelf-life means that the quality of the product may deteriorate after a certain period of time. In Egypt, any product that exceeds its established shelf-life is considered no longer fit for human consumption. It is a criminal offense for an importer to hold or use a product after the expiration date.

Many traders think that the current policy is too rigid and inflexible, given the rapid developments taking place in the international food industry and the variety of the food products available in the market. In other foreign countries, it is the responsibility of the manufacturer, not the government, to set product quality standards.

Failure to meet Egyptian product specifications constitutes one of the main reasons for product rejection. If the product arrives at port with less than 50% of its established shelf-life, the consignment will be rejected. Changing a product specification is difficult and time-consuming.

There are several factors affecting the shelf-life of a product including food additives, packaging, storage, ..etc. In Egypt, most shelf-life requirements differ considerably from the shelf-life standards commonly used in international trade. Egyptian authorities set shelf-life standards which are usually more stringent than those used in international trade. Ministerial Decree No. 107 of 1994 of the Ministry of Industry contains the validity periods for all food products. In 1994, the government decreed that all food products had to have at least 50% of the established shelf-life remaining at the time of importation, otherwise the product would be rejected.

The shelf-life of a product is calculated from the date of production up until the date of completion of all customs procedures and import certification at the Egyptian port of entry.

Exceptions to the above include 1) corn seeds, as long as the seeds being imported were harvested during the same year of importation; and 2) green coffee.

SECTION IV

FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

a. Colorings Artificial Colors

On October 1997, the Ministry of Health issued Decree No. 411 increasing the number of artificial colors allowed in food products. The following colors are permitted:

- Curcumin
- Riboflavin: lactoflavin
- Riboflavin-5-phosphate
- Tartrazine: FD & C yellow no. 5
- Quinoline yellow
- Sunset yellow FCF: FD&C yellow no. 6
- Carmines: cochineal extract
- Carmoisine (azorubine)
- Ponceau 4 R: cochineal red A, new coccine
- Red 2 G: azogeranine
- Allura Red AC: FD&C, red no. 40
- Indigotine: FD&C, blue no. 2
- Brilliant blue FCF: FD&C, blue no. 1
- Chlorophylls and chlorophyllins:
- Chlorophylls
- Chlorophyllins
- Copper complexes of chlorophylls and chlorophyllins
- Copper complexes of chlorophylls
- Copper complexes of chlorophyllins sodium and potassium salts
- Fast green FCF: FD&C, green no. 3
- Plain caramel
- Caustic sulphite caramel
- Ammonia caramel
- Sulphite ammonia caramel
- Brilliant black PN
- Brown HT: chocolate brown HT
- Carotenes
- Mixed carotenes
- Beta carotene
- Annatto extracts (bixin, norbixin)
- Paprika extract, paprika oleoresins
- Lycopene; gamma carotene
- Beta-apo-8-carotenal
- Ethylester-beta-apo-8-Caro
- Lutein: xanthophylls

- Beetroot red (beet red)
- Anthocyanins
- Grape skin extract
- Calcium carbonate
- Titanium dioxide

Acceptable artificial colors are not always allowed in all food products. Importers should check with the health authorities to verify the acceptability of any food coloring in the product to be imported.

There are no exceptions to the regulations governing food colorings. The scientific name of the color ingredient and the percentage of concentration must be indicated on the Analysis Certificate. Egyptian authorities will not allow a product to be imported if it contains an unauthorized color, even if the use of the color is acceptable in another country.

Natural Colors

The following natural colors extracted from fruits and plants are approved:

For fruit juices, concentrate, powders

- Berries, currants (black currents)
- Citrus fruits
- Drupes (cherry, plum, and prunes)
- Melon family
- Rose hips (hipberries)
- Tomato
- Pineapple, mango, kiwi

For vegetables, vegetable juice and powder

- Pulses (pea flower)
- Carrot
- Cabbage
- Beet root
- Spinach
- Netles (Utrica)
- Alfalfa
- Yellow and red turnip
- Sweet potato
- Capsicum varieties (cayenne pepper)

For cereals, fermented and roasted

- Maize
- Purple corn
- Rye
- Barley

For spices, herbs, and flavorings

- Saffron
- Sandelwood (red)
- Carthamus red, yellow (safflower)
- Paprika
- Sage
- Parsely
- Shallots
- Violets
- Burdock

Others

- Malt
- Molasses
- Yeast
- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Egg yolk
- Carob flour
- Liquorice
- Honey
- Burnt Sugar
- Hibiscus
- Tea
- Mate
- Crustacea
- Nuts
- Mushrooms

b. Preservatives

All preservatives must be identified along with the allowed concentration expressed as a percentage in parts per million calculated on the acid base. Ministerial Decree No. 478 of 1995 issued by the Ministry of Health lists all acceptable preservatives and concentrations levels.

c. Flavorings

The Ministry of Health does not maintain a list of approved flavorings. However, all flavorings accepted under CODEX or WHO also are approved for use in Egypt.

SECTION V**PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND OTHER CONTAMINATE REGULATIONS ****

Regulations governing pesticides, pesticide registration and use are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Division of Pesticide Residues and Environmental Pollution (DREP), an office of the Central Agricultural Pesticides Laboratory (CAPL), is charged with analyzing pesticides and chemical contaminants in foods. CAPL is a laboratory within the Agricultural Research Center (ARC). The Center also makes recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture on matters pertaining to pesticide legislation and regulations.

Registration Procedures for Pesticides in Egypt

All pesticides must be registered before they can be legally used. The registration process includes the following:

- An application submitted to the Pesticides Committee (PC) of the Ministry of Agriculture showing the following information:
- Registration certificate valid for the country of origin.
- Toxicological data prepared by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).
- Copies of all environmental impact studies.
- Field and laboratory evaluation results and recommendations.
- Label.

Upon review, the PC refers the application to the Recommendation Committee, which sets the recommended usage rates.

The Recommendation Committee then forwards the application to the Research Station for field evaluations and monitoring.

The Pesticides Committee includes representatives from:

- The Ministry of Health
- The Veterinary Office (MOA)
- The Environmental Affairs Agency

Egyptian standards for pesticide residues in food are derived from FAO and WHO standards. It is a criminal offense to sell food or bottled drinking water containing pesticides, heavy metals or mycotoxin in excess of the Maximum Residues Limits (MRL) set by these organizations for those products.

Each year, the Division of Pesticide Residues and Environmental Pollution analyzes several hundred food items for organ chlorine, organophosphorus, dithiocarbamate and other pesticides.

SECTION VI

OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

FOOD CERTIFICATES

A number of certificates are required for all imported food products:

- Health Certificate *
- Veterinary Certificate (for meat, poultry, fish and dairy products) *
- Islamic Halal Certificate, "if applicable" *
- Temperature Certificate (for frozen, deep frozen and chilled products)
- Analysis Certificate, "if applicable" *

***Countersigned by the Chamber of Commerce and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin, or any other Arab Consulate if there is no Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin.**

Importers must present ONE set of all import documents to the General Organization for Export / Import Control.

The certification requirements for imported food products differ according to the product. For example, special veterinary certificates are required for meat, poultry, fish and dairy products.

If the product is in transit, all relevant certification must be notarized and issued in the country of origin. However, if the product is further processed in another country during transit, the appropriate certification may be executed in the country where additional processing is done.

On July 10, 1997, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a Ministerial Decree No. 1647 stipulating the following (additional) conditions related to the importation of meat and live animals:

An importer must submit an import request to the General Administration for Veterinary Services indicating: a) the number of animals or type of and meat being imported; b) country of origin; c) shipping port; d) expected date of shipment arrival; and e) means of transportation.

The General Administration for Veterinary Services will examine the request according to the epidemiological status of the country of origin. If the epidemiological status permits importation, the importer will be issued a Health Veterinary Approval permit. The permit is valid for one month. The importer can renew the Approval if importation does not occur within one month. No fees are charged for the Approval permit.

Also, in November 1997, the Ministry of Trade and Supply issued Decree No. 465 adding new requirements to the importation of poultry and meat products.

FOR SLAUGHTERED POULTRY AND MEAT

- Products must be shipped directly from the country of origin to Egypt.
- Products must be packaged in sealed bags. Labels must be inserted *inside* the package as well as on the outside carton (see Labeling Section).

Release by the veterinary authorities depends heavily on the veterinary pre-approval license. If there is any discrepancy between the pre-approval license and the shipping documents, the product will be rejected. Importers should be completely familiar with all of the information required for the pre-approval license and instruct their suppliers accordingly. Importers should check with the Veterinary Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture for more information and instructions.

A number of other certificates also are required for animal products:

- Islamic Halal Certificate
- A Certificate of Origin showing the name of the exporting country, number of parcels, type of meat, date of inspection, production and expiration dates, name of exporter, port of entry, and name of consignee.
- A Veterinary Certificate issued in the country of origin indicating that the animals used in making the product were examined before and after slaughter, and that they are free from all contagious diseases.
- In the case of frozen meat, a certificate assuring that a temperature of -18 degrees Centigrade was maintained before export, and that each piece was wrapped in accordance with accepted international packaging standards.

BATCH NUMBER CERTIFICATES

Batch Number Certificates (BNC) are required for all food products. If the consignment being imported includes quantities with different batch numbers, BNCs will be required for each batch. Samples will be drawn from each batch.

Samples will be drawn from each batch having different production and expiration dates. Products with different dates are considered to be different items and should be identified as such on the Release Certificate.

PRODUCT SAMPLING

All product samples should be representative of the consignment and should be drawn during the unloading process. A committee is formed to withdraw random samples (i.e., the Physical Examination Committee, see Section 3.4). One representative sample (specified in size) is drawn from each consignment and respective inspection agencies have that sample for testing. However, each agency will conduct its own laboratory tests. Tests are conducted by 3 different laboratories.

Cleanliness must be assured when samples are taken to avoid contamination. Also, the committee is supposed to take the necessary steps to assure the soundness of the product samples while they are being transported to the laboratory for analysis. All sample information is indicated on the Form of Examination Results.

According to Decree No. 232 of 1996 issued by the Ministry of Health, the following provisions are to be taken into consideration when samples are withdrawn:

- the consignment should be treated as a single shipment;
- the samples should be divided according to batch sizes and type of product;
- the samples should be distributed among the laboratories so as to avoid repetition;
- all label information should be presented on the "Sample Analysis Form."

If a consignment is imported from various origins or product sources, each should have a distinctive and confidential number.

SECTION VII

OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

The following is a partial list of ministerial decrees, laws....etc. affecting food importation:

PRESIDENTIAL DECREES

- S Presidential Decree No. 106 of 2000 centralizing the process of inspection and certification of imported products under GOEIC.
- S Presidential Decree No. 250 of 1999 banning some products from the EU.
- S Presidential Decree No. 243 of 1998 reducing maximum tariff rates.
- S Presidential Decree No. 619 of 1998 for importation of durable and non-durable goods.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

- S Ministerial Decree No. 1073 of 1998 for Leucosis
- S Ministerial Decree No. 9 of 1997 for meat importation.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 1647 of 1997 for issues related to the importation of meat and live animals.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 874 of 1996 forbidding testing, importation, usage of pesticides classified as "B" and "C."
- S Ministerial Decree No. 25 of 1982 for product sampling.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE

- S Ministerial Decree No. 524 of 2000 for Inspection and Samples Withdrawal.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 423 of 1999 amending Ministerial Decree No. 619 of 1998.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- S Ministerial Decree No. 118 of 2000 for cancelling radiation inspection except for Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 411 of 1997 for food colorings.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 53 of 1996 for product sampling and test analysis.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 354 of 1996 for product rejection.
- S Ministerial Decree Nos. 232 of 1996 and 349 for product sampling.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 478 of 1995 for food preservatives.
- S Ministerial Decree Nos. 302 of 1986 and 782 of 1984 for product sampling.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

- S Ministerial Decree Nos. 179, 180, and 181 of 1996 issued by the Ministry of Industry listing Egyptian product specifications and mandatory standards.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 107 of 1994 and Egyptian Standard No. 2613 for shelf-life standards.
- S Egyptian Standard No. 1546 of 1984 for labeling requirements.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

- S Ministerial Decree No. 286 cancelling Decree No. 250 for prohibiting importation from EU countries.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 619 of 1998 mandating that all consumer goods be shipped directly from the country of origin.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 553 of 1998 permitting to store products of the customs area provided that the shipment is in accordance to all labeling conditions.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 465 of 1997 for import requirements of slaughtered birds, poultry and meat.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 227 of 1997 lifting the ban on whole poultry.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 55 of 1996 for pesticide residues.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 178 of 1996 for the importation of meat and dairy products.
- S Ministerial Decree No. 57 of 1939 for product and brand registration.

SECTION VIII

COPYRIGHT/TRADEMARK LAWS

Ministry of Supply and Home Trade is responsible in the registration of brand names and logos:**

Ministry of Supply

General Administration for Trademarks

Address: 24 El Gomhoriya Street
Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (202) 390-1198

Fax: (202) 393-8243

Ministry of Supply

General Administration for Trademarks

Contact: - **Mr. Saad Hassan Zeidan**
Chairman
- **Ms. Bahiga Shoukry**
Manager for Trademarks

A number of certificates and documents must be submitted during the registration process:

- A sample of the logo and brand name
- A certification of the company's incorporation in the home country
- A certificate issued by the Commercial Register in Egypt affirming that the proposed name of the company or logo has not already been registered in Egypt.

The company must apply for a “Trademark Examination Form” to check whether a similar trademark for the product already exists in the market.

If a foreign company wishes to protect its logo, the company has to supply the General Administration for Trademark with an example of its logo as registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The foreign company should employ an agent in Cairo to follow the trademark registration process.

It takes approximately from 3 to 9 months to register a logo or a brand name. Once approved, it is announced in the “Trademark Newspaper.”

SECTION IX

IMPORT PROCEDURES

It often takes at least two weeks for the product to complete all customs formalities. The rejection of a product for any reason quickly throws the consignment “**off track,**” or as one importer puts it, “**into a loop!**” Getting out the product out of the loop and back on track is both time consuming (occasionally in excess of 3 months or more) and expensive. There are no guarantees or assurances in appealing a rejection. In the end, authorities may still refuse to clear the product.

Any product not in compliance with Egyptian import requirements will likely be rejected. It is the appeal process which accounts for the added time and expense involved in clearing the product through customs.

The initial import procedure entails the assignment of a shipping agent (a GOE entity and separate from the vessel shipping agent); arrival of the consignment at port and a comparison of the invoice and bill of lading with the ship's manifest; issuance of a title transfer document to the importer; the unloading of the consignment; the purchase and completion of the "Importation Form" and registration of the consignment with Customs in the so-called "No. 46 Book;" and initial tariff classification of the product.

Egyptian companies often rely on customs brokers, companies, or their own staff to check on shipments and to clear products through customs.

The following documents must be presented to the Customs Office in order for a shipment to be released:

- Bill of Lading or Letter of Guarantee (L/G)
- Commercial Invoice
- Packing Lists
- Weight List
- Insurance Policy
- Certificate of Origin countersigned by the Chamber of Commerce and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin
- Import/Export Permit of the importer
- If the importer is an agent of a U.S. (or other foreign) manufacturer, the latter has to present an Agency Authorization Certificate for the products being imported.
- Form 11 from a local bank advising that payment has been transferred to the supplier. This form guarantees payment to the supplier.
- Food Certificates.

The following document is optional:

- S** A letter from the bank indicating that all administration fees have been paid. If this letter is not submitted, all administrative expenses must be paid at the port.
- S** Radiation Certificate.

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES MOST CONCERNED WITH FOOD IMPORT CLEARANCES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERY, ANIMAL WEALTH AND LAND RECLAMATION (MALR)

Address: 71 Wezaret El Zeraa Street

Dokki, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (202) 337-3388 / 2677

Fax: (202) 349-8128

Contact: **Dr. Youssef A. Wally**
Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister

Dr. Hassan Aidaros

Chairman, General Organization for Veterinary Services

Tel: (202) 748-1750

Fax: (202) 336-1727

Dr. Youssef EL Daoudi

Undersecretary for Agricultural Quarantine

Tel: (202) 336-3582

Fax: (202) 337-2881

CENTRAL LAB FOR PESTICIDES and Heavy Metals (MALR)

Address: Nadi El Seid
Dokki, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (202) 361-1282

Fax: (202) 361-1216

Contact: **Dr. Salwa Dogheim**
Director

CENTRAL LAB FOR FOOD AND FEED (CLFF/MALR)

Address: 9 El Gamaa Street
Giza, Egypt

Tel: (202) 573-2280

Fax: (202) 573-2280

Contact: **Dr. Akila Saleh**
Director

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER (MALR)

Address: 9 Gamaa Street, Orman
Giza, Egypt

Tel: (202) 572-3000 / 572-3906

Fax: (202) 572-2609

Contact: **Dr. Fawzi Naem**
Chairman

Tel: (202) 572-2069 / 0944

CENTRAL LAB FOR PESTICIDES (MALR)

Address: Nadi El Seid
Dokki, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (202) 748-6163

Fax: (202) 761-1216

Contact: **Dr. Salwa Dogheim**
Director

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)

Address: 3 Maglis El Shaab Street
Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (202) 795-7689 / 794-3462

Fax: (202) 794-8152

Contact: **Dr. Ismail Awadalla Salam**
Minister

Dr. Mahmoud Abu El Nasr
Undersecretary for Preventive Medicine
Tel: (202) 794-8555

Dr. Zeinab Abdel Halim
Manager of Food Control Division
Food and Quality Control
Tel & Fax: (202) 794-8152

CENTRAL LABORATORY (MOH)

Address: 3 Magles El Shaab Street
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 794-8544 / 794-7271
Fax: (202) 796-2248

Contact: **Dr. Magda Ali Rakha**
Undersecretary of state Central Health Laboratory

FOOD INSTITUTE (MOH)

Address: 16 Kasr El Eini Street
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 364-6413
Fax: (202) 364-7476

Contact: **Dr. Farouk Mohamed Shahin**
Chairman

Dr. Mohamed Fahmy Sadik
Ph.D. Food Hygiene
Tel: (202) 364-3522

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Address: 2 Latin America Street
Garden City, Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 794-3600 / 795-3730
Fax: (202) 794-8362

Contact: **Dr. Mustafa EL Rifai**
Minister
Tel: (202) 795-7048

Dr. MAHMOUD EISSA
Chairman
Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control
Address: 16 Tadreeb El Motdrabeen Street
Amiria, Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 259-3480
Fax: (202) 259-3480

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND DOMESTIC TRADE (MOS)

Address: 99 Kasr El Eini Street
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 794-5238 / 794-6777
Fax: (202) 795-6835

Contact: **Dr. Hassan Khedr**
Minister

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE

Address: 8 Adly Street
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 391-9661 / 9278
Fax: (202) 390-8159

Contact: **Dr. Youssef Botros Ghali**
Minister

GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROL (GOEIC)

Address: 1 Ramsis Street
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (202) 575-6130
Fax: (202) 575-8195

Contact: **Mr. Fakhr El Din Aboul Ezz**
Chairman

Mr. Atef El Akrad
Undersecretary for Import Control for Food Imports
Tel: (202) 574-1654
Fax: (202) 575-8195

Appendix II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

For further help, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: 011 (20-2) 795-2388 / 2389; Fax: 011 (20-2) 796-3989. E-mail: Agcairo@fas.usda.gov

Appendix III IMPORT TARIFF

COMMODITY	IMPORT TARIFF
Wheat	1%
Rice	20%
Corn	1%
Tobacco manufactured/unmanufactured	\$1.75-\$2.6 per kg. net 85% on cigars
Bovine meat and edible offals, fresh, chilled, frozen	5%
Meat and edible offals of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen	40%
Meat of bovine animals fresh, chilled, or frozen; Meat of sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen	5%
Meat and edible offal, of poultry, fresh, chilled, or frozen	80%
Meat and edible meat offal, salted, dried or smoked	40%
Sausages	30%
Frozen fish	5%
Fish, dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish	30%
Lobsters, shrimps, crabs	40%
Molluscs, whether in shell or not, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine	40%

COMMODITY	IMPORT TARIFF
Prepared fish	
- Tuna	5%
- Sardines, mackerel, & herrings	5%
- Frozen shrimps & prawns	40%
- Rock Lobster & other sea crawfish (not frozen)	40%
- Crabs	40%
Dairy Cattle	5%
Cheese	10-30%
Butter	5-15%
Yoghurt	30%
Mis. Food prep. (Soups, ice cream, jelly,.etc)	30%
Cocoa beans and cocoa paste	20%
Cocoa powder	30%
Chocolate	40%
Pastas	40%
Breakfast cereals	40%
Pastry, cakes, biscuits	40%
Jams	40%
Mushrooms (prepared or preserved)	30%
Canned vegetables, fruits	30-40%
Juices	40%
Nuts	30%

COMMODITY	IMPORT TARIFF
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Apples	40%
Dried fruit	30-40%
Beer	1200%
Fresh fruit	30-40%
Sauces	30%
Sparkling wine, vermouth, whiskies, gin, rum	3000% ***
Still wine	1800% ***

*** Hotels and other tourist facilities may import wine at 300% tariff.