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### **Report Highlights:**

The report summarizes Mozambique's general food laws, regulatory authorities, major import/export procedures, food and packaging/labeling regulations, registration measures, and other trade facilitation issues. Contact information for major government regulatory agencies and a list of useful local public and private sector contacts for additional technical product-specific information and import assistance is provided at the end of the report. This report outlines the most important information that importers/exporters need when exporting food and agricultural products to Mozambique. This report contains information from government authorities who oversee import/export of food commodities and agricultural inputs, such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Trade and Industry, Economy and Finance, and Health, as well as subordinate agencies of these institutions.

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This report was prepared by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in Maputo, Mozambique, 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. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any products 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.**

All the sections of this report have been updated based on recent regulation amendments, updated website links, and to comply with the updated FAS reporting instructions. The report includes an assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imported into Mozambique.

## Executive Summary

Mozambique is currently a net importer of agricultural products and relies heavily on South Africa, Europe, China, India, and the United States for much of its food and other agricultural import needs. Major U.S. exports to Mozambique include wheat, soybean oil, and poultry and meat products (excluding eggs). U.S. imports from Mozambique include tree nuts, cane sugar, and tobacco.

Despite low average tariffs and relatively stable and predictable formal trade regulations, Mozambique's inefficient customs procedures hinder trade. The United States established a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with Mozambique in 2005, but the most recent TIFA meeting was held in January 2012. Mozambique was a signatory of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) at the African Union's March 2018 Summit in Kigali but has yet to ratify the agreement. Mozambique is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Southern African Development Community.

In April 2020, Mozambique created the <https://portalcomercioexterno.gov.mz/> site, where importers/exporters may obtain useful information (in English or Portuguese) regarding trade with Mozambique. The portal was built with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development and contains trade information related to import/export and transit procedures, required forms, import taxes, and trade agreements. The External Trade Portal site is a key public instrument for both the government and private sector to improve transparency and access trade information. The portal eases access to information related to import and export procedures and can help reduce the time spent locating relevant trade information.

## Section I: General Food Laws

Mozambican food and agricultural import regulations and standards are developed and administered by three government ministries: Agriculture and Rural Development, Trade and Industry, and Health. Under these ministries, other agencies directly involved in food and agricultural imports include the Mozambique Revenue Authority and the National Institute for Normalization and Quality.

Mozambique requires companies in the food value chain to implement food safety management systems to reduce risk to consumer health. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER) is primarily responsible for domestic food regulations, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MIC) is responsible for implementing import regulations. The MIC delegates many of the responsibilities associated with food imports to the National Institute for Normalization and Quality (Instituto Nacional de Normalização e Qualidade -INNOQ). Mozambique's major food regulations include Decree 9/2016 on Food Fortification [Decreto 9.2016 - Fortificação de Alimentos | PDF | Micronutriente | Vitamina \(scribd.com\)](#) and Decree 6/2009 regarding Pesticides Management [Decreto 6.2009 Regulamento de Gestao de Pesticidas | PDF \(scribd.com\)](#).

**Table 1: Mozambican Authorities Regulating Food Imports**

Ministry/Agency	Department/Directorate	Key responsibilities
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural	Veterinary Services Department (DNV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Formulate policy and manage risk in the import and export of animals and animal products</li><li>Issue licenses to import animals and animal</li></ul>

<b>Development (MADER)</b>		products
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	<b>National Seed Service (SNS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate policy and manage risk in the import and export of seeds</li> <li>• Issue licenses to import planting seeds</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	<b>National Directorate of Familiar Agriculture Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate policy and manage risk in the import and export of vegetable products (plants and their derivatives) for food, ornamentation, processing, and/or propagation</li> <li>• Issue licenses to import plants and plant products</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	<b>Codex Alimentarius Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National contact point for the Codex Alimentarius National Commission along with the Ministry of Commerce</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Trade and Industry</b>	<b>Multiple Departments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate interagency formulation and implementation of trade policy</li> <li>• Manage all commercial activities, including issuing import licenses for non-food products</li> <li>• Ensure the implementation of SPS measures</li> <li>• Develop and implement quality control standards</li> <li>• Ensure regulatory compliance with obligations under the WTO and other international trade organizations</li> </ul>
<b>National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ)</b>	<b>Multiple Departments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for overall quality standards in Mozambique</li> <li>• Announce notifications presented by WTO members</li> <li>• Notifies WTO on Mozambican trade regulations</li> <li>• Analyze trade barriers</li> </ul>

Sources: MADER, Ministry of Trade and Industry, and INNOQ

## Section II: Labeling Requirements

Labeling requirements for foodstuffs are developed by INNOQ. Decree-Law 2/2010 of December 31, 2010 and subsequent legislation, [mocambique rotulagem de alimentos - Pesquisa Google](#) established measurement rules and specifies that all the information on the labels of any pre-measured product sold in the country must be in Portuguese. Pre-packaged foodstuffs with labels in foreign languages must also contain translations into Portuguese. Perishable pre-packaged food must contain instructions for its storage, use, date of manufacture, and expiration date. Any scientific names on the label needs to be accompanied by the corresponding common name. The Ministry of Health establishes which foodstuffs need to indicate the date of manufacture and/or expiration date. Perishable pre-packaged food must

contain on its label, the instructions for storage, use, date of manufacture and expire date. Fortified foodstuffs must show chemical composition and bear a fortification seal. The labelling of fortified foodstuffs is required to be in accordance with the provisions of the NM 15 for the General Requirements for Labelling of Pre-packaged Products and NM 80 for Tolerance Allowed for Pre-Measured Products ([text of both available here](#) in Portuguese).

Prior to approval to import, the importer will need to submit proposed labels to the Ministry of Health and be approved by INNOQ. The labels of packaged foods and beverages must show the following information in legible characters in Portuguese:

- Name or brand of the product
- Name or business name of the producer
- The headquarters of the producing company
- Production facilities
- Nutritional content
- Ingredient list in descending order of quantities present, by weight or volume
- Additive list
- Net weight contained in the package
- Identification of “artificial colors” in the case of foodstuffs subject to dying or any treatment
- Date of manufacture (The Ministry of Health can determine whether certain foodstuffs do not need to indicate the date of manufacture and or period of validity.)
- Period of validity for human consumption
- Lot number

Mozambique requires formal labeling tests aimed at ensuring labeling compliance with government standards, including information on the product name, product identification, physical address of the producer, net quantity in legal unities and alphanumeric sizes (NM 15). INNOQ can conduct labeling tests at the request of importers or the National Economic Activities Directorate (INAE). Incorrect labeling may result in seizure of the product. Additional information (in Portuguese) regarding labeling requirements can be found here: <http://www.innoq.gov.mz/por/INNOQ2>.

## **Alcohol**

All alcohol labels need to be in Portuguese and must have required product information, including a list of ingredients and a warning on the health effects of alcohol abuse. This measure is aimed at bringing commerce in line with legislation and minimizing public health problems. Alcohol for consumption must have the following phrase clearly written in capital letters on all labels: “The sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages to persons under 18 years of age is prohibited.” All warning messages on labels for alcoholic beverages must be broad, clear, legible and in capital letters, and state the alcoholic content of the drink.

## **Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations**

Packages for pre-measured products must contain clear and explicit information on the quantity expressed in legal units of measure. Products that are pre-measured in units of mass must indicate the net quantity, excluding the weight of the packaging. The inclusion of any product other than the product

for which the package was intended is not permitted. There is a broad array of legislation pertaining to the marking, labeling, and packaging of products classified in foodstuffs, alcohol, cigarettes, and general/non-foodstuffs, each of them with their respective regulatory decrees. Information on various decrees and regulations is available on the [INNOQ website](#) in Portuguese.

#### **Section IV: Food Additive Regulations**

Mozambique's food legislation is enforced by the Ministry of Health and includes guidance on food additives (Decree 100/87), pesticide regulation (Decree 88/87), policies for imported foods (Decree 80/87), food hygiene, and more. Decree 9/2016 establishes regulations governing processed food fortification, industrial micronutrients, the importation of processed foods, as well as sanctions applied for violators.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry share responsibility for regulations pertaining to food additives and are guided by International Codex Alimentarius standards.

#### **Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) are recognized and accepted for imported foodstuffs in Mozambique, and INNOQ has enforcement responsibility.

Pesticide registration can only be done by companies that are legally established in Mozambique and with authorization by the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Agriculture and Rural Development, Land and Environment, and Health. Decree 45/2004, implemented on September 29, 2004, outlines the scope of regulations for pesticides and contaminants throughout production, packaging, labelling, and storage. Pesticides must be registered through the Agri-Chemical Registration Board (known by the Portuguese acronym RRCA).

Decree 153/2002, implemented on September 11, 2002, creates the administrative regime for pesticides registration, defines technical guidance, and clarifies the role of different official entities that regulate pesticides in Mozambique. Pesticide registration requires submitting information for product identification, including the manufacturer and the authorized seller, and the product's physical characteristics (chemical, toxicological, environmental, and agronomical). Through the registration, precautions are defined to explain the following: defense of applicants, consumers, and the environment, as well as application indicators.

#### **Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development requires that the import of any plant and animal product be approved by the respective National Directorates of Agriculture and Forests and Veterinary services (Decree 34/2016, of August 24, 2016). U.S. facilities producing certain plant and animal products must be registered and certified with the National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ) and National Institute of Economic Activities (INAE).

Relevant documentation includes the importer/exporter form and exporter/importer card. Importers must be licensed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. No import taxes, aside from tariffs and value-added

tax (VAT), are imposed, except on sugar and some luxury items. All food and animal and plant products entering the country are subject to registration with local authorities. Depending on the type of each product, different bodies may be consulted per the appendices below. Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements exist in legislation for the importation of foodstuffs and plant materials but are rarely enforced in practice.

Decree 49/2004, implemented on November 17, 2004, regulates the general process to register production facilities. The exporter must provide the name, age, nationality, place of birth, residence, ID number, date, and place of issue, if the producer is a private individual. If the producer is a company, the exporter needs to provide the official business name, public registration details, full address, and the full name of its representative. Once issued, the registration lasts for one year for individual importers/exporters (counted from the date of issue of the respective card) or five years for private companies.

Subject to audits/inspections, the major documents required are:

- Request for commercial activities registration
- Plan of the facilities for commercial activity
- Public registration of the social pact published in the Republic Bulletin
- Rental contract of the facility
- Proof of fiscal registration obtained from the Ministry of Economy and Finance

The “Documento Unico Certificado” (DUC) is a single document containing all the necessary information for customs and other stakeholders in the import process. In 2014, further progress in import procedures was made by the introduction of the electronic single-window system, called “Janela Única Electrónica” (JUE), including not only trade information but also is the interface for financial control to clearance agents, sellers, buyers, and customs. The Mozambique Revenue authority maintains a “positive list” of products that require pre-shipment inspection. See Section IX for more details.

Besides customs duties, imported products are subject to a VAT and the Specific Consumption Tax (Imposto sobre Consumos Específicos – ICE). The VAT is a uniform rate set at 17 percent, whereas ICE is between 15 percent and 75 percent applied to different product subgroups. Some domestically produced agricultural products are exempt from the VAT, which makes them less expensive to consumers than imported alternatives such as cornmeal, rice, bread, powdered milk for nursing mothers, wheat and wheat flour, tomatoes, horse mackerel, animal feed rations, and sugar cane production inputs.

## **Section VII: Other Specific Standards**

In 2016, Mozambique launched Decree 9/2016, which created the Regulation for Food Fortification with Industrially Processed Micronutrients. This regulation provides rules for implementing the mandatory addition of micronutrients in food produced, marketed, and imported in accordance with Mozambican standards. The decree introduced mandatory fortification of wheat flour and corn meal (with iron, folic acid, zinc, and vitamin B12), cooking oil and sugar (with Vitamin A), and salt (with iodine), following legislation designated to combat malnutrition. Flour may optionally be fortified with vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamin B6. Additional details are available [here](#) (in Portuguese) and [here](#). Entities that import, produce, or sell fortified foods must comply with the rules on fortification, labelling, and use. Offences and penalties for illegal activities are specified in the text.

Mozambique also follows and implements international food safety management standards (ISO) for vitamin-enrichment requirements; dietetic or special-use foods; halal and kosher certification; and food sanitation laws and guidelines.

## **Section VIII: Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

The Mozambique Industrial Property Institute (IPI) regulates and implements the country's copyright and trademark laws through Decree 1/2018, enacted on May 4, 2018, superseding the 2005 Commercial Code. The decree establishes the special regimes of copyright and mandatory obligations related to industrial property, invention copyrights, utility models, and trademark registration for industrial designs, logos, commercial names, denomination of origin, geographic indications, etc. Industrial property covers all market, services, agricultural, forestry, fishery, food, construction, and extractive industries.

Mozambique is part of the International Union for Industrial Property Protection, per the Paris Convention of March 20, 1883. More details can be found at [www.ipi.gov.mz](http://www.ipi.gov.mz).

## **Section IX: Import Procedures**

Mozambique is a member of the World Customs Organization and complies with the harmonized customs system. Documents required to import in Mozambique include:

1. Import permit
2. Commercial invoice
3. Packing list
4. Bill of Entry
5. Certificate of Origin
6. Transport Documentation (road manifest, AWB or Bill of Lading).
7. Cargo Release Order
8. Delivery Order
9. Inspection Report
10. Payment Receipts

No import taxes, aside from tariffs and VAT, are imposed, except on sugar and some luxury items. All importers must be licensed by the National Directorate of Trade, which is part of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Registration is straightforward and has not been used as a trade barrier.

The value of goods should appear on the commercial invoice indicating "for customs clearance purpose only" on the invoice. Zero value invoices are not acceptable. There are no specific procedures for sample shipments, and they require the same set of documents as a normal shipment.

Pre-shipment inspections are mandatory for all agricultural imports except for flour in quantities up to 20 kg and cooking oil in volumes up to 20 liters. Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements exist in legislation for the importation of foodstuffs and plant materials but are rarely enforced in practice. The importation of live animals (other than domestic pets) requires veterinary certificates. Regulated goods (known as the "positive list") are subject to compulsory pre-shipment inspection in the country of



export before they are allowed to enter Mozambique. Goods on the positive list must comply with import regulations and must be accompanied by a Documento Unico Certificado (DUC). Where the tariff code is indicated, all goods contained there are subject to PSI.

Agricultural products on the positive list include the following:

- Food and live animals
- Meat and meat preparations.
- Dairy products and bird eggs
- Fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and preparations thereof
- Cereals and cereal preparations
- Vegetables and fruits
- Sugar, sugar preparations, and honey
- Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof
- Feedstuff for animals (excluding unmilled cereals)
- Miscellaneous edible products and preparations

Source: [Mozambique Revenue Authority](#)

Additional import requirements and details can be obtained through government official channels on Appendix I below.

**Table 2: Prohibited Imports**

1	Counterfeit merchandise, books and works of art
2	Objects, photographs, albums, recordings or images and film of a pornographic nature or other materials that are judged offensive to the public
3	Medication and food products harmful to public health
4	Food products that are harmful to public health that cannot be used for other purposes, like animal feed, or compost.
5	Distilled alcoholic drinks that contain essences or chemical products recognized as harmful such as: Aldeido Benzoico, Badia, Eteres silicitos, Hissopo e Tulinana
6	Hallucinatory and psychiatric substances (recreational/Illegal drugs), except when imported for hospital use
7	Certain gases as specified: Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Halogens (Halon 1211, Halon 1301 and Halon 2402), Carbon Tetrachloride of Carbon (CCL4), and other substances banned as per the Montreal Protocol as regards substances that destroy the ozone layer as ratified by Resolution No. 8/93 of the 8th December
8	Vehicles where the driver is sitting on the left-hand side that are used for commercial purposes. ‘Commercial purposes’ has been defined as sale or resale to third parties, use in transport which generates income, and use in support of income

Source: [Mozambique Revenue Authority](#)

## Section X: Trade Facilitation

Two multilateral agreements establish Mozambican best practices on trade facilitation: the Revised Kyoto Convention of the World Revenue Organization, which the country adhered to in 2012, and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which Mozambique ratified in 2016.

Mozambique uses the electronic revenue platform added to the Electronic Single Window (JUE), which aims to accelerate evaluations for imported goods. More information available at <https://jue.mcnet.co.mz/mcnet/portal/homepage>

The imported goods database, called “eValuator,” facilitates trade by reducing time spent in disputes on the value of goods. The average release time is 24 hours, with delays that vary from 24 to 48 hours, depending on mode of transport (sea, air, or land).

## **Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts**

### **Ministry of Trade and Industry (MIC)**

Av. Praça 25 de Junho, 300

Maputo - Mozambique

Tel: +258 21343500

Fax: +258 21352669

E-mail: [mic.@gov.mz](mailto:mic.@gov.mz)

<http://portalcomercioexterno.gov.mz/pt/ministry-of-industry-and-commerce>

### **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER)**

Praça dos Heróis Moçambicanos

Maputo - Mozambique

Tel: +258 21468200 +258 0000000

Fax: +258 214874121

E-mail: [geral@agricultura.gov.mz](mailto:geral@agricultura.gov.mz)

<https://www.agricultura.gov.mz/>

### **National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ)**

Bairro Zimpeto

Maputo - Moçambique

Fixed line: +25821344600

Fax: +25821344610

Mobile: +258 82 4756985

Email: [info@innoq.gov](mailto:info@innoq.gov)

<http://www.innoq.gov.mz/por/INNOQ2>

### **Intellectual Property Institute (IPI)**

R. Consiglieri Pedroso, 165

P.O. Box 1072

Maputo - Mozambique

Tel: +251 21354900

Fax: +258 21354944

E-mail: [ipi@ipi.gov.mz](mailto:ipi@ipi.gov.mz)

[www.ipi.gov.mz](http://www.ipi.gov.mz)

## Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

### Office of the Agricultural Affairs (FAS Maputo)

U.S. Embassy Maputo  
Av. Kenneth Kaunda, 193  
Tel: (+258) 21492797 ext. 3016  
E-mail: [Almeida.Zacarias@usda.gov](mailto:Almeida.Zacarias@usda.gov)

### Office of the Agricultural Affairs (FAS Pretoria)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria  
877 Pretorius Street  
Pretoria, South Africa 0001  
Tel: (+27) 12-431-4057  
Fax: (+27) 12-342-2264  
E-mail: [AgPretoria@usda.gov](mailto:AgPretoria@usda.gov)  
[www.usdasouthernafrica.org/](http://www.usdasouthernafrica.org/)  
[www.fas.usda.gov/](http://www.fas.usda.gov/)

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS Pretoria)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria  
877 Pretorius Street  
Pretoria, South Africa 0001  
Tel: (+27) 12-431-4711  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

### Attachments:

No Attachments

**Disclaimer:** A couple of Mozambique government links in this report are in general not consistent, opening occasionally. Post believes this is caused by government's noncompliance with payments to the service's providers. Readers and importers are encouraged to contact USDA/FAS OAA Maputo for assistance should additional info is required.