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**Report Highlights:**

This report outlines Moroccan government requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products for human and animal consumption. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters by providing an assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imposed on imports. It also provides points of contact for key Moroccan government authorities.

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	3
<b>DISCLAIMER</b> .....	3
<b>Section I. Food Laws</b> .....	4
<b>Section II. Labeling Requirements</b> .....	5
<b>Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations</b> .....	7
<b>Section IV. Food Additive Regulations</b> .....	8
<b>Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants</b> .....	8
<b>Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures</b> .....	9
<b>Section VII. Other Specific Standards</b> .....	9
<b>Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights</b> .....	19
<b>Section IX. Import Procedures</b> .....	21
<b>Section X. Trade Facilitation</b> .....	24
<b>Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:</b> .....	24
<b>Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:</b> .....	25

## Executive Summary

Morocco is the only U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partner in Africa. Under the FTA, the vast majority of import duties on U.S. agricultural products were eliminated upon implementation on January 1, 2006 or were phased out over the 10 succeeding years. Morocco is primarily a bulk commodity market for U.S. wheat, corn, and soybean products with limited opportunities for consumer-oriented goods. U.S. high-value consumer-oriented goods are disadvantaged by small market size, low consumer spending, and close proximity, cultural, and economic ties to Europe.

This report outlines Moroccan government requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters by providing information on labeling, packaging, permitted ingredients and other relevant information. It also provides points of contact for key Moroccan government authorities.

After years of sustained engagement from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Morocco and the United States completed a sanitary agreement for the import of live U.S. cattle in January 2020. As part of this new agreement, Morocco published the following importation procedures for U.S. live cattle: "[Notice to Importers for fattening cattle](#)" and "[Notice to importers for breeding cattle](#)."

## DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Rabat-Morocco for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. FAS/Rabat recommends 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. Note: 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.

Please contact this office, if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions about the material contained in this report. Our e-Mail address is [AgRabat@usda.gov](mailto:AgRabat@usda.gov)

## Section I. Food Laws

Morocco's laws are generally enacted and enforced by government-level decrees and then by ministerial-level orders. These are then often interpreted and/or supplemented through a variety of lower-level orders, codes of procedure, notes, circulars, etc. All laws, decrees, and other significant regulations are published in Morocco's [official bulletin](#) (BO) with most regulations immediately coming into force. Morocco continues to be active in regulatory development and has progressively moved in the direction of harmonization with the European Union. Morocco's major, overarching food laws and regulations, include:

- Law #25-08, published in [BO #5714](#) (March 5, 2009), on the establishment of the National Office for Food Safety, Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des produits Alimentaires (ONSSA), an independent agency under the Minister of Agriculture, charged with regulating, implementing, and controlling conformity of products with local regulations, including standards, labeling, and packaging;
- [Law #13-83](#), published in [BO #3777](#) (March 20, 1985), on food quality control and fraud prevention;
- [Law #28-07](#), published in [BO #5822](#) (March 18, 2010), on food safety (see [GAIN report](#));
  - [Decree #2-10-473](#), published in [BO #5984](#) (October 6, 2011), implements the general food safety principles and traceability provisions of Law #28-07 (see [GAIN report](#));
  - [Decree #2-12-389](#), published in [BO #6152](#) (May 16, 2013), and [BO #6158](#) (June 6, 2013), amended by [Decree #2-18-44](#), published in [BO #6684](#) (June 21, 2018), implements the food labeling provisions of Law #28-07 (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Law #1-75-292](#), published in [BO #3388](#) (October 5, 1977), amended and supplemented by [Law #7-79](#), published in [BO #3500](#) (November 28, 1979), [Law #25-96](#), published in [BO #4482](#) (May 15, 1997), [Law #46-01](#), published in [BO #4970](#) (January 17, 2002), and [Law #06-05](#), published in [BO #5400](#) (March 2, 2006), on protecting domesticated animals against contagious diseases (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Law #24-89](#), published in [BO #4225](#) (October 20, 1993), on sanitary-veterinary requirements of imported animals, animal products, products of animal origin, animal propagation material, and seafood and aquaculture (see [GAIN report](#));
  - [Decree #2-89-597](#), published in [BO #4227](#) (November 2, 1993), amended by Order #603-05, published in [BO #5318](#) (May 19, 2005), implements Law #24-89 on Veterinary Sanitary Measures for the importation of animals, animal products (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #593-17](#), published in [BO #6680](#) (June 7, 2018), on phytosanitary inspection of imported plants and plant products (see [GAIN report](#)).

## Section II. Labeling Requirements

Morocco's regulations for labeling requirements include:

- [Decree #2-12-389](#), published in [BO #6152](#) (April 22, 2013), sets the terms and conditions for food labeling, as amended by [Decree #2-18-44](#), published in [BO #6684](#) (May 29, 2018), (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #2037-16](#), published in [BO #6526](#) (December 15, 2016), laying down the technical terms for the designation of ingredients in the labeling of food products (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #3871-15](#), published in [BO #6466](#) (May 19, 2016), laying down the procedures for the indication of the net quantity and the drained net weight of certain products and the indication of the lot production or manufacturing or packaging to which the prepackaged product belongs;
- [Joint Order #281-16](#), published in [BO #6488](#) (August 4, 2016), laying down the requirements and methods for the indication of nutritional information in the labeling of prepackaged food products;
- [Order #1379-10](#), published in [BO #5880](#) (October 7, 2010), provides exemptions products from the Arabic labeling requirement, including but not limited to imported food processing ingredients, food service items, food supplements, and alcohol (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #440-01](#), published in [BO #4888](#) (April 5, 2001), as repealed and replaced by [Joint Order #2473-17](#), published in [BO #6692](#) (May 15, 2018, page 1425), sets the period of validity and the conditions of preservation of certain products (see [GAIN report](#))<sup>1</sup>;

General packaged food requirements for information to be presented on the label:

**Primary Products:** A poster, sign or other appropriate means of labeling shall be affixed to or in close proximity to any primary product to permit its exact identification without risk of confusion.

**Prepackaged Products:** The labeling of any prepackaged product shall, subject to the exceptions provided for in this section, contain the following mandatory particulars:

- **Name of product;**
- **List of ingredients** including certain ingredients or categories of ingredients composing the product;
- **Allergy and ingredients:** The name of any ingredient or technological aids likely to cause an allergy or intolerance or any substance derived from these are set out in Annex I of [Decree #2-12-389](#);
- **Net quantity** of the product (in Kilogram)

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<sup>1</sup> [Decree #2-95-908](#) (May 5, 1999), has been repealed by [Decree 2-18-44](#) (May 29, 2018).

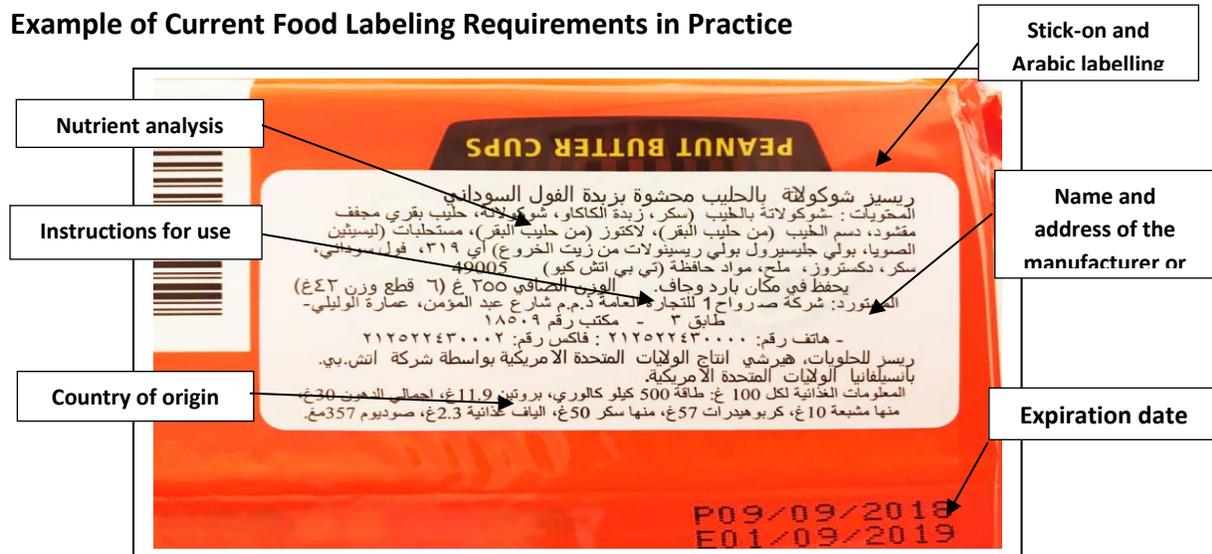
- **Period of validity:** Date of minimum durability and the consumption expiry date must be mentioned in the labeling as stipulated in [Decree #2-12-389](#). Morocco updated shelf life for food products by category with a specific shelf life date in 2018;
- **Special storage conditions for preservation;**
- **Name and address** of the manufacturer, the packager, or the importer depending whether the product is imported, locally manufactured, or locally packaged;
- **Country of origin** or the place of provenance of the product;
- **Instructions for use** whenever its mention is necessary for an appropriate use of the product as well as, where appropriate, the particular conditions of use, particularly the precautions for use;
- **Alcoholic strength** by volume for beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume;
- **Nutrition information** when they are mandatory under a regulation in force or when reference is to a nutrition or health claim on the product or in advertising concerning it;
- **Lot number** is defined as a set of food products exhibited for sale that were produced, processed, or packaged under similar conditions;
- **Additional mandatory labeling requirements for specific products** as stipulated in Annex II of [Decree #2-12-389](#);
- **Authorization or approval number** referred to in Article 14 of [Decree n° 2-10-473](#) and any other obligatory indication provided, where appropriate, by the regulatory provisions specific to the product under consideration.

**Stick-on Labels:** For most products, stick-on labels are accepted to comply with the Arabic label requirement. Stick-on labels must be approved by ONSSA and are to be put on products upon their arrival to Morocco in the importer’s facility. Their use is subject to the following conditions:

- The importer offers evidence that the supplier cannot print Arabic labeling on the goods;
- The importer presents a sample of the stick-on label to ONSSA for approval;
- The importer has adequate facilities and technical and human capabilities to put the complementary stick-on labels;
- The importer must provide evidence that the complementary labeling is unbreakable, non-detachable and indelible;
- The importer must provide a written commitment that the product will be marketed only after having complied with the prevailing labeling requirement.

The authorization to use stickers are typically provided on an annual basis, and the importer must file a request before the DCQ (*Quality Control Directorate*) at the port of entry and ONSSA, which will supervise the re-labeling operation. Importers who fail to meet these requirements will be deprived from future possibilities of using stickers

## Example of Current Food Labeling Requirements in Practice



## Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations

[Decree #2-10-473](#), published in [BO #5984](#) (October 6, 2011), implements the general food safety principles and traceability provisions of Law #28-07 (see [GAIN report](#)), including outlining the following conditions for packaging agricultural and food products.

- Use only materials and methods of wrapping and packaging, which are appropriate and adapted to the product concerned (Art 45.6);
- Primary products and food products delivered to consumers must be packed or packaged exclusively in food-grade materials, suitable for the products concerned (Art 51);
- Primary products and food products are packed or packaged in packs or packages made of materials intended to come into contact with food products in which the composition and use are fixed by joint order of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Maritime Fisheries, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Industry and Trade (Art 53.6).

See [GAIN report](#) for Morocco's regulatory framework concerning perishable foodstuffs.

Morocco requires the exporter to use containers equipped in a manner, including the use of a temperature recorder, to ensure that the cold chain is maintained. Shipments that fail to meet these requirements are subject to rejection.

[Order #593-17](#), published in [BO #6680](#) (June 7, 2018), concerns phytosanitary inspection of imported plants and plant products (see [GAIN report](#)), including wooden packaging, which shall bear a mark conforming to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15.

Morocco requires some consumer products to be sold in specific package sizes. Such requirements are generally included in the regulations regarding the sale of that product. See Section VI and verify with your importer before shipping.

## Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

Joint Order #1795-14, published in [BO #6322bis](#) (January 1, 2015), sets out the list and limits of food additives authorized for use in primary products and food products, as well as the indications that their packaging must bear (see [GAIN report](#)).

For food additives not mentioned in the above list but which are considered by Codex Alimentarius as food additives, their presence is permitted in food products imported or locally produced within the limits provided for by Codex Alimentarius.

## Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants

**Pesticides:** Pesticide imports, manufacturing, storage, and marketing are subject to [Law #42-95](#), published in [BO #4482](#) (May 15, 1997), amended by [Law #32-00](#), published in [BO #4980](#) (February 21, 2002). According to implementing [Decree #2-99-106](#), published in [BO #4692](#) (May 5, 1999), importers, producers, and distributors of pesticides must be licensed by the government and pesticides approved by ONSSA.

[Order #156-14](#), published in [BO #6322bis](#) (January 1, 2015), established maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides (see [GAIN report](#)). Morocco's corresponding WTO notification stated the Order's intent is to harmonize MRLs with the European Union.

**Veterinary Drugs:** [Order #2454-17](#), published in [BO #6666](#) (April 19, 2018), established MRLs for veterinary drugs (see [GAIN report](#)). The Order harmonized a number of Morocco's MRLs with the European Union.

**Contaminants:** [Joint Decree #1643-16](#), published in [BO #6514](#) (November 3, 2016), established Morocco's maximum permitted levels for contaminants in primary products and foodstuffs (see [GAIN report](#)). The Order harmonized a number of Morocco's maximum limits and alert thresholds with the European Union.

**Microbiological Requirements:** [Decree #293-19](#), published in [BO #6796](#) (February 15, 2019), lists microbiological requirements for primary products and food products. Animal foodstuffs or foodstuffs of animal origin must comply with the microbiological standards set out in the tables annexed in this decree in order to be deemed fit for consumption. Additionally, they must be free from microorganisms or dangerous toxins relevant to public health.

Morocco's microbiological requirements for meat, dairy, poultry, and egg products include tolerances for:

- Aerobic microorganisms
- Coliforms

- Fecal coliforms
- Staphylococcus aureus
- Sulfite-Reducing Anaerobes (Clostridia)
- Salmonella
- Listeria monocytogenes
- Beta-hemolytic streptococci
- E.coli
- Enterobacteriaceae

## Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

- A. Facility Registration: U.S. facilities are not required to register in Morocco. However, Morocco’s [Note #2185](#) (April 9, 2015), requires imported food and animal feed products be stocked only in authorized Moroccan facilities. Morocco also restricts imported livestock to [authorized quarantine facilities](#) and [authorized farms](#).
- B. Product Registration: Product registration is required for some products, including plant propagation material, animal feed, dietetic or special use food, and food additives (see Section VII for details).

## Section VII. Other Specific Standards

[Law #12-06](#), published in [BO #5822](#) (March 18, 2010), and implementing [Decree #2-10-252](#), published in [BO #5940](#) (May 5, 2011), concerns standardization, certification and accreditation. Morocco’s standards specify:

- Names and specifications of the products;
- Dimensional, quantitative or qualitative characteristics;
- Rules of use and control of goods and services products;
- Methods of analysis and sampling;
- Guides to good production and processing practices, packaging, storage and transport methods.

The Moroccan Institute of Standardization (IMANOR) is Morocco’s lead authority in standard-setting but they work with various other parties, including ONSSA, in their development. An outline of Morocco’s agri-food standards, current as of [January 2019](#), follows:

- Standards Established by Standardization Commissions in ONSSA
  - Methods of Analysis and Sampling (page 1-27)
  - Milk and Milk Products (page 28-46)
  - Meat and Meat Products (page 47-51)
  - Poultry (page 52)
  - Honey (page 52)
  - Animal Feed (page 53-57)
  - Feed Additives (page 58-59)
  - Hygiene and Food Safety (page 60)

- Fruits and Vegetables (page 61-66)
- Fertilizing Materials and Crop Materials (page 67-80)
- Standards Established by Standardization Commissions in Other Departments
  - Systems of Management (page 82)
  - Cereals and their Derivatives (page 83)
  - Preserves (page 84)
  - Fats (page 85-87)
  - Halal (page 88)
  - Potable Water (page 88-94)
  - Tea, Cacao, Chocolate, Salt, Spices, and Similar Products (page 95-97)
  - Accreditation (page 98)
  - Instruments of Measure (page 98)
  - Seafood Products (pages 99-102)

Draft standards are available on [IMANOR's](#) and [ONSSA's](#) website.

**Samples and Mail Order Shipments:** Samples and mail order shipments of food products are subject to the full import regulations.

**Dietetic or Special Use Food:** [Joint Circular #005/97](#) (July 11, 1997) of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, laying down the terms and conditions for foodstuffs and beverages for special dietary uses in Morocco.

Products consumed for special nutritional purposes, including baby formulas, infant food, dietetic food, food with a guaranteed amount of vitamins, amino-acid, or magnesium, food particularly high or low in energy, lipids or proteins, low sodium, and low calorie diet food, etc., must be registered at the Ministry of Health before they can clear customs.

Since the registration process may take several weeks, it is advisable to start by applying for product registration by sending samples in order to get the product approved. The importer applies for registration by submitting a request to the Ministry of Health, this request is accompanied by the following:

- Commercial name of the products;
- Detailed information on the ingredients, on the production and control process, and on the stability of the product;
- An export certificate provided by US FDA stating that the product is legally marketed for human use;
- Laboratory analysis certificate provided by official authorities of the exporting country. The result of the analysis should include information on the ingredients, toxicological and bacteriological analysis, and proved reference of the relevant prevailing regulations in the country of origin;

- Result of the scientific work and experiments made to show the advantage of using the products;
- A sample of the item to be marketed.

Based on the decision of the technical committee from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health issues the Registration Certificate that can be used to clear customs. The certificate is valid for 5 years and is renewable upon request from the importer.

Products included in this group can be sold as “*Dietetic Food*” or “*Diet Food*” except baby formulas and infant food used by healthy children (note: infant powder milk can only be sold in pharmacies). The labels of these products should include:

- Name of the product;
- Qualitative and quantitative information or the production process that gives the food its special characteristics;
- List of ingredients and additives;
- Net weight;
- Name and address of the importer;
- Lot number;
- Production and expiration dates (mention year) and, if needed, limit date for optimal use;
- Precaution measures for its use;
- Special storage conditions if any;
- Energy content expressed in Kilo-Joules (KJ) or Kilocalorie (Kcal) as well as sugar, protein and fat content per 100 grams or 100 milliliters and daily recommended intake. When the energy content of the food is less than 50 KJ (12 Kcal) the exact energy content may be replaced by the expression “*Energy Value Lower than 50 KJ (12 Kcal) for 100 Grams Per 1000 Milliliter*”.

For this special use food, the label should not include any mention of prevention, treatment, or recovery.

**Genetically Engineered Products:** Morocco neither produces nor allows importation of agricultural products derived from biotechnology for human consumption. However, Morocco does import genetically engineered (GE) products for its livestock and poultry sectors. Imports of biotech seeds for planting are currently not allowed by Morocco and require a “GMO-free certificate” for customs clearance. For more information see [GAIN report](#).

**Organic Products:** The United States does not have an equivalency agreement with Morocco. [Law #39-12](#), published in [BO #6128](#) (February 21, 2013), regulates the production, processing, marketing, and labeling of organic products. To apply for organic product labeling, producers must file a request (*Cahier des Charges*) to a national commission (Article 19 of the [law](#)). Imported organic products should comply with the following:

- The exporting country's organic production process and control system are equivalent to that of Morocco (Article 27);
- The competent authority of the exporting country certifies that organic products comply with its domestic requirements, which are equivalent to that of Morocco (Article 22).

**Live Animals and Genetics:** The United States and Morocco have established import requirements to facilitate the export of U.S. day-old poult and hatching eggs, day-old chicks, bovine and equine semen, horses, and dogs and cats (see [FAIRS Export Certificate](#)).

Animals and animal propagation material are subject to both veterinary and technical import regulations, including:

- [Law #1-75-292](#), published in [BO #3388](#) (October 5, 1977), amended and supplemented by Law #7-79, published in [BO #3500](#) (November 28, 1979), Law #25-96, published in [BO #4482](#) (May 15, 1997), Law #46-01, published in [BO #4970](#) (January 17, 2002), and Law #06-05, published in [BO #5400](#) (March 2, 2006), protects domesticated animals against contagious diseases (see [GAIN report](#)).

*Livestock & Horses:*

- [Order #514-94](#), published in [BO #4249](#) (April 6, 1994), on technical requirements for imported cattle, sheep, goats, and horses (see [GAIN report](#)).
- Cattle
  - Breeding – Code of Procedures [#7565](#) (November 27, 2008) for importation.
  - Fattening – Code of Procedures [#12](#) (January 5, 2010) for importation.
- Sheep/Goats
  - Goats – Code of Procedures [#4665](#) (June 28, 2006).
- Horses – Code of Procedure [#862](#) (February 10, 2003).
- Semen/Embryos
  - Bovine – Code of Procedures [#2484](#) (May 6, 2013) for importation (see [GAIN report](#)). Please note that the United States and Morocco are working to update import requirements for bovine semen to facilitate trade.

*Poultry:*

- [Order #2927-95](#), published in [BO #4352](#) (February 15, 1996), sets the sanitary conditions for imported day-old chicks and hatching eggs.
- [Order #2421-97](#), published in [BO #4558](#) (February 5, 1998), sets technical requirements for imported day-old chicks and hatching eggs.
- Poultry
  - Chicken – Code of Procedures [#32](#) (October 10, 2002) for importation.
  - Turkey – Code of Procedures [#10](#) (February 10, 2004) for importation.

*Other:*

- [Other \(e.g., dogs and cats, fish and their gametes, rabbits, other birds, etc.\)](#)

**Animal Products and Animal Feed:** Morocco maintains veterinary control on all animals, animal products, and animal feed.

Meat, Poultry, and Eggs: The United States and Morocco have established import requirements to facilitate the export of U.S. beef and poultry (see [FAIRS Export Certificate](#)). The United States does not have market access to export pork, sheep/goat meat, table eggs, or processed egg products.

Morocco's import requirements for U.S. beef and poultry are outlined in [Notices to Importers](#). In particular, Morocco requires U.S. beef and poultry be accompanied by a certificate of Halal slaughter. The certificate is to state that animals were slaughtered according to Islamic Halal religious requirement. (see [GAIN Report](#))

In order to use the Moroccan halal logo (see right), please refer to the [link](#) for additional information. The Moroccan Institute of Standardization ([IMANOR](#)) administers Morocco's halal standard (NM 08.0.800:2012), which was established by Ministry of Industry and Commerce Decision #2098-12, published in [BO #6062](#) (July 5, 2012). (see [GAIN Report](#))



Morocco also requires imported beef and poultry be stored in [approved facilities](#) and limits the final sale of “high-quality beef” to the Ministry of Tourism’s [list of classified restaurants](#) and [4 and 5-star hotels](#).

Fishery Products for Human Consumption: Morocco's import requirements for fishery and aquaculture products intended for human consumption are outlined in [Code: I PP 12/09](#).

Dairy Products for Human Consumption: The United States and Morocco have established import requirements to facilitate the export of U.S. dairy products (see [FAIRS Export Certificate](#)).

[Decree #2-00-425](#), published in [BO #4862](#) (February 4, 2001), addresses the controls on production and marketing of dairy products, including standards of identity as well as sanitary and technical requirements. The Decree also stipulates that milk reconstitution from sterilized or UHT milk requires an authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture. Reconstitution of milk from pasteurized milk is prohibited. The addition of starch to imported milk powder for industrial use is no longer required.

[Decree #2-86-760](#), published in [BO #3871](#) (January 7, 1987), completed and modified by Decree #2-02-94 in [BO #5010](#) (June 6, 2002), sets the specifications for processed milk fat content.

Butter: Decree #2-05-776, published in [BO #5470](#) (November 2, 2006), sets the marketing requirements and standards of identity for butter, oils, edible fats.

[Order #699-93](#), published in [BO #4370](#) (April 18, 1996), amended by [Order #2171-01](#), published in [BO #4988](#) (March 21, 2002), set the marketing requirements for butter, including microbiological, physio-chemical, and storage requirements for butter.

Morocco defines butter as having a minimum of 82 percent fat and 16 percent water. a waiver may be given to importers provided the butter is sold to food processors (and not directly to the public). Butter with an acidity over 15 (number of cc of normal potash for each 100 grams of finished products) is considered not suitable for consumption. Imported butter labels must bear the statement “*pasteurized butter*” and indicate the country of origin, name of producer, and its address, net weight, production date, and shelf life. Imported butter must not be renovated or regenerated and must be stored at less than -15 centigrade.

Honey: The United States and Morocco have not established import requirements to facilitate the export of U.S. honey.

[Decree #2-17-463](#), published in [BO #6628](#) (December 7, 2017), regulates the quality and safety of honey and other bee products, and [Order #1564-18](#), published in [BO #6710](#) (September 20, 2018), sets the physical-chemical characteristics.

According to [ONSSA](#), in the case where the importer does not have a processing establishment or packaging facilities, he must present evidence justifying that the honey will be packaged in an authorized establishment. In any case, the marketing of unconditioned honey (in bulk) should not take place.

Animal By-Products for Industrial Use: [Order #2249-94](#), published in [BO #4279](#) (November 2, 1994), addresses the sanitary conditions and treatment for animal by-products for industrial use, including hides, skins, horns, nails, hair, and wool (see [GAIN report](#)).

Morocco has also established import requirements for [organic fertilizers](#) and manure and [gelatin](#).

Animal Feed: The United States and Morocco have established import requirements to facilitate the export of U.S. pet food (see [FAIRS Export Certificate](#)).

#### *Compound Feed, Premixes, and Feed Additives*

The [Code of Procedures CP 03/DSV/14](#) (August 18, 2014), authorizes the use of additives, premixes, and supplements for animal feed (see [GAIN report](#)). Supporting regulation include:

- [Vizieral Order of August 7, 1946](#), published in [BO #1766](#) (August 30, 1946), requires compound feed be authorized before it is put on sale;

- [Order of January 20, 1947](#), published in [BO #1788](#) (January 31, 1947), amended by Order of March 23, 1949, published in [BO #1912](#) (June 17, 1949), allows the use of “fish meal for animal feed” given the product meets prescribed physical characteristics;
- [Order of April 20, 1948](#), published in [BO #1853](#) (April 30, 1948), amended by Order #37-77, published in [BO #3375](#) (July 6, 1977), and Order #1239-03, published in [BO #5200](#) (April 1, 2004), addresses the sale of animal feed;
- Decision of June 9, 1950, published in the [BO #1965](#) (June 23, 1950), states that protein meals cannot be sold without a certificate showing their protein and fat content;
- [Decree #2-63-253](#), published in [BO #2649](#) (August 2, 1963), amended by Decree #2-00-102, published in [BO #4874](#) (February 15, 2001), and Decree #2-05-1223, published in [BO #5384](#) (January 5, 2006), details Morocco’s list of banned substances in animal feed, including (1) arsenical, antimonial or estrogenic substances; (2) meat, bone, and blood meal (excluding fishmeal); and (3) animal fats;
- [Order #1490-13](#), published in [BO #6184](#) (September 5, 2013), amended and supplemented by Order #1598-20, published in [BO #6906](#) (June 19, 2020), fixes the list and the maximum levels of undesirable substances in animal feed as well as the list and the limits of use of additives, premixes, and supplements intended for animal feed excludes Annex II-B, C (see [GAIN report](#)).

U.S. companies have successfully registered premixes and feed supplements in Morocco (see [Order #1490-13](#), Annex II-B, C). The [approval procedure](#) for authorizing the sale of feeds is as follows:

- Filing of an application for approval of sale on ONSSA;
- Submission of a sample of the product concerned to the Regional Laboratory for Veterinary Research and Analysis (LRARV) for approval of the declared composition (approval number);
- Issuance by ONSSA of the authorization based on the results of analyzes.

Fish Feed: Morocco’s import requirements for fish feed are outlined in the following [link](#).

Milk Replacers: [Decree #2-05-84](#), published in [BO #5384](#) (January 5, 2006), amended by Decree 2-17-620, published in [BO #6632](#) (December 21, 2017), addresses the conditions of imported milk replacers. Milk for animal feed containing non-butyric animal fats in their composition is prohibited on importation (see [GAIN report](#)).

The [approval procedure](#) for importation and sale of milk replacer for calves:

- Filing an application with a sample of the product to be imported into the LRARV;
- Registration number made by the LRARV if the product is marked with a tracer;
- Issuance by ONSSA of the authorization based on the results of analyzes.

Plants and Plant Products: [Order #593-17](#), published in [BO #6680](#) (June 7, 2018), concerns phytosanitary inspection of imported plants and plant products (see [GAIN report](#)). Morocco maintains phytosanitary control over all plants and plant products, except the following:

- Processed and roasted coffee beans;
- Pasta, alfalfa meal, fruit or vegetables in brine or candied fruit or having undergone any industrial processing other than drying;
- Dried seaweeds; and
- Manufactured tobacco, in boxes or in packages.

Plant Propagation Material: In addition to Order #593-17, phytosanitary import requirements and prohibitions are prescribed in the following:

- Vizieral decree of May 22, 1951, published in [BO #2016](#) (June 15, 1951), prohibiting the import of plant and plant parts, excluding dried leaves, fruits and seeds, belonging to the subfamily Aurantioideae (family Rutaceae) (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #823-93](#), published in [BO #4207](#) (June 16, 1993), on phytosanitary conditions for imported cane sugar;
- [Order #824-93](#), published in [BO #4218](#) (September 1, 1993), on phytosanitary conditions for imported rosaceae (see [GAIN Report](#));
- [Order #207-05](#), published in [BO #5396](#) (February 16, 2006), on phytosanitary conditions for imported genus *Vitis L.* (see [GAIN report](#)).

[Order #966-93](#), published in [BO #4207](#) (June 16, 1993), sets the general conditions for importation and commercialization of seeds for cultivation in Morocco (see [GAIN report](#)).

Specific technical regulations have been set for the following:

- [Order #861-75 on cottonseed;](#)
- [Order #862-75 on seeds of feve, faba beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas, and beans;](#)
- [Order #857-75 on seeds of alfalfa, bersim, Persian clover, field peas, vetch, and lupins;](#)
- [Order #858-75 on sunflower, safflower; rapeseed, flax, soybean, and peanut;](#)
- [Order #859-75 on corn seed;](#)
- [Order #971-75 on vegetable seeds;](#)
- [Order #431-77 on industrial and fodder beat seeds;](#)
- [Order #655-90 on sunflower seed;](#)
- [Order #2185-01 on sugar cane;](#)
- [Order #2100-03 on grapevines;](#)
- [Order #2099-03 on seeds and plants of pitted rosacea \(apricot, almond, cherry, peach-nectarine, plum, and their rootstock\);](#)
- [Order #2098-03 on seeds and plants of citrus;](#)
- [Order #2110-05 on olive plants;](#)
- [Order #622-11 on seed potato](#)
  - [\(see GAIN report\);](#)
- [Order #2157-11 on plants of seeded rosacea;](#)
- [Order #2197-13 on straw cereals \(wheat, barley, triticale, rye, and rice\);](#)
- [Order #2940-13 on argan plants;](#)
- [Order #3403 on saffron bulbs;](#)
- [Order #3548-13 on fig plants;](#)
- [Order #1679-15 on rose plants;](#)
- [Order #3229-15 on date palms;](#)
- [Order #784-16 on pomegranate plants;](#)
- [Order #2109-17 on strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry,](#)

[gooseberry and blackcurrant \(see GAIN report\).](#)

For additional information, see below links:

- [Production and Marketing of Seeds and Plants;](#)
- [Approval of Varieties;](#)
- [Plant Variety Protection;](#)
- [Control of Seeds;](#)
- [Control of Plants;](#)
- [Commercialization of Seeds and Plants;](#)
- [Codes of Procedure;](#)
  - [CP02/DCPV/10](#) on seed potato (see [GAIN report](#))

Cereals, Pulses, and Their Products: In addition to ONSSA's sanitary-phytosanitary supervision, [Circular #04/DC/SIE](#) (December 5, 2014), published by Morocco's National Office of Cereals and Pulses (ONICL), regulates the import of cereals (e.g., wheat, corn, barley, rice), pulses, and their products (see [GAIN report](#)).

Importers participating in auctions for U.S. common and durum wheat tenders are subject to additional [procedures](#) and [special conditions](#).

Wheat products, including flour, bread, pasta, are subject to the following regulations:

- [Vizierial Order of August 10, 1955](#), published in [BO #2240](#) (September 30, 1955), requires pasta products sold under any denomination or form be made exclusively from pure durum wheat semolina (see [GAIN report](#));
  - [Order #2318-09](#), published in [BO #5778](#) (October 15, 2009), defines the exceptions to Vizierial Order of August 10, 1955 (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #2-74-614](#), published in [BO #3250](#) (February 12, 1975), sets Morocco's flour requirements for bread and pastries, some types of which require bakers to use domestic common wheat flour as opposed to imported flour (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Decree #2-04-52](#), published in [BO #5384](#) (January 5, 2006), concerns the flour fortification. The common wheat flour, with the exception of whole wheat flour, must be fortified with an iron-vitamin compound consisting of elemental iron, folic acid, vitamin B1, vitamin B2 and vitamin PP. The packaging must be provided with a label indicating the term "fortified flour," the representative logo for fortified food products, and indicate the country of origin. No therapeutic indications can be made on the label (see [GAIN report](#));
  - [Order #2232-06](#), published in [BO #5474](#) (November 16, 2006), implements [Decree #2-04-52](#), and reaffirms its applicability to imported fortified flour (see [GAIN report](#));
- [Order #318-15](#), published in [BO #6344](#) (March 19, 2015), approves the guide of good sanitary practice in the industrial milling.

Chocolate: [Decree #2-06-517](#), published in [BO #5802](#) (January 7, 2010), addresses cocoa and chocolate products. The standard sets 25% cocoa powder or paste for the label “*Chocolate*” and at least 14% solid matter of lactic origin for the label “*Milk chocolate*”.

Coffee: The [Order of May 21, 1951](#), published in [BO #2016](#) (June 15, 1951), amended by Decree #2-95-10, published in [BO #4440](#) (December 19, 1996), and Decree #2-12-281, published in [BO #6074](#) (August 16, 2012), regulates the import and sale of coffee.

Fruit and Vegetable Juices: Joint [Circular #005/97](#), regulates the production, marketing, and labeling of fruit and vegetable juice. The circular defines which products can have the label “*Vegetable Juice*” and when to use the name of the vegetable, or the words “*Fresh*”, “*Pure*”, and “*Salted*”. It also defines under what conditions mixing and concentration of juice is permitted. Dilution of vegetable juice is prohibited except when it is done right before consumption in presence of the consumer or using adequate mixing machines verified by the Government. It is also prohibited to add alcohol, antiseptics, lactic acid as well as any non-authorized substance. Juice labels should indicate the name of the importer and the net weight in centiliters.

Energy Drinks: Effective November 30, 2018, Morocco began [regulating energy drinks](#), including requiring prior authorization to import or produce them (see [GAIN report](#)).

Alcohol: [Code of Procedures CP07/DCPV/14](#) (December 1, 2014) addresses the following:

- Wine making approval;
- Granting or transfer of license to carry on the trading activity (trading) of wholesale or semi-wholesale wines;
- Authorization for the importation of wines and alcoholic beverages for the internal consumption of embassies, restaurants and hoteliers;
- Authorization to carry out the importing, manufacturing and / or bottling and / or trading of spirits;
- Obtaining the label of origin for wines;
- Authorization for the importation of alcohol for industrial use.

Ministry of Finance’s Order #2754-95, published in [BO #4340](#) (January 3, 1996), amended by Order #723-96, published in [BO #4384](#) (June 6, 1996), addresses stamping bottles of alcoholic beverages.

Wine:

[Decree #2-75-321](#), published in [BO #3388](#) (October 5, 1977), amended by [Order #736-96](#), published in [BO #4396](#) (July 18, 1996), [Order #71-98](#), published in [BO #4696](#) (June 9, 1999), [Order #1001-02](#), published in [BO #5030](#) (August 15, 2002), and [Order #127-13](#), published in [BO #6140](#) (April 4, 2013), regulates winemaking, stockholding, and the circulation and trade of

wines. Imported wines are generally permitted in accordance with the regulation of the country of origin but require a certificate of origin issued by the competent authority.

[Order #815-04](#), published in [BO #5266](#) (November 18, 2004), defines the conditions that wine must meet before it can include the denomination of “*Chateau*”.

*Spirits:*

[Vizerial Order of May 16, 1916](#), published in [BO #187](#) (May 22, 1916), amended by Vizerial Order of November 27, 1928, published in [BO #843](#) (December 18, 1928), Vizerial Order of January 29, 1951, published in [BO #2001](#) (March 2, 1951), Decree of October 4, 1976, published in [BO #3338](#) (October 20, 1976), and [Order #1628-07](#), published in [BO #5558](#) (September 6, 2007), concerns the trade of spirits, including standards of identity and other technical requirements.

In addition to the general labeling requirements, labeling of spirits should include:

- Commercial Name;
- Net Volume;
- Acquired alcoholometry volume;
- Name and address of the importer for imported products;
- List of ingredients for the spirits drinks other than natural brandies;
- Validity date for drinks having less than 10 percent of alcohol in volume;
- Processing Lot number;
- Place of origin if omitting it creates confusion in the buyers’ mind as to the origin of the product.

Imports, processing, bottling, and trading of alcoholic beverages is subject to a license from ONSSA following authorization from the local authorities (prefecture or province level).

*Beer:*

[Vizerial Order of March 25, 1929](#), published in [BO #861](#) (April 23, 1929), amended Decree #2-75-200, published in [BO #3364](#) (April 20, 1977), Order #2975-17, published in [BO #6670](#) (May 3, 2018), concerns the trade of beer.

*Alcohols for Industrial Use:*

Imports of ethyl alcohols (ethanol), methyl (methanol), propyl (Propanol), isopropyl (isopropanol) and anethol are subject to authorization by ONSSA. Note: importation of anethol is only for those with a justified need, such as bakeries and confectionary manufacturers (see [link](#) for more information).

## **Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights**

Trademarks: Under the Madrid Protocol (April 14, 1891), U.S. companies enjoy trademarks and brand protection in Morocco and need not apply through a resident in Morocco to have their

trademarks and brand names registered. Detailed guides for registration can be obtained from OMPIC.

Intellectual Property: Morocco is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). [Law #31-05](#) (December 14, 2005), amending and supplementing [Law #17-97](#), published in [BO #5397](#) (February 20, 2006), concerns the protection of industrial property. This law comprises provisions, which reinforce the system of the industrial property in Morocco, in particular those relating to the opposition system of trademarks, measurements at the borders and the national register of the geographical indications and appellations of origin. Under Law #31-05, all food and agricultural products with a distinctive sign of origin and quality are protected. The Moroccan Office of the Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) is a key member of the distinctive signs National Commission (see Article 17).

Geographic Indications and Appellations of Origin: [Law #25-06](#), published in [BO #5640](#) (June 19, 2008), and its enacting Decree #2-08-403 and Decree No. 2-08-404, published in [BO #5696](#) (January 1, 2009), regulate Morocco's geographic indications and appellations of origin as well as provided for a national commission with certification authority (see [GAIN report](#)). [Decree #964-13](#), published in [BO #6148](#) (May 2, 2013), assigned certification authority to the [Ecocert Maroc SARL](#).

Information regarding the EU-Morocco agreement on the protection of Geographical Indications may be found in the following [link](#).

Protection of New Plant Varieties: Morocco is a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and patterned [Law #9-94](#) (January 21, 1997), on the protection of new plant varieties off the 1991 UPOV Convention with [implementing orders](#) following on October 28, 2002.

According to the Article 11 of the Law #9-94, the breeder's right may be requested by:

- Moroccan natural persons or legal entities;
- Foreign natural persons or legal entities with their domicile or company head office in Morocco;
- Nationals of States and natural persons or legal entities with their domicile or company head office in the territory of the said States, where those States legislation grants Moroccans protection at least equivalent to that provided for in this Law.

A variety is considered new if, at the implementation date, the material to protect has not been sold or given to third parties for use for over 1 year in Morocco and for 4 years abroad (for trees and vineyards, 6 years). The variety must be distinguishable from any commonly known variety, sufficiently uniform in its relevant characteristics, and have stable characteristics even after repeated propagation. The Ministry of Agriculture holds a list of organizations (local and foreign) able to evaluate the variety to protect.

## Section IX. Import Procedures

The basic regulation for inspection of food and agricultural products imported into Morocco is the joint Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture [Circular #01](#) (June 13, 1996) . This circular gives Ministry of Agriculture inspectors of ONSSA and Customs Officials authority to inspect imported food and agricultural products. The [Order #141-18](#), published in [BO #6706](#) (June 9, 2018), Lays down methods and techniques of conformity for imported primary products, food products and animal feed.

At the points of entry, including port of Casablanca, Agadir, Tangier and Nador, ONSSA inspectors carried out the sanitary and phytosanitary control and the conformity with the local regulations for food and agricultural products. The importer deals with one regional office, Direction de Contrôle de la Qualité ([DCQ](#)) which is under the supervision of ONSSA. The dispatch of the importation documents is done internally depending of the type of product (animal or plant and raw or processed) are intended use. In some special cases of products with dietetic or health indications, the Ministry of Health inspectors would intervene for inspection.

Typically, the clearing process through DCQ inspectors consists of up to three major steps based on the familiarity with the commodity, importer's experience:

1. Checking the import documents;
2. Physical control of the commodity;
3. Drawing of sample for more detailed laboratory analysis.

After a successful inspection, DCQ inspectors issue a certificate of admission that authorizes the importer to clear customs. Customs Officers will not authorize the goods into the country without a certificate issued at the point of entry by the DCQ inspectors.

The most widely used business language in Morocco is French. Therefore, even if English documents are acceptable, it is generally a good practice to present French documents to expedite customs clearance. Normally, it takes less than a week to clear products through customs. If a sample of food is taken for laboratory analysis, the customs clearance may be delayed up to eight days and the importers have to pay the cost of the laboratory analysis.

**Customs Clearance Process**

Importer

**File the following documents**

- Unique Declaration of Merchandise (DUM) or Occasional Declaration (DO);
- Health Certificate or other equivalent documents issued by the competent authority of the exporting country certifying that the products of foods concerned comply with the legislation in force and without danger to human life or animal;
- Commercial Invoice, Packing List;
- Where appropriate, documents justifying method of production and/or specificities of products, including method of organic production, geographical indication, and designation of origin;
- Halal certificate for animal products or products of animal origin in accordance with the applicable regulations;
- Documents allowing the identification of the approved or authorized place on the sanitary level in which the products or food will be stored before they are placed on the market;
- Agreement for compliance of the labeling issued in accordance with the rules in force if applicable;

Arrival of Cargo

DCQ/ONSSA

Ministry of Health Inspectors

Animals, Animal Products, and Animal Feed

Plants and Plant Products and Food Not Under Veterinary Control

Products with Dietetic or Health Indications

**Control of Conformity**

**Documentary Control**

- Comes from a country, zone or region not subject to sanitary or phytosanitary restrictions;
- Meet the hygienic and sanitary requirements provided by the regulations in force;
- Comes from an establishment or a company having set up a self-monitoring HACCP system or an equivalent system;
- Complies with the requirements of the current legislation on quality and safety or, in absence of such requirements, to the Codex Alimentarius standards.

**Physical Control**

- Documents check;
- Transported and stored in accordance with regulations in force;
- Packaged in packaging that does not contain any defects;
- Labeled in accordance with regulations in force;
- Packaged in packaging or containers consisting of materials intended to come into contact with food products in the case of prepackaged products;
- Not altered or contaminated;
- Bear health stamps and proper identification marks;
- Compliant following simply performed sensory examinations and/or physicochemical tests.

**Identity Control**

- Checking the concordance between the identification elements of imported primary products, food product or animal feed and the documents which accompany.

**Laboratory analysis**

- If necessary, representative samples of concerned primary products, food products or animal feed are carried out for laboratory analysis.

Certificate of Admission/Passed

Certificate of Non-Admission/Rejected

Customs

Payment (Tax & Fees)

Cargo Cleared

### **Point of Entry to Morocco for Animals and Animal Products:**

According to [Decision #1726-96](#), published in [BO #4418](#) (October 3, 1996), imported live animals, animal products, and animal byproducts can enter Morocco only through specified ports and airports. Entry ports are Casablanca, Tangier, Kenitra, Safi, Agadir, Jorf Lasfar, Nador, Al Hoceima, Dakhla and Laayoune. Entry airports are Casablanca (Mohamed V), Agadir, Fes, Tangier, Oujda, Rabat-Sale, Marrakech, Laayoune, Dakhla, and Ouarzazate.

### **Appeals System:**

According to the [Law #13-83](#), published in [BO #3777](#) (March 20, 1985), on food quality control and fraud prevention, when the laboratory results provides evidence that the imported product does not comply with the prevailing regulations, the importer is notified by the chief of the competent authority at ONSSA. The importer may appeal within eight days after the receipt of the notification and may request a second laboratory analysis be made (Art. 41). The chief of the competent authority sends the product samples to a second approved laboratory. The results of the second analysis are also provided to the head of ONSSA.

Normally, the importer will pay a deposit to the Moroccan Treasury that will be used, if the second analysis confirms the first results, to pay additional charges such as storage of the goods, laboratory cost, and sample delivery. If the results of the second analysis don't provide any evidence of law violation, the deposit is refunded back to the importer.

When the importer does not appeal within eight days, and the results of the second analysis confirm the results of the first one, the Directorate of Quality Control (DCQ) delivers to the Customs Service a sanitary certificate of non-admission into the national territory, in order to proceed with rejecting the product. A copy of the certificate is sent to the importer or to his representative. Rejected products are not allowed entry and all transshipment or re-export must be through a written request to the DCQ.

## Section X. Trade Facilitation

Morocco has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since January 1, 1995. On May 14, 2020, Morocco ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement and has notified 91.2 percent of its implementation commitments as Category A (Rate of implementation commitment [link](#)).

Moroccan customs encourage foreign trade operators to use advance rulings to obtain, in complete transparency, binding information on tariff classifications, origin or value of a good, even before the good is imported or exported. The decisions issued are likely to improve commercial transactions and allow economic operators to have all the information they need to carry out their operations. Morocco has no known pre-clearance programs.

Since January 1, 2019, Morocco moved to paperless customs operations ([Circular #5885/312](#)). However, Morocco still requires the original health certificate to be present during the clearance process.

The time required to fill an import declaration is estimated at 30 minutes and the customs clearance process for a product imported under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) takes between 7 to 15 days on average, depending on the product and the speed of the forwarder.

### Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

**Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime**  
**Office National de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA)**  
Avenue Haj Ahmed Cherkaoui- Agdal-Rabat- Morocco  
Phone: +(212) 537 67 65 00  
Fax: +(212) 537 68 20 49  
Web Site: <http://www.onssa.gov.ma/>

**Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime**  
**Direction de Développement des Filières de Production (DDFP)**  
Av. Hassan II , Km 4, station Dbagh - Rabat  
Phone: +(212) 537 69 41 33  
Fax: +(212) 537 69 00 15

**Direction du Contrôle de la Qualité (DCQ) - Port Casablanca**  
**Port de Commerce de Casablanca, Morocco**  
Phone: +(212) 2231-7047  
Fax: +(212-2) 231-8648  
Email: [dcqcasa@yahoo.fr](mailto:dcqcasa@yahoo.fr)

**Ministère de la Santé (Ministry of Health)  
Direction du Médicament et de la Pharmacie**

B.P. 6202, Rabat Institut, Morocco

Phone: +(212) 53777 0645

Fax: +(212) 537 76 38 95

E-mail: [Contact@sante.gov.ma](mailto:Contact@sante.gov.ma)

Web Site: <http://www.sante.gov.ma/>

**Office Marocain de la Propriété Industrielle et Commerciale (OMPIC)**

Route Secondaire 114, Km 9.5, route de Nouaceur, Sidi Maarouf, Casablanca

Phone: +(212) 522 335 486

Fax: +(212) 522 335 480

Web Site: <http://www.ompic.org.ma>

**Institut Marocain de Normalisation (IMANOR)**

Angle Avenue Kamal Zebdi et Rue Dadi, Secteur 21, Hay Riyad, Rabat, MAROC

Phone: +(212) 537 716 214

Fax: +(212) 537 711 798

Web Site: <http://www.snima.ma/IMANOR/>

**Administration de la Douane Marocaine (Customs)**

Avenue Annakhil, Hay Riad- Rabat-Morocco

Phone: +(212) 537 579 001/02/03

Web Site: [www.douane.gov.ma](http://www.douane.gov.ma)

**Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:**

**Agricultural Affairs Office**

American Embassy-Rabat

Km 5.7, Avenue Mohamed VI

Suissi Rabat 10170, Morocco.

Phone: +(212) 537 765 987

Fax: +(212) 537 765 493

Email: [AgRabat@usda.gov](mailto:AgRabat@usda.gov)

Web: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/morocco>

**Attachments:**

No Attachments