

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 02, 2024

**Report Number:** TZ2023-0007

**Report Name:** FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual

**Country:** Tanzania

**Post:** Dar Es Salaam

**Report Category:** FAIRS Country Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report describes the import requirements and regulations for food and agricultural commodities required by mainland Tanzania. The report outlines Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) rules and other regulations for U.S. exports. The Government of Tanzania has updated its pesticide regulations through the Plant Health Regulations of 2023, which modernizes and combines the 1997 Plant Protection Act and the 1998 Plant Protection Regulations. The new regulations do not create any new import requirements or procedures.

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### **Disclaimer:**

This report was prepared by the Dar es Salaam OAA, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While all possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the 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. Please note that 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.

## Executive Summary:

Tanzania's food regulatory system is generally consistent with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international treaties including Codex Alimentarius, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The primary regulations affecting U.S. exports to Tanzania are available on the [Tanzania Bureau of Standards \(TBS\) website](#), from the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), and through the [Tanzania National Business Portal](#). TBS and TAEC are responsible for most matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products. Exporters should submit all documents at least seven days before arrival of their shipments through appointed clearing and forwarding agents.

Products shipped to Tanzania must have a corresponding Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC). Importers in Tanzania apply for a FIRC for each product they import. To obtain a FIRC the imported products must satisfy Tanzania requirements as evaluated by TBS. For more information on the FIRC see the 2023 FAIRS Export Certificate Report.

## Section I: Food Laws.

TBS is the national standard-setting body for the Tanzania mainland. TBS is mandated to implement quality measures for food products of all descriptions and to promote standardization in industry and commerce. The main regulations against which TBS evaluates U.S. exports are available on the [TBS website](#) and listed below:

1. [The Standards \(Certification\) Regulations, 2009.](#)
2. [The Standards \(Tested Products\) \(Amendments\) Regulations, 2021.](#)
3. [The Standards \(Compulsory Batch Certification of Imports\) Regulations, 2021.](#)
4. [The Finance Act, 2021.](#)
5. [The Standards \(Recall, Seizure And Disposal Of Product\) Regulations, 2021](#)
6. [The Standards \(Fees\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

Other laws that affect U.S. food and agricultural exports to Tanzania include:

1. The Cereal and Other Produce Act, 2009.
2. The Seeds Act (No.1), 2003.
3. The Coffee Industry Act, 2001.
4. The Crops Laws Act, 2009.
5. The Protection of New Plant Varieties (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act, 2002.
6. The Cereals and Other Produce Regulations, 2011.
7. The National Biotechnology Policy of 2010.

8. The National Environmental Policy of 2021.
9. The National Trade Policy of 2003.
10. The Fisheries Act of 2003.
11. The Plant Health Regulations of 2023.

While TBS has primary responsibility for matters relating to the import of food products, other Tanzania agencies also play a role. The table below lists relevant government agencies and their corresponding responsibilities:

**Table 1: Primary Food and Agricultural Import-Related Agencies**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)	TBS is responsible for all matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products.
Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)	TRA assesses and collects revenue on behalf of the Government of Tanzania (GoT).
Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC)	TAEC regulates the use of atomic energy and tests for radiation contamination in food products.
The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA)	TPHPA provides research, training, and other services regarding pests, pesticides, biodiversity, and sustainability.
Tanzania Meat Board (TMB)	The Tanzania Meat Board regulates the meat industry regarding management and quality issues.
Director of Veterinary Services (DVS)	DVS controls livestock diseases, safeguards livestock health, and promotes safe trade in livestock and livestock products.

## Section II: Labeling Requirements

TBS regulates food labeling and ensures that labels comply with domestic regulations and Codex standard 1-1985. All manufactured, processed, prepacked, or repacked food products must have an affixed label.

Under Tanzania regulations, labeling must not be presented in a manner that is false, misleading, deceptive, or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding food products in any respect. Labels must not refer to other products with which the labeled product may be confused. Tanzania does not allow stick-on labels.

Food labels should include the product name, list of ingredients, net content, country of origin, and the name and address of the manufacturer. Labels should also include batch or lot identification numbers, manufacture and expiry dates, ingredient lists with corresponding quantities, recommended storage conditions, nutritional information, and instructions for use. The GoT requires English or Kiswahili

labeling on all consumer food products, although labels can have text in other languages if it is combined with English or Kiswahili.

The GoT provides the following guidance on the general appearance of labels:

1. The main panel of the label must include:
  - a. The brand or trade name;
  - b. The common name of the product;
  - c. Close to the common name a declaration of the net contents of the container in terms of weight, volume, or number;
  - d. The words “imitated” or “substituted” if the product is an imitated or substituted food product; and
  - e. A date of manufacture and expiry date or end of shelf-life.
2. The following must be included on any panel:
  - a. A declaration of food colorings;
  - b. A declaration by name of any preservative used in the food;
  - c. A declaration of any added artificial or imitation flavorings;
  - d. A complete list of ingredients in descending order of their proportions unless the quantity of each ingredient is stated in terms of percentages or proportionate compositions;
  - e. A declaration listing any addition or abstraction of food constituents; and
  - f. The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, processor, or distributor.
3. Any required information must appear on the label in Swahili or English.
4. Information on the label must be:
  - a. clearly and prominently displayed; and
  - a. readily discernible to the purchaser or consumer under customary conditions of purchase and use.
5. The label must clearly indicate whether any substance has been added or abstracted or if the food has been repacked.
6. Labelling information must not appear at the bottom of a container.

7. The label must not include misleading pictorial or grade information. Any grade designation or pictorial information must be relevant to the food product and easily understood.
8. Any food treated with ionizing radiation must indicate use of radiation on the label.
9. Where an ingredient has more than one component, the name of all the components shall be included in the list of ingredients.
10. Imported food must indicate its country of origin. If a food undergoes processing in a second country and the processing changes its nature, the country in which the processing was done shall be considered the country of origin.
11. Labels and advertising must not contain direct or indirect references or endorsements regarding the Labeling Act or the Labeling Commission of Tanzania.
12. Foods containing saccharin or any of its salts must include a statement indicating the product contains a non-nutritive artificial sweetener and identify the sweetener.
13. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a fine not exceeding 500,000 shillings (\$200 USD) or imprisonment not exceeding five years.

The GoT has no specific labeling requirements for plant-based meat and dairy alternatives.

### Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The GoT defines packing broadly to include handling, storage, sale, and delivery. Full details are available under Tanzania Standard (TZS 538-1991). The GoT accepts most packaging materials including:

- Metal cans and metal-ended composite containers.
- Glass bottles and jars.
- Molded, rigid, and semi-rigid plastic containers.
- Metal and plastic collapsible tubes.
- Folding and rigid paper-based boxes and cartons.
- Molded paper containers.
- Flexible packaging such as papers, films, aluminum foil, and cloth or vegetable fibers.

### Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

TBS regulates food additives under Section 130 of the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009. Where there are no specific GoT regulations or where an additive is not listed, TBS follows Codex guidelines. Tanzania has both positive and negative lists for food additives. These lists are not available online but are available by request from regional and national TBS offices. TBS restricts the use of additives in baby food.

Labeling requirements for food additives are fully described in Tanzania Standard TCS 538. All food additives are subject to the following labeling requirements:

1. The name of each food additive present must be listed. The name shall be specified as described in Tanzania Standard TZS 115.
2. If two or more food additives are present, they must be presented as a list. The list shall be given in descending order by content. Additives should be included in one list along with other ingredients.
3. Food additives with a shelf life of less than 18 months must show the expiration date using words such as “will keep until at least....”
4. The words “For food use” or a similar statement must appear prominently.
5. Each container must be marked to identify the producing factory and product lot.

## Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Act No. 04 of 2020 established the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA). TPHPA was created to improve coordination and remove duplication of regulatory roles. TPHPA manages pesticide registration and maintains lists of registered, restricted and banned pesticides. TPHPA operates under the Plant and Health Regulations of 2023. A list of registered pesticides can be found in the TPHPA Pesticide Stock Management System. In general, TPHPA uses Codex standards for tolerance levels.

**Table 2: Identified Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Tanzania**

HHPs (active substance)	HHP Properties
Boric Acid 50% w/v	Toxic to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Diflubenzuron, 250g/Kg	Metabolite: genotoxic carcinogen 4- chloroaniline (PCA) from animal carcinogenicity studies:
Quizalofop-P-tefuryl 4%	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil 225g/l+ MCPA 225g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 225g/l + MCPA 225g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 327.5g/L + MCPA 351g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 327.5g/L + MCPA + 2- ethyl hexyl ester 351g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Glufosinate Ammonium 200g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Linuron 480g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Linuron 500g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1 B per FAO standard
Benomyl 50g/kg	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard

Carbendazim 500 g/l	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Epoxiconazole 125g/L + Carbendazim 25g/L	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Fluconazole	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Iprodione 500g/L	Carcinogen
Propiconazole 250g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard
Triadimefon 25% + Carbendazim 35%	Toxic to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Triadimenol 250g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Triflumizole 480g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard
Thiophanate Methyl +Triadimenol 240g/L	Mutagenic toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard

Source: The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA)

Other government institutions enforcing pesticide and contaminant regulations include the following:

- The Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) monitors and analyzes pesticide residues in their accredited laboratory.
- TBS sets standards and monitors compliance.
- The Tanzania Veterinary Service (TVS) and Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) monitor pesticide residues in animal products, feed, and veterinary drugs.
- TAEC checks on the maximum residue limit for radioactivity.

## Section VI: Other Certification and Testing Requirements

Importers must register their business with TBS through Form No. 1 as described in the second schedule to the Import Registration and Batch Certification Standard Regulations of 2021.

## Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Exported goods to Tanzania require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) which confirms that the product meets Tanzania standards. To obtain a CoC, products must go through pre-shipment verification of conformity (PVoC). TBS has contracted with SGS, TUV-Rheinland, Bureau Veritas, CCIC, and Intertek International to conduct PVoC inspections and issue CoCs. The PVoC process can include physical inspection before shipment, laboratory sampling, production process audits, and documentary reviews. Shipments arriving in Tanzania without a CoC are subject to fines and rejections. More information on Tanzania's PVoC requirements is available here: [Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity](#).

Tanzania is developing draft standards which would apply to halal food products. The standards are based on Malaysia Standard 1500:2019 and are [available online](#).



## Section VIII: Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is weak in Tanzania and exporters should be aware that it can be very difficult to protect their intellectual property. The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act of 1999, Act No. 7 of 1999 regulates copyrights. The Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) administers registration of copyrights. The Trade and Service Marks Act, Act No. 12 of 1986 governs trademarks, and the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) administers registration of trademarks and patents. Trademark registrations are valid for seven years and can be renewed for an additional ten years in perpetuity.

Tanzania is a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

## Section IX: Import Procedures

Import permits are required for exporters to ship food and agricultural products to Tanzania. Tanzania's import permit process is guided by the East African Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA) of 2004. To obtain a permit applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Importers and imported food products must be registered. This can be done online at: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>.
- An application for importation must be completed. This can be done online through the TBS import and export portal: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>.
- Non-perishable goods must have a shelf-life of more than six months upon entering Tanzania.

Applications for import permits from TBS should be accompanied by the following documents:

- A proforma invoice from the supplier.
- A certificate of analysis from the manufacturer of the exporting country.
- A health certificate from the competent regulatory body of the exporting country.
- A phytosanitary certificate (in case of importation of unprocessed cereals or plant-origin products).
- A radiation-free certificate, where applicable.
- A zoosanitary certificate for non-processed foods of animal origin.
- Certificates from relevant bodies for specific food products (e.g., sugar boards or dairy boards).
- A bill of lading or airway bill.
- A certificate of origin.
- Copies of previous Tanzania import permits showing inspection at port of entry, if applicable.

Specific commodities may have additional requirements for import permits. For example, meat and poultry products require an import permit from DVS. Additional information is available at the Tanzania Revenue Authority website or the [Tanzania National Business Portal](#).

Imported foods are inspected at the point of entry before distribution. Foods deemed to be non-compliant are returned to the country of origin or destroyed at the importer's expense.

To pass through customs, importers must appoint a licensed clearing and forwarding agent (CFA) to clear incoming goods. Importers should complete and submit all supporting documents through the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) at least 7 days before the arrival of goods.

Documents for submission include:

- Final invoice.
- An agent's authorization letter from the importer.
- Import permits from TBS, TASAC, DVS, TAEC, and TMB as necessary.
- Exemption documents (if applicable).
- Packing lists.
- Transport documents such as a bill of lading, an airway bill/, or a road consignment note.
- Cross-border declarations of currency and bearer negotiable instruments.

The clearance system automatically rejects incomplete declarations or declarations with insufficient descriptions through an Integrated Query System (IQS).

Tanzania has special requirements for meat products. Tanzania importers of meat products must be registered with the Tanzania Meat Board. The criteria used by the board to register meat importers include:

- Possession of a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and registration as a Tanzania company under BRELA.
- Proof of physical address.
- A positive inspection report of the business location that shows the area satisfied the requirements of the Meat Industry Act.

To import meat products or livestock stakeholders must fulfill the following requirements:

- Stakeholders must affirm that the kind of meat or meat products they intend to import is not sufficiently available in the domestic market.
- Stakeholders must have a certified registration from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.
- Importers of meat products must have a TMB clearance certificate.
- Importers must pay a duty equal to 2 percent of the FOB value of imported meat products charged per each consignment.

## Section X: Trade Facilitation

Tanzania ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on April 8, 2020. As a result, Tanzania's import process has become more efficient. The GoT has adopted numerous information and communication technology (ICT) systems for simplifying goods clearance. The systems have improved clearance procedures by:

- Expediting release time.
- Applying customs law uniformly.
- Implementing effective risk management.
- Efficiently collecting revenue.

Electronic cargo tracking is now in use to control the movement of high-risk cargo and submission of customs documentation is electronic and centralized. Tanzania's system connects to banks to facilitate quick payment of customs fees and duties.

Since ratification of the TFA, the minimum average release time of goods is now 18 days, and the maximum is 29 days. The estimated minimum cost of clearing customs for one shipment through Dar Es Salaam can be found at the [Tanzania Trade Portal](#).

**Table 3: Average Release Time for Goods:**

	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>Total time (sum):</b>	<b>18 days</b>	<b>29 days</b>
<u>of which:</u>		
Waiting time in queue:	40 minutes	6 hours and 25minutes
Attention at the counter:	6 hours	1 day
Waiting time until the next step:	17 days	27 days

Source: Tanzania Trade Portal

Tanzania has an informal procedure for advance rulings on custom classifications. Advance rulings are issued by letter upon request by importers but are not tracked in a central database or disclosed to the public. Tanzania may also issue advance rulings on origin matters. For more on advance rulings see [Tax Administration Act, 2023 \('TAA 2023'\)](#) and the [Tanzania Trade Portal](#).

Post is unaware of any consularization requirements for agricultural imports.

Firms exporting products from the United States are often asked by foreign customers or foreign governments to supply a written export certification for products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA). FDA may provide this certification in a form the agency determines appropriate. For food products, FDA provides written certification for exports in the form of certificates and lists of eligible exporters for specific products or destinations.

For more information on FDA-Issued Export Certificates go to FDA's website for Food Export Certificates. Export Certificates include Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate for Cosmetics, and health certificates for collagen and gelatin for products intended for export to the European Union.

For certain exported food products, some foreign food safety authorities require certification in the form of publicly available lists of establishments eligible for export. For more information on FDA Food Export Lists go to FDA's website for Food Export Lists.

## Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

### **Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)**

Ubungo Area, Morogoro Road / Sam Nujoma Road  
P.O. Box 9524, Dar es Salaam  
Tell: +255 22 245 0298 | +255 22 245 0206 | +255 22 245 0949  
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E-mail: [info@tbs.go.tz](mailto:info@tbs.go.tz)  
Website: <http://www.tbs.go.tz/>

### **Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA)**

PSSSF Building, 10th Floor, Makole Road,  
P.O. Box 1253, Dodoma, Tanzania.  
Telephone: +255 22 2450512 / 2450751 / 2452108  
Fax: +255 22 2450793  
Email Address: [info@tmda.or.tz](mailto:info@tmda.or.tz)  
Website: <https://www.tmda.go.tz/>

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

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### **Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development**

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### **Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)**

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**Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)**

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments