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Report Highlights:

The FAIRS Annual Country Report maintains the baseline information for Bangladesh as it relates to all food and feed. In addition to an overview of the Government of Bangladesh's regulatory infrastructure and import control policies, this report includes FAS/Dhaka's assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imposed on imports. This report is not meant to be a catalogue of all additive and pesticide regulations for all products nor an attempt to list all of the government's food laws. For further information, please contact AgDhaka@usda.gov. Post has not made substantive changes to the report for 2023.

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Executive Summary

In calendar year (CY) 2022, Bangladesh was the 33rd largest market for U.S. agricultural product exports by value, reaching almost \$1 billion. Approximately 90 percent of U.S. agricultural exports to Bangladesh are bulk products, specifically soybeans and cotton. Intermediate product exports (e.g., soybean meal, distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), live animals, and planting seeds) represent approximately 10 percent. Consumer oriented products, as well as agricultural related product exports (e.g., tree nuts, food preparations, and forest products), are minimal, but have good potential.

With a population of 170 million, Bangladesh is the third largest Muslim-majority country and the eighth most populous country in the world, strategically located at the crossroads between South and Southeast Asia. Despite rapid economic growth and great potential for agricultural production and trade, the implementation, oversight, and enforcement of Bangladesh's agriculture and food safety regulations continues to be an area of concern for consumers, as well as businesses involved in agricultural trade, production, and processing. There are approximately 15 federal ministries and 18 agencies involved in food, feed, and veterinary drug safety, including the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Bangladesh's food safety policies and regulations are relatively new. In partnership with the international community, Bangladesh has recently undertaken major food policy reforms. Implementation, enforcement, and development of its agriculture and food policies have been fragmented and underwhelming. In terms of legislation, the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute Act, 2022 and the Food Safety Act, 2013 are the key over-arching legislation for food safety in Bangladesh. While incomplete, the Import Policy Order (IPO) 2021-2024 is the key legislation governing the importation of food and non-food items into the country. Other legislation supports the IPO to ensure the safety and quality of imported food.

Bangladesh has significant overlap in oversight responsibilities, particularly in regulatory response (i.e., enforcement of inspection, standards, testing). This often leads to confusion for the private sector, as well as frustration and friction among governing agencies. Furthermore, this overlap has led to conflicting standards and inspection protocols that are enforced by various ministries, departments, and agencies. Bangladesh continues to work to improve coordination in regulatory oversight and define the roles and responsibilities of all ministries and agencies in managing food standards and food safety.

This report was prepared by the OAA in Dhaka, Bangladesh for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Section I: Food Laws

The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) of the Ministry of Industries sets and ensures compliance with food and non-food standards and ensures correct weights and measures. BSTI also issues clearance certificates for some categories of imported food. BSTI is regulated by the [Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Rules, 2022](#), [Product Packaging Commodity Rules, 2021](#), [Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Act, 2018](#), and [Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures 2018](#).

The [Food Safety Act \(FSA\), 2013](#), enacted in February 2015, led to the establishment of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA). The BFSA is housed within the Ministry of Food and is modeled after the United States Food and Drug Administration. According to the FSA, the BFSA was created to “regulate and monitor the activities related to the manufacture, import, processing, storage, distribution and sale of food so as to ensure access to safe food through the exercise of appropriate scientific methods, and to coordinate the activities of all the organizations concerned with food safety management.”

Although the 2013 FSA assigned coordination authority for food safety to the BFSA, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has divided the responsibilities of food safety governance, implementation, enforcement, and oversight among 15 federal ministries and 18 agencies, creating confusion and duplication in responsibilities.

According to Chapter II. 3 of the FSA, the National Food Safety Management Advisory Council (NFSMAC) was formed to advise and guide the BFSA. NFSMAC is comprised of 29 members, including the Minister of Food and a member of the Parliament nominated by the Speaker of the House of the Nation. NFSMAC meets twice a year at a date and time determined by the Minister of Food.

The 13 duties of the BFSA, according to the FSA and as directed by the NFSMAC, are:

1. to scientifically define all the available foods from plants, animals, and other major sources and provide support to the concerned authorities or organization in updating quality parameters, and monitor the implementation of their activities to ensure food safety;
2. to render necessary support to the concerned authorities or organizations in updating and upgrading the food standards or guidelines to the highest level of safety done by the same under existing laws;
3. to specify food standards and formulate guidelines, where no quality and safety parameter or guideline of such food is determined under existing laws;
4. to provide the concerned authority or organization with necessary support in updating or upgrading the permissible limit at its highest safety level for use of contaminants, microbial contaminants, fertilizer, residue of insecticides and pesticides, residue of veterinary and fishery drugs, heavy metals, processing aids, additives or preservatives, mycotoxin, antibiotics, medicine related active substances, and growth promoters in the food product determined by any other authority or organization under the existing laws, and monitor implementation thereof;
5. to determine permissible limit of use of contaminants through exercise of scientific methods, where the permissible limit of contaminants, microbial contaminants, fertilizers, residue of insecticides or pesticides, residue of veterinary and fishery drugs, heavy metals, processing aid

and food additive or preservatives, mycotoxin, antibiotic, medicine related active substances and growth promoters is not determined under any existing law;

6. to provide necessary support to the relevant authority or organization in specifying permissible limit of radiation in food and implementation monitoring thereof;
7. to provide necessary support to the concerned authority or organization in formulating and implementing accreditation policies to be followed by the certification bodies having authority for issuing certificate of food safety management system to carry out food business;
8. to provide necessary support to the concerned authority or organization in formulating procedural guidelines for accrediting food testing laboratories and implementation monitoring thereof;
9. to provide necessary advice to the concerned authority in monitoring and taking immediate corrective measures to remove the non-conformance observed during monitoring of laboratories engaged in measuring food adulterants and quality;
10. to specify standards and prescribe testing procedures, if not otherwise done, of any food to be imported under existing laws, and accordingly provide necessary support to the concerned authority or organization to ensure adherence to acceptable quality parameters of food and implementation monitoring thereof;
11. to prescribe the procedure relating to packaging and expressing claims on health, nutrition, special dietary uses and categorization of packaged food and provide necessary support to the concerned authority or organization for its implementation;
12. to prescribe the procedure for assessment, analysis, communication and management of probable risk, and to identify increasing risk and introduce regular food alert system; and
13. to collect food samples and conduct analysis and exchange of information with the law enforcing agencies.

To meet the above defined duties, the BFSA has approved several [rules and regulations](#) in the past 10 years, with more to come. Bangladesh, although an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), currently does not notify the international trading community of changes to existing regulations or the development of new regulations that impact trade.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other international organizations have joint programs with BFSA to support the GoB's effort to improve food safety, develop food safety policies and rules in-line with international standards, and enhance the GoB's effort to enforce such regulations.

Table 1: Policies Related to Food and Agricultural Products in Bangladesh

Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1964 (revised in 1985)
Agricultural Marketing Act, 2019
Animal Disease Act, 2005 (Act No. 5 of 2005)
Animal Disease Rules, 2008
Animal Feed Rules, 2013
Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Act, 2011 (Act No. 6 of 2011)
Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Rules, 2021
Animals Slaughter (Restriction) and Meat Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 1983
Animal Welfare Act, 2019
Bangladesh Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005
Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practice Policy 2020
Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Act, 2014 (Act No. 15 of 2014)
Bangladesh Pure Food Ordinance (amendment) Act, 2005 (Partly Repealed)
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (Amendment) Act, 2003
Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985 (Repealed)
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution Rules, 2022
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures Rules, 1982 (Amendment 2006)
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures Rules, 1982 (Amendment 2015)
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures Act 2018
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Commodity Packing) Rules, 2007
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Commodity Packing) Rules, 2007 (Amendment 2012)
Biosafety Rules, 2012
Breast-Milk Substitutes (Regulation of Marketing) Ordinance, 1984
Breast-Milk Substitutes, Baby Foods, Commercially Manufactured Supplementary Baby Foods and Its Equipment (Regulation of Marketing) Act, 2013 (Act No. 35, 2013)
Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021
Essential Commodity Act 1957, 58, 64
Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Control) Ordinance, 1983 (Part 1 and Part 2)
Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 of 2010)
Fish Feed Rules, 2011
Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules, 1997
Fish Protection and Conservation Act, 1950 (latest amendment in 1995)
Fish Quarantine Act, 2018
Food (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017
Food Grain Supply (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Ordinance, 1956
Substandard, Hazardous or Poisonous Food Withdrawal Rules 2021

Food Safety (Control of Trans Fatty Acid in Food Products) Rules 2021
Food Safety (Compliance of Food Businessman) Rules 2020
Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018
Food Safety (Food Tactile/Contact Materials) Regulations, 2019
Food Safety (Food Processing and Administration System) Rules, 2014
Food Safety Act, 2013 (Act No. 43 of 2013)
Food Sample Collection, Testing and Analysis Regulations, 2017
Formalin Control Act, 2015 (Act No. 5 of 2015)
Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) – 2020
Import Policy Order, 2021-24
Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Act, 1989
Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 and Rules, 1983
Mobile Court Ain, 2009 [Mobile Court Act, 2009] (Act No. of 2009)
National Agricultural Policy 2018
National Agricultural Extension Policy 2020
National Agricultural Marketing Policy 2021
National Agricultural Mechanization Policy 2020
Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205
Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017
Plant Quarantine Act, 2011 (Act No. 5 of 2011)
Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018
Pesticide Act, 2018
Pesticide Ordinance, 2007
Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) and 2010
Plant Variety Control Act, 2019
Sea Fish Act, 2020
Seed Act, 2018
Seed Rules, 2020
Special Powers Act, 1974: Substitute Act, 2013
Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance, 2018
Sthanio Sarkar (City Corporation) Ain, 2009 [Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009] [author's translation
Sthanio Sarkar (Paurashava) Ain, 2009 [Local Government (Paurashava) Act, 2009]
The Food (Special Courts) Act, 1956
Use of Food Additives Regulations, 2017
Vitamin A Fortification in Edible Oil Act, 2013 (Act No. 65 of 2013)
Vokta Odhikar Songrokkhon Ain, 2009 (Act No. 26 of 2009) [Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009] (Act No. 26 of 2009)

Section II: Labeling Requirements

A. General Requirements

The [Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017](#) (Bangla) ([English](#)), issued by BFSA, and the [Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021](#) (Bangla), issued by BSTI, are the two primary regulatory tools related to the packaging and labeling of food and non-food products.

The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 establishes technical standards for the labeling of domestic and imported packaged food products, raw materials such as additives, flavoring, and coloring substances, allergenic food, baby food, genetically engineered (GE) food, and milk products for human consumption. The regulations state, “for imported products to be sold in the local market, a label or sub-label in Bangla should be added.” While BFSA is not currently enforcing this requirement, USDA encourages all U.S. exporters to comply with official Bangladeshi regulations and laws.

As per the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017, nutritional labeling is mandatory. The standard U.S. nutritional fact panel is acceptable. Nutritional components that must be on the label are energy value, fat, saturates, glucose, sugar, protein, and salt. Optional nutritional components that can be added are monounsaturates, polyunsaturates, transfat, cholesterol, polyol, fiber, related vitamins, and minerals.

Country of origin labeling is mandatory and details of name and contacts of the producers, importers, re-packer, and re-bottler, distributors, and agents are to be printed on the label. Food importers may add a sticker with the name, address, and contact of the importer/distributor on the imported products.

The below information should be printed on the package label as stated in the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017:

1. Name of the producer, supplier
2. Type of food (natural and processed)
3. Batch, code, or lot number
4. Net weight, size or number and total weight
5. Date of manufacture
6. Date of packing
7. Date of expiry
8. Use best before on date
9. Nutritional information
10. Food additive info
11. Instruction of use

The [Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021](#) largely focus on packaging and labeling for food and non-food products with BSTI certificates that are produced or packed locally. The rules also state standard weights per container and detail various requirements, depending on package size. The Packaged Food Labeling Requirements, 2017 and the Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021 contain similar, and sometimes overlapping, information.

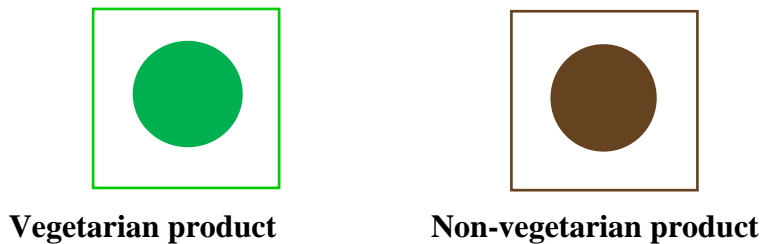
B. Other Specific Labeling requirements

The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 has special labeling conditions for food that contains food additives, irradiated food, food that may cause allergens or intolerant reactions, baby food, vegetarian, and non-vegetarian food, altered hereditary traits-based food (GE products), and processed milk.

The law includes mandatory labeling stating “Genetically Modified Food” for GE food or food ingredients, defined as “produced through a change in hereditary traits.”

The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 and Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021 have guidelines for color-based symbols for vegetarian or non-vegetarian packaged food labels. The packaged vegetarian food must be labeled with a green color circle and non-vegetarian food with the brown color circle label (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian Product Symbols



The Packaged Food Labeling Regulation, 2017 does not include any clause related to implied claims. There is no specific labeling clause for plant-based meat/dairy alternative products (e.g., soymilk).

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 and Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021 are the two main regulatory tools related to the packaging of food and non-food products. Neither of these rules have incorporated any conditions on the types of materials that can be used for packaging. Both rules extensively cover labeling conditions of packaging.

There are different national policies and laws in Bangladesh on various types of waste management. These laws include the [Factory Act, 1965](#); Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance, 1977; [Environment Conservation Act, 2000](#); [Environment Conservation Rules, 1997](#) (Amended 2002); [Environment Court Act, 2010](#) (Bangla); [Medical Waste Management and Processing Rules, 2008](#) (Bangla); and [Ozone Depletion Substance Rules, 2014](#). There are no specific waste disposal laws or product recycling regulations which regulate imported product packaging and recycling. Rules, acts, guidelines, restrictions, or limitations on the use of any packaging materials or packaging sustainability are not found in any of the ordinances.

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

[The Use of Food Additives Regulation, 2017](#) (Bangla) ([English](#)), is overseen by two agencies: BFSA for food safety and BSTI for food standards.

BFSA also regulates the use and control of food additives through the [Trans Fatty Acid Based Food Control Regulations 2021](#) (Bangla).

The Use of Food Additives Regulation, 2017 includes a list of the positive additives that are permitted for use in food. The authorized uses of additives are listed in English according to the category of additives such as color, preservatives, flavor enhancer, antioxidant, stabilizer, non-nutritive agent, sweetener, acid or acidity regulator, antifoaming agent, foaming agent, firming agent, thickener, anti-caking agent, sequestrant, gelling agent, emulsifier, bulking agent, flour treatment agent, glazing agent, humectant, raising agent, and propellant. The level or amount of additive to be used in food produced locally is approved by BSTI, following the BSTI Standards Catalogue, 2021, some CODEX standards, and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards. If new additives are not referenced in the Bangladesh Standards 2021 or any other rules, then the permissible level should be based on CODEX standards for food additives or other intentionally approved standards.

The Trans Fatty Acid Based Food Control Regulations, 2021 states that trans fatty acids (TFA) (except ruminant produced trans fatty acids) higher than 2 percent of the total oil or fat-based food are banned from production, import, and marketing. Ruminant-based trans fatty acid use higher than 2 percent is allowed if the producers receive an analytical certificate from the legal authority. Information related to TFA and ruminant-based TFA should be shared separately in the nutrition facts table of the label. Importers must receive TFA analysis certificates from BFSA and the analysis protocol can be based on WHO, ISO, Association of Official Analytical Chemist, American Oil Chemists' Society, or the International Dairy Federation protocols. Food producers are not permitted to use any label with separate messages such as "TFA free" or "low TFA."

Section V: Pesticide and Other Contaminants

National standards of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides are listed in the BFSA issued [Food Safety \(Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues\) Regulations, 2017](#) (Bangla). The long list of admitted insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides can be found in the regulation, which follows CODEX standards. The MRL levels of positive pesticides are also listed in the regulations.

Pesticide registration, licensing, production, use, and quality control are regulated by the Plant Protection Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture follows the [Pesticide Act, 2018](#) (Bangla); the [Pesticide Rules, 1985 \(Amendment\) 2010](#) (Bangla), [and the Pesticides Ordinance, 1971](#).

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

An inspection and certification process prior to shipment and customs clearance in Bangladesh is required for various products. Per the IPO 2021-2024 and the previous [IPO 2015-2018](#) (English), the level of radioactivity (becquerel or "Bq") per kilogram of Cesium-137 (CS-137) certificates and fit for

human consumption certificates are required for milk powder, milk products, and milk-based food (95 bq per kilogram of CS-137), and edible oil, and other types of food and agricultural products (50 bq per kilogram of CS-137).

Certificates are required for milk and milk products stating the products are free from melamine and milk collected from dairy cattle free from the estrogenic hormones and hormone growth promotants (HGP) treatment. Codex standard-based heavy metal free certificates is also required for milk, seed, and crops directly used as food.

Sampling, testing, and certification of standards at port of arrival are also obligatory for processed food, as outlined in the IPO 2021-2024. Phytosanitary certificates are necessary for all plant and plant-based products. Country of origin certificates are essential for all commodities.

Inspection and disease-free certification are necessary in most cases when importing live animal and animal products and must be pre-approved by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS). DLS has drafted meat trading and marketing rules, but has not approved them.

Several regulatory agencies oversee food standards, food quality, and sanitation for food safety in the retail, wholesale, and processing industries. The anti-adulteration and safety audits are conducted by the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Officer of Dhaka City Corporation (North and South), Chief Health Officer of Dhaka District Commissioner, and/or an Officer from BSTI can visit, without prior notice, markets and food production companies with the “mobile court” to adjudicate laws for the purpose of ensuring food safety. The laws that cover market inspection are the [Mobile Court Act, 2009](#) (Bangla); [Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009](#) (Bangla); and [Food Safety Act, 2013](#) (English). For imported products, the mobile court checks the labels for importer contact information, expiration date, mislabeled or fake product information, and to ensure that imported products are included in the BSTI approved product list.

Importers do not have to register imported products, nor is facility registration required.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

A. Weight and Measures

The Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021 and Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 include rules for packaged products in retail and wholesale markets and for import and export. In the case of imported products, the name and contact information of importers must be on the package. Standard units of the product must be mentioned. If the unit is not standard, the importer will convert it to a standard unit and add an extra sticker on the package. The manufacturing date must be printed on the package. All the additional information, including retail price, must be added with a sticker on the package.

B. Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations 2018

The [Food Safety \(Food Hygiene\) Regulations, 2018](#) (Bangla) regulates and guides various sanitation and hygiene issues like the cleanliness of food processing establishments, health guidance for health workers, rules of cleaning drainage systems, equipment used for food processing, and storage.

C. Novel Foods (GE Foods)

Novel foods produced by GE products are to follow the [Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012](#) (Bangla) ([English](#)). The resolution entered into force on August 29, 2012, states that a person or agency cannot produce, export, import, sell, or purchase and use GE products for any commercial purpose without the permission of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. At present, the Biosafety Rules, 2012 are only followed for imports of GE plant sample materials for government approved crop research project purposes. The Food Safety (Labeling) Regulations, 2017 (Bangla) also state that the phrase “Genetically Modified Food” must be added on the packaging of GE foods.

D. Wine, Beer, Other Alcoholic Beverages

Import requirements for wine, beer, and other alcoholic beverages are included in the IPO 2021-2024. The Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Ministry of Home Affairs oversees these products. As per the IPO 2021-2024, beer and wine of all categories (HS codes 22.03 to 22.06) can be imported by a Department of Narcotic Control’s bar license holder or approved club, restaurant, resort, motel, or international hotel bar. Such goods in fixed quantities and limited value can be imported with approval from the Ministry of Commerce with prior permission from the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. However, in all cases, to import beer and alcoholic drinks, the importer should first obtain a license or permission from the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control.

E. Animal Quarantine

Bangladesh’s [Livestock and Livestock Product Quarantine Act, 2005](#) (Bangla), [Animal Disease Act, 2005](#) (Bangla), [Animal Disease Rules, 2008](#) (Bangla), and IPO 2021-2024 cover animal quarantine issues.

The conditions for importing live animal, meat, day old chicks, live poultry, and eggs are included in the IPO 2021-2024. Importers must obtain an import permit from DLS by submitting a proforma invoice and registration. For imported meat, it is compulsory to have production and date of expiration and storing methods information on the package. Day old chicks are importable under three conditions: a) a certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country, to the effect that the imported chicks are free from contagious diseases; (b) a certificate issued by the appropriate office to the effect that the exporting country is free from avian influenza; and (c) at the time the Letter of Credit (L/C) is opened, the importer must submit the certificate from the director or an authorized officer of the Livestock Directorate that the importer has either a hatchery or breeding farm.

Eggs of poultry and birds (HS code 0407.00) are imported with prior permission from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock subject to the following conditions: (a) eggs are imported in limited quantity from a country free from avian influenza; and (b) for every consignment of imported eggs, there must be a certificate to the effect that the goods are free from avian influenza virus and harmful bacteria; this should be issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.

Deep frozen semen and embryos (HS code 0511.10), except of Friesian; Friesian Cross; Sahiwal; Sahiwal Cross, Friesian-Sahiwal Cross, Australian-Friesian Sahiwal (A.F.S.), A.F.S. Cross, Brahman, Murrah, Nili-Ravi, and Mediterranean varieties can be imported. For the import of semen, a certificate shall be obtained from the competent authority of the exporting country regarding the variety of semen to the effect that it is free from any contagious and venereal diseases, and the exporting country is also free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy. For the import of embryos, a certificate shall be obtained

that the product is free from any contagious and venereal diseases; further local laboratory testing is compulsory to ensure quality.

F. Halal Food

Bangladesh authorities stipulate that all meat products must be halal and the animal was slaughtered according to proper Islamic custom as defined by the Bangladesh government. The halal requirements for food products include that the product is free of pork and free from alcohol. This is also applicable to non-meat products.

Both the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh (IFB) and BSTI issue “halal certificates” or “halal certificate markings” for companies producing food or non-food products for export or domestic consumption. As halal certificates or markings are not mandatory for any product produced or traded, businesses can voluntarily apply for the certifications or markings. Both agencies issue halal certificates for exported; neither verifies halal certificates of imported products submitted to Customs.

The [Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Rules, 2022](#) (Bangla), are the first official rules on halal certification and marks. Per the rules, BSTI can issue a “halal certificate mark” for products, processes, or services valid for three years and BSTI has the right to cancel the certificate at any time. The definition of “halal” is as any processed product, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, and other process and service produced or given by the accepted Islamic shariah law.

BSTI’s Product Packaging Rules, 2021 state that an institution cannot write “halal” or “100% halal” without the approval of the related authority or by showing valid evidence.

Bangladesh is a member of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), an affiliated institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, that issues food and other goods halal standards for member countries. BSTI started issuing halal certificates from May 2022, following the international SMIIC halal standards (BDS OIC / SMIIC 1, 2, 9, 18, 24, 33, 34, 35, and BDS OIC / SMIIC 36: 2022). BSTI is providing halal certification for five products: food and processed food; livestock and fisheries; cosmetics; pharmaceuticals; and canned food for domestic consumption or export.

The Customs Houses of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the ports require halal certificates for some categories of imported products like dairy products, meat, and meat products. As of now, the Customs Houses accept halal certificates of imported products issued by any certified agency of the exporting country. The houses do not coordinate with BSTI or IFB to verify halal certificates for imported products.

G. Plant-based Meat/Dairy Alternatives

Plant-based meat products are not readily available in Bangladesh, and the dairy alternatives market remains small. At present, there are no specific regulations for these types of products.

Section VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Bangladesh is a signatory of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT) of the Ministry of Commerce is the regulatory body that applies intellectual property laws and regulations in Bangladesh. The laws and regulations regarding intellectual property rights (IPR) include: the [Bangladesh Patent Act, 2022](#) (Bangla) and [Patents and Designs Act \(Amended\), 2003](#) to regulate inventions by patents, distinctive shapes by designs; [Copyright Act, 2000](#); [Trademarks Act, 2009 \(Act No. XIX of 2009\)](#) and [Trademark \(Amended\) Act, 2015](#); and [Trademark Rules, 2015](#) (Bangla) to protect business names and trademark logos and [Geographical Indication of Goods \(Registration and Protection\) Act, 2013](#) to protect different goods renowned for their mass production and extraordinary qualities.

Section IX: Import Procedures

About 92 percent of the country's trade shipment is supported by the port of Chittagong, which imports and exports goods by container and bulk carrier ships. The port has facilities to support the bulk carriers of rice, wheat, corn, oilseed and pulses, DDGS, cotton, crude edible oil, fuel, cement clinker, scraps, stones and the container vessels transport fruits, spices, nuts, raw materials of the readymade garment industry, machinery, electronic goods, cosmetics and other products.

Table 2: Bangladesh Agencies Involved in Customs Clearance at Chattogram Seaport

Agencies	Activities
Chattogram Port Authority	Manages and operates the port in which the shipment is off-loaded and stored
Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Chattogram	Supports importers through collecting all the necessary documents, does all necessary customs clearances and releases products from port and transports to private container depot
Customs House, Chattogram, National Board of Revenue	Receives import tariff payments, verifies all certificates, inspects product, and gives release orders
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Chattogram Office	Tests radiation level and gives release order if cleared
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, Chattogram Office	Checks the standards of processed food and gives release order if no objections found.
Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Checks and certifies the standards of imported processed food which are not included in the BSTI standard catalogue.
Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurement	Checks and certifies the standards of imported processed food which are not included in the BSTI standard catalogue.
Plant Quarantine Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension, Chattogram Office	Checks the presence of insect, pest and disease of agricultural products, checks the exporter's phytosanitary certificate (when needed) and gives release order.
Commercial Bank	Provides services to open and settle Letter of Credit, and endorse all the documents submitted to the customs for clearance and the paying import tariff

English is widely used in every trade office and most documents are prepared in English. Therefore, it is not necessary to translate documents into Bangla, but it could be helpful. The recent time released study commissioned by the USDA-funded Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Project revealed that the average time required to complete overall import clearance procedures, starting from the time the ship arrives to the release of the cargo/container, is 7 days 7 hours and 58 minutes (minimum 1 day 1 hour 30 minutes; maximum 19 days 9 hours).

Customs Clearance Procedures for Import

Example of import procedures (customs and seaport clearance) for processed food and other agricultural products in Bangladesh, including livestock and fisheries products:

1. Importer and exporter confirm the transaction by exchanging price quotation(s) and terms of the contract
2. Importer applies for an import permit from the appropriate ministry (Agriculture or Fisheries and Livestock). (The Plant Quarantine Wing, Dhaka Office of the Ministry of Agriculture issues import permits for plant-based agricultural products and the Department of Fisheries and DLS of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock issue import permit for fisheries or livestock and feed products).
3. Exporter sends pro-forma invoice (PI)/commercial invoice to the importer.
4. Importer opens an L/C at a local bank. To open the L/C, the importer provides the following documents to the bank (varies based on agreement with exporter and financial institution):
 - a) PI/Buyer and Seller Agreement
 - b) Import Registration Certificate
 - c) Tax Identification Number (TIN) certificate
 - d) Membership certificate of recognized chamber of commerce and industries or registered trade association
 - e) Insurance cover note with money receipt
 - f) Value added tax (VAT) registration certificate
5. Importer's bank sends L/C to exporter's bank
6. Exporter's bank sends confirmation letter of L/C to importer's bank
7. Exporter sends shipment documents to the importer
8. Exporter's bank sends a package of documents to the importer's bank as per the L/C (depending on product type and agreement):
 - a) Bill of Exchange (invoice of the product)
 - b) Certificate of analysis (description of product)
 - c) Country of origin certificate issued by any trade association of the exporting country
 - d) Health certificate (i.e., Fit for Human Consumption) for any kind of food
 - e) Radiation certificate issued by competent laboratory of exporting country
 - f) Phytosanitary certificate issued by agricultural department of the exporting country
 - g) Animal health certificate for live animals
 - h) Certificate of weight and quality condition
 - i) Packing list/container list
 - j) Insurance certificate
 - k) Others may be needed also depending on the product type, such as fumigation certificate, technical datasheet of description of product, etc.
9. The bank releases the document package to the importer after receiving full payment of exporter's bills.
10. After the arrival of the shipment at seaport, the importer authorizes clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent to complete all activities required for customs clearance and seaport release.
11. The shipping agent submits the import general manifest (IGM) (containing description of imported goods by ship) online.
12. Customs checks the manifest online and approves the manifest and enters information into the ASYCUDA World system, Bangladesh's customs clearance program.

13. The C&F agent completes 'noting', which is entering all the required information to the ASYCUDA World system to submit Bill of Entry (BE).

Documents submitted to the customs house:

- a) Letter of power of attorney of the C&F agent issued by the importer
- b) IMP form
- c) Import permit
- d) Bank endorsed L/C Authorization for customs copy
- e) Bank endorsed L/C for customs copy
- f) Bank endorsed invoice/PCI invoice
- g) Bank endorsed packing list
- h) Bank endorsed copy of CRF certificate of bank
- i) Bank endorsed original copy of bill of lading
- j) Insurance cover note and insurance policy document
- k) Bill of exchange (invoice of the product)
- l) Certificate of analysis (description of product)
- m) Country of origin certificate issued by any trade association of the exporting country
- n) Certificate of weight and quality condition
- o) Packing list/container list
- p) Other types of special documents are required as per the product type:
 - 1) Data sheet duly signed by the C&F agent
 - 2) Health certificate (Fit for human consumption) for any kind of food
 - 3) Radiation certificate issued by competent laboratory of exporting country
 - 4) Phyto certificate issued by agricultural department of the exporting country
 - 5) Animal health certificate for live animal
 - 6) Conformity certification
 - 7) Halal certificate

14. The customs house reviews and approves the BE and puts a "C number" (registration number/noting) into the system.

15. The agent submits the printed copy of the BE to the product wise customs group or section Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO), Customs House, Chattogram for preliminary assessment.

16. The ARO section of the customs house assesses all the information, as per the BE and supporting documents. The ARO takes the official approval of physical examinations, informs the customs officer for tariff assessment.

17. The customs officer assesses the tariff of the product as per the BE and approves the tariff assessment notice online. The officer sends the section and gives the tariff assessment report to the C&F agent.

18. The C&F agent manages the containers to be ready for physical assessment at the port.

19. With the help of the C&F agent, the examining inspector conducts physical examination, and the C&F agent collects samples for in country testing and certification

20. The C&F agent submits a sample to the respective laboratories of government agencies for conducting laboratory testing and gives certificates to the agent and customs house.

The following certificates are generated in country (based on product type)

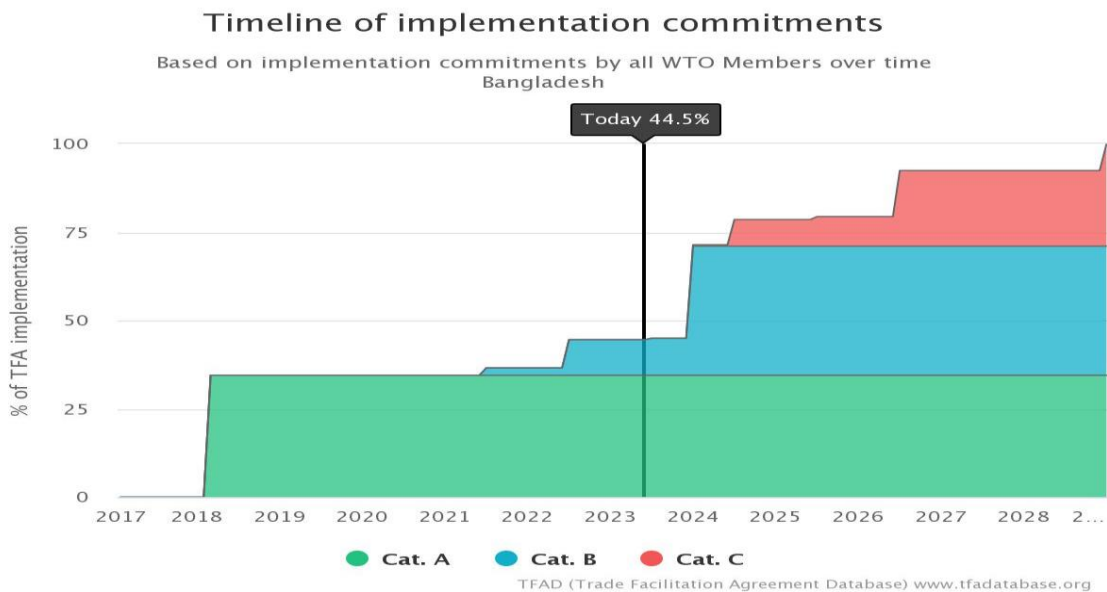
- a) Radiation certificate from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
- b) Quarantine certificate, fumigation certificate from plant quarantine office (if necessary)
- c) Formalin test certificate from BSTI
- d) Bangladesh standard certificate from BSTI

21. After assessing all the supporting certificates, the examining officer gives the approved physical assessment notice/report.
22. The C&F agent pays the tariff to the authorized bank as per the tariff assessment notice.
23. The bank gives a red mark in the ASYCUDA World system after receiving the tariff payment and sends release order to the Treasury Speed Section.
24. After confirmation of tariff payment through the ASYCUDA World System, the treasury section gets the receive number and writes on the bill of entry. With the taxed bill of entry and assessment notice, the C&F agent gives deliver order to the One Stop Service section of Seaport authority.
25. The One Stop Section of seaport assesses IGM, prepares bill payable to the port authority, receives bill payment, endorses bill, and gives delivery order. Usually, it takes two to three days to deliver a full container.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Trade barriers continue to be a significant obstacle to increasing U.S. agricultural exports to Bangladesh. Despite recent GoB reforms to improve the business and trading climates, Bangladesh’s overall implementation of modern trade supporting initiatives has been slow. Bangladesh ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on September 27, 2016. Bangladesh continues to have a limited WTO notifications record, has not submitted trade data to the WTO, and the National Enquiry Point for the Ministry of Commerce, Customs, and BSTI remain uncoordinated and disconnected. FAS continues to encourage the GoB to modernize its export and import processes in order to position itself as a regional market and take advantage of new opportunities presented in the post-COVID global trade environment. In October 2020, USDA allocated \$27 million over five years to address barriers specific to agricultural trade with Bangladesh through its [Food for Progress Program](#).

Figure 2: Timeline of Bangladesh's TFA Implementation



Based on [Bangladesh’s notifications](#), 44.5 percent of its commitments have been implemented to date (Figure 2).

In April 2017, the World Bank approved a \$170 million project for Bangladesh to improve trade conditions by improving connectivity, reducing logistical bottlenecks, and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation. A major element of this project is the establishment of Bangladesh's National Single Window and Customs Modernization plan, estimated to be completed in 2023. The system will automate procedures for all trade-related declarations, licenses, and certificates and will integrate information from relevant GoB entities into a single system. GoB trade agencies currently inspect agricultural imports and exports using manual documentation processes, which increase the time and cost to clear goods at the ports of entry. Agricultural traders must physically collect import certificates before the arrival of goods as a part of the pre-arrival process; once consignments arrive, traders deliver them in person to customs points. These procedural obstacles add days, if not weeks, to the transit of goods and increase the likelihood of corruption by local officials.

Advance Ruling System

NBR began implementing the Advanced Ruling System in June 2016, regulated by the [Customs Ruling \(advance\) Rules, 2016](#). The system works only on classified goods and enables traders to apply for a ruling that specifies the HS code for a specific goods or item. To use the system, importers must submit several documents. To-date, NBR has issued 94 rulings, but in most cases NBR agrees to the requested HS codes for certain period (i.e., 18 months). There is no judicial review and appeal system.

Port Fees

The Chattogram Seaport is the largest in Bangladesh. The maximum permissible draft for entering and leaving Chattogram Port is 10 meters, and ships with a maximum length of 200 meters can berth. According to container [Port Performance Index 2021](#), Chattogram port is ranked 341 out of 370 global ports. The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) published the [2008 Tariff Chart for Commodity and Ship \(Bangla\)](#) that outlines port fees.

Common Delays

Port turnaround time is 2.43 days for all ships and the dwell time of containers is 9.16 days ([Annual Report, 2021-22, CPA](#)). Delayed customs clearance and port discharges are the major non-tariff barriers for agricultural trade. The most common delays are in issuing product quality and standard testing certificates, faulty import permits, delays in port discharging, and delays in ship berthing due to container congestion. The major causes of delays in issuing certificates are shortages of laboratory testing facilities at port. The following are other common challenges in Bangladesh: complex process and non-electronic filing, delays in inspection by several certificate providers and customs officers, confirming product declarations with incorrect H.S. codes and descriptions, solving tariff rate disputes and removing valuation confusion, inbound manifesto submissions by shipping line, and arrival delays of original documents to be submitted with Bills of Entry.

Electronic Certificates or Filing

The Chattogram Customs House introduced a computerized customs management system, the automated system for customs data (ASYCUDA World), developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at four inland ports, the NBR headquarters, and Customs House of Chattogram. However, only one of its six modules was activated, with the system permitting only about 50 percent of importers to clear cargo within 24 hours. The overall implementation in paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade remains below the Asia-Pacific regional average. Chittagong Port is

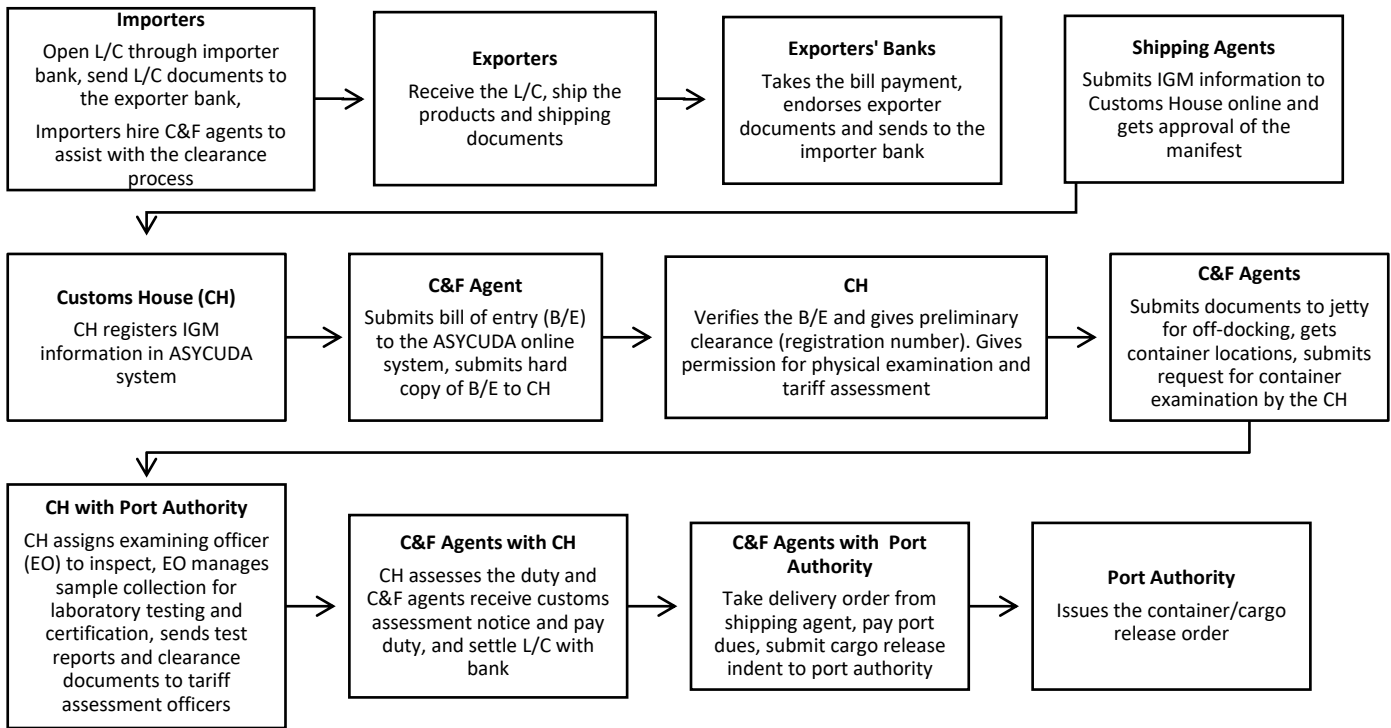
also in transition from paper-based terminal management to modern electronic terminal operations and document processing, but there is no definite date to reach the goal; however, the port authority has introduced terminal operating system and digital berthing systems.

The Plant Quarantine Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture has an online platform to issue import permits, phytosanitary certificates, release orders, and anchorage certificates of agricultural products for traders. DLS also introduced an online “no objection certificate” for approved pets, livestock and feed related imports and exports. The importers and exporters can print out the permit from the website. Bangladesh is not using the global e-phyto hub and does not accept e-certificates.

Duplicative Inspections

Duplicative inspection is a very common problem across all border ports in Bangladesh. Lack of coordination and regulation among the border management agencies leads to multiple inspection and sample collections which further delays the customs and port clearance process. In the trading process, several border and regulatory agencies are involved, such as Customs, Immigration, Chief Controller of Import and Export, Plant Quarantine, Land Port/Sea Port/Civil Aviation Authority, Border Guard, BSTI, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Drug Administration, Bangladesh Bank, Commercial Banks, DLS, and the Department of Fisheries.

Figure 3: Flowchart of Customs Clearance Procedures



Source: FAS Dhaka

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
<p>Secretary Ministry of Commerce Building #3, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka E-mail: secy@mincom.gov.bd Phone (Office): +88-02-9545006 Website: https://mincom.gov.bd/</p>	<p>Publishes Import and Export Policy Orders Import Policy Order, 2015-18 (English) Import Policy Order, 2021-24 (Bangla)</p>
<p>Director General WTO Cell Ministry of Commerce E-mail: dg.wto@mincom.gov.bd Phone (Office): +88 02 9545383 Fax: +88 02 9540213</p>	<p>WTO enquiry point/notification authority SPS-TBT Enquiry Points</p>
<p>Director Plant Quarantine Wing (PQW) Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 Phone: +88-02-9131296 Email: dpqw@dae.gov.bd Website: https://goo.gl/3PQJct</p> <p>Note: There is no National Plant Protection Organization</p>	<p>Issues import permits and phytosanitary certificates Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018 (Bangla, Partly English) Online import permit and phytosanitary certificate issuance and check</p>
<p>Director Plant Protection Wing Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 Phone: +88-02-9131295 Email: dppw@dae.gov.bd</p>	<p>Pesticide registration authority The Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) 2010 (Bangla) The Pesticide Act, 2018 (Bangla) The Pesticide Ordinance, 2007 (Bangla) Available here</p>
<p>Animal Quarantine and Livestock Products Director General and Chief Veterinary Officer Department of Livestock Services (DLS) Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 Email: dg@dls.gov.bd Phone: +88-02-9101932 Fax: +88-02-9110326</p> <p>Assistant Director (Training) Department of Livestock and Services</p>	<p>Issues online import permits for live animal and animal feed products Animal Feed Act, 2010 (Bangla) Animal Disease Rules, 2008 (Bangla) Animal Disease Act, 2005 (Bangla) Bangladesh Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005 (Bangla) Available here.</p>

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 Phone: +88 02 9115936 Website: http://www.dls.gov.bd/	
Chairman and Additional Secretary Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) Police Convention Center, Ramanar Thana, Probasi Kollan Bhaban, 71-72, Iskaton Garden, Dhaka Phone: +88-02-55138000 +88-02-55138603 Email: chairman@bfsa.gov.bd Website: http://www.bfsa.gov.bd/	Coordinates food safety and quality The Food Safety Act, 2013 (Bangla) The Food Safety Act, 2013 (English) Food Safety (Food processing and administration system) Rules, 2014 (Bangla) Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017 (Bangla) Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 (Bangla) Use of Food Additives Regulations, 2017 (Bangla) Food Sample collection, testing and analysis Regulations, 2017 (Bangla) Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018 (Bangla) Food Safety (Food Tactile) Regulations, 2019 (Bangla) Available here .
Director General Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute Ministry of Industry Maan Bhaban, 116-A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka Phone: +880-2-8870275 Email: bsti@bangla.net Fax: +880-2-9131581 Website: http://www.bsti.gov.bd/	Certifies standards and quality, inspection, and standardization; CODEX representative List of mandatory products under import policy, available here . All acts and rules are available here .
Chairman Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Ministry of Science and Technology E-12/A, Agargaon, Shere-e-bvangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Phone: +88-02-8181806, Email: chairman@baec.gov.bd Website: http://baec.gov.bd/ Director Atomic Energy Centre, Chittagong and Principal Scientific Officer Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission	Testing and certifying radiation levels in food and agricultural products Import Policy Order 2021-2024 . Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
(BAEC) Office: 1018/A Bayezid Bostami Road, East Nasirabad Chattogram-4209 Phone: +880-31-25 84 895, Website: http://baecbd.org/baec/rtml/rtml.php	
Director General Department of Environment Ministry of Environment and Forests E/16, Paribesh Bhavan, Dhaka 1207 Phone: +88028181800 Email: dg@doe.gov.bd http://www.doe.gov.bd/	Approving genetically engineered products for research, production, import, and export with consideration of environmental biosafety. Biosafety Rules, 2012 Biosafety Guideline, 2007
Commissioner Customs House, Chattogram National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance Phone: +88-031-723100-02, 723106 Fax: +88-031-713988, 725331 Port Colony Rd. Chattogram Email: Customshousechittagong@gmail.com Website: http://chc.gov.bd/ To learn more about trading and customs clearance: http://www.bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd/	Clearing customs Customs Act, 2014 Customs Rules. Customs statutory regulatory order (SROs), available here and here . Import and Export Policy Orders, available here .
Director General Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection Ministry of Commerce Email: dg@dncrp.gov.bd Phone: +88-02-8189426	Consumer awareness and protecting consumer rights Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009
Deputy Commissioners of all districts Public Relations Officer Ministry of Public Administration Email: prosec@mopa.gov.bd	Controls formalin use in food Formalin Control Act, 2015

Note: Accessibility of the links may vary depending on security firewalls

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Contacts

Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent Association

<http://cnfctg.net/>

Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

<https://www.baffa-bd.org/>

Bangladesh Fresh Fruits Importers Association

<http://bffia.com.bd/>

The American Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.amchambd.org/>

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries,

<http://www.fbcci-bd.org/contactnew.php>

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries

<http://www.dhakachamber.com/>

Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce

<https://iccbangladesh.org.bd/>

Bangladesh Trade Portal

<https://www.bangladeshtradeportal.gov.bd/>

Chattogram Port Authority

<http://www.cpa.gov.bd/>

Berthing Schedule

<http://www.cpa.gov.bd/site/view/commondoc/Berthing%20Schedule/>

Mongla Port Authority, Khulna

<http://www.mpa.gov.bd/>

Bangladesh Customs

<http://www.bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd/>

National Board of Revenue

<http://nbr.gov.bd/>

Customs House Dhaka, National Board of Revenue

<http://www.dch.gov.bd/>

Customs House, Chattogram, National Board of Revenue

<http://www.chc.gov.bd/>

Chittagong Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association

<http://cnfctg.net/>

Attachments:

No Attachments