

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: January 03, 2024

Report Number: AU2023-0004

Report Name: FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual

Country: Austria

Post: Vienna

Report Category: FAIRS Country Report

Prepared By: Roswitha Krautgartner

Approved By: Kirsten Luxbacher

Report Highlights:

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Austria. As a member of the European Union, Austria follows EU directives and regulations. U.S. food and agricultural suppliers to Austria should verify with local importers and appropriate U.S. regulatory agencies for the most current local requirements prior to shipping. It is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report.

Table of Contents

	<u>REPORT HIGHLIGHTS</u>
	<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>
SECTION I.	<u>FOOD LAWS</u>
SECTION II.	<u>LABELING REQUIREMENTS</u>
SECTION III.	<u>PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS</u>
SECTION IV.	<u>FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS</u>
SECTION V.	<u>PESTICIDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS</u>
SECTION VI.	<u>OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES</u>
SECTION VII.	<u>OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS</u>
SECTION VIII.	<u>TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS</u>
SECTION IX.	<u>IMPORT PROCEDURES</u>
SECTION X.	<u>TRADE FACILITATION</u>
<u>APPENDIX I.</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS</u>
<u>APPENDIX II.</u>	<u>OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS</u>
<u>APPENDIX III</u>	<u>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EU</u>

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Austria. Austria as a member of the European Union (EU) follows EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the most recent Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, available at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Austria is a part of the EU single market and customs union and a Eurozone member. The most important Austrian food legislation is the 2006 Food Safety and Consumer Protection law and its ordinances.

Last updated November 2023.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in *Vienna, Austria* 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 foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Austria, as a member of the European Union (EU), follows all EU directives and regulations pertaining to food and agriculture. EU regulations are explained in the most recent EU FAIRS report which can be found in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#). This report focuses on food laws in force in Austria and provides contact information for regulatory agencies and technical contacts in Austria.

Austria has a small but highly developed market economy with a high standard of living. It occupies a strategic position in the center of Europe and is closely tied to other EU economies, especially Germany's. The Austrian economy is characterized by a large service sector, a strong industrial sector, and highly developed but small-scale agricultural sector.

EU countries are its most important trading partners. This also pertains to the agricultural sector. In 2022, almost 84 percent of agricultural imports came from and 75 percent of agricultural exports went to EU countries. In the same year, the most important suppliers to Austria outside the EU were Switzerland, Türkiye, Serbia, Ukraine, and the United States.

In 2022, Austrian agricultural and related product imports from the United States amounted to \$151.7 million. Sunflowers, food preparations, tree nuts, and forest products were the largest commodities by value.

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

Austrian food legislation consists of the [2006 Food Safety and Consumer Protection Law](#) (hereby referred to as the Austrian Food Law), [ordinances](#) to this law, and the Austrian Food Codex ([Codex Alimentarius Austriacus or Österreichisches Lebensmittelbuch](#)). Austrian food legislation generally conforms to EU regulations. Austrian food legislation is only available in the German language.

Austrian food regulations are valid for products produced in Austria and imported foods. However, Austria is obliged to allow entry of products permitted into other countries of the European Economic Area. Imports from third countries must comply with national legislation if no EU law exists.

Food Law

Austrian food laws and regulations follow European legislation to the extent that EU laws have been harmonized. On January 20, 2006, the Austrian Government issued the “Federal Law on Safety Requirements and other Requirements for Food, Objects of Utility and Cosmetics in Order to Protect Consumers,” (“Food Safety and Consumer Protection Law”, or hereafter, just “Food Law”). The law governs food safety regulations throughout the entirety of the food chain, from the primary production site to the end consumer. Requirements are established for food products, potable water, objects of utility, and cosmetics. The regulation applies to all production, processing, and distribution stages and includes veterinary inspection (when applicable), hygiene regulations, and monitoring/testing. The law is based on several EU regulations and directives. Since the introduction of the law it has been updated through several [amendments](#) (under the German paragraph “Änderung” the links to the amendments are listed). The aim of the law is to harmonize Austrian law with EU food regulations.

A number of EU regulations do not require a conversion to national law. Those regulations are directly incorporated into Austrian law as such, and a list of those regulations can be found in the annex to the Austrian 2006 Food Safety and Consumer Protection Law.

The Austrian Food Law is primarily intended to protect the health of consumers and to provide good nutrition for the population. Economic interests are considered whenever possible. However, in cases of conflicting interests, consumer protection has priority. Therefore, one of the key elements of the Austrian Food Law is the increased responsibility of food producing companies to ensure food safety, specifically in close cooperation with regulatory authorities. The immediate initiation of countermeasures in cases of deficiencies or food safety concerns is another essential concept in the law. According to the Food Law, food products, which are determined to be hazardous to human health, falsified, or declared wrongly, may not be distributed. Health and nutrition related claims on the label have to follow the requirements laid down in [EC 1924/2006](#). Disease related claims (e.g., “helps prevent heart attacks”) and the use of unapproved food additives are not permitted.

The Austrian Food Law also extends to animals intended for human consumption. Hormones, or hormone inhibitors are prohibited in meat production (including animal husbandry). Additionally, the law covers special requirements for plants intended for the production of foods (pesticide residues, etc.).

Although food safety and quality are the primary concern of the Austrian Food Law, its jurisdictional scope extends to a variety of non-food items. They include cosmetics, kitchen utensils and appliances, wrapping and packaging materials for foods, additives and cosmetics, cleaning and cleansing agents, disinfectants, air purifiers, preservatives, and pesticides to the extent that these items may be brought in contact with foods, food additives, or cosmetics. Regarding plastic food packaging material, Austria fully applies [EC 10/2011](#).

Essentially, imported food products have the same status as domestically produced products with respect to the provisions of the Austrian Food Law. However, subject to certain conditions, health authorities may decree by ordinance that the importation of specific items coming under the jurisdiction of this law is permissible only if these items are attested to be “unobjectionable” by one of the federal institutes for food examination. Based on (satisfactory) sample inspection findings, the institute will certify the commodity or commodities involved to be in conformity with the provisions to be spelled out in that product specific ordinance. Product clearance may also be made contingent on the results of an inspection by an Austrian expert of the foreign manufacturing (or shipping) enterprise supplying the products in question. Liability for legal and proper marketing of imported products lies with the importer.

The enforcement authority of Austrian food legislation lies with the federal states (*Bundesländer*). Domestic and foreign products are checked through random sampling by government officials at the point of sale or at any other point in the trade chain, or at the processing location. The samples are tested by government authorized laboratories.

Note: **Austrian food legislation is only available in German.** Austrian food legislation is cited with first publication number and year; amendments are not explicitly mentioned. Current valid consolidated versions including amendments can be searched for in the Austrian Legal Information System ([RIS](#)).

The following links refer to Austrian ordinances covered by the 2006 Food Safety and Consumer Protection Law. The legal texts are only available in German:

- [Relevant Austrian food, beverages and related ordinances](#)

EC regulations on various food and beverage products, which are directly incorporated into national law (Annex to 2006 Food Safety and Consumer Protection Law) can be found in the EU FAIRS report – for most recent EU FAIRS report please search the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

- [Ordinances on drinking water](#)
- [Food for special target groups](#)

- Wine legislation

Wine is regulated in the Austrian [Wine Law 2009 – Federal Law on the Marketing of Wine and Fruit Wine](#).

While Austrian wine legislation is based on European wine legislation, Austria has, however, maintained some individuality. The 2009 Austrian Wine Law transposes EU food relevant regulations of the Common Market Order (CMO) of wine. It includes some additional, stricter requirements for “*Land- and Qualitätswein*,” or higher quality wine. Controlled origin, capped yields, quality designations, and official quality controls are the pillars of the Austrian wine law. Three general quality designations are recognized: *Tafelwein* (table wine), *Qualitätswein* (quality wine), and *Prädikatswein* (premium wine). The categories are determined by the sugar content of the grape, expressed according to the *Klosterneuburger Mostwaage* system.

- Hygiene ordinances

The 2006 Austrian Food Law covers hygiene regulations for all food products including meat.

- Irradiation of food products

Austrian Food Codex

The Austrian Food Codex (*Codex Alimentarius Austriacus* or *Lebensmittelbuch*) includes guidelines and definitions, compositions, tests, evaluations, and directives on the distribution of products governed by the food law. It also includes labeling provisions and outlines the basis for determining incorrect labeling. These guidelines are elaborated by the Codex Commission, which is installed by the Austrian Food Law. The Codex is regarded as an “objective expert opinion” but is not a law in the strict sense. It consists of numerous chapters covering different food products and food processing practices.

SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements/Overview

Austria applies all EU harmonized food labeling legislation. The standard U.S. label does not comply with the EU’s labeling requirements. On December 13, 2014, the EU’s “[Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\) regulation 1169/2011](#)” became applicable to all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU, including those imported from third countries. The mandatory nutrition declaration requirement introduced by the FIC regulation entered into force on December 13, 2016.

Detailed information on the food labeling requirements set out in the FIC regulation as well as updates on EU labeling rules can be found at <https://usda-eu.org/food-drinks/eu-labeling-requirements/>.

List of mandatory declarations on food and drink labels as set out in the FIC:

- Name of the food
- List of ingredients
- Allergens listed in Annex II
- Quantity of certain ingredients or category of ingredients
- Net quantity of the food
- Date of minimum durability or “use by date”
- Any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use
- Name of business and address of the food business operator under whose name the food is marketed. If that operator is not established in the EU, the name and address of the importer.
- Country of origin or place of provenance in accordance with the provisions of Article 26
- Instructions for use where it would be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions
- Alcoholic strength by volume for beverages containing more than 1.2% by volume of alcohol
- Nutrition declaration
- Ingredients or category of ingredients that require a specific indication (warning labels)

All food and drink marketed in Austria must be labeled in German. Multi-language labels are allowed. Labeling may also include illustrations. The EU’s FIC regulation requires that the quantity of an ingredient be declared on the label when necessary to prevent consumer misinformation (known as the Quantitative Ingredients Declaration, or QUID). Since many other requirements are applicable, **U.S. food manufacturers and exporters should contact their potential Austrian importer regarding labels on products for distribution in Austria.**

Imported food products can enter the country with foreign labels (including U.S. standard labels) or without labels. However, before distribution, products must be labeled according to the labeling regulation. Stick on-labels meeting local requirements are permitted. A food sample does not have to be labeled. However, if samples are distributed, they must be labeled. Austrian authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations.

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

For EU harmonized requirements please consult the most recent EU FAIRS Report at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

The [Wine Labeling Ordinance](#) implements and amends the labeling requirements of the EU common market order for wine and the Austrian wine law. Important labeling elements include origin, varietal, vintage, quality designation, alcohol content, residual sugar, official control number, producer, and bottler.

Non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism – common European expression for biotech products) labeling: EU-harmonized legislation defining “non-GM,” “GM-free” or similar labeling terms does not exist. There is an Austrian voluntary label for biotech free products issued by “[ARGE Gentechnik-frei](#)” (Platform for “GMO-Free” Food Products, website only available in German) which follows the requirements for biotech-free food products laid down by the Austrian food codex. The label states “produced without biotech” (*ohne Gentechnik hergestellt*). For more information see the latest Austrian Biotechnology Annual Report in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Voluntary private standards and labels exist in Austria for sustainability, environmental friendliness, regionality, social responsibility, and improved carbon footprint.

In July 2017, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that plant-based products cannot be labeled with dairy names such as “cheese,” “butter” or “milk”. A list of exceptions for non-dairy products that may be labeled with reserved dairy names was established by [Commission Decision 2010/791](#).

The following terms are allowed for plant-based dairy alternatives:

German Term	English Translation
Kokosmilch	Cocos milk
Erdnussbutter	Peanut butter
Kakaobutter	Cocoa butter
Milchmargarine	Milk margarine
Margarinestreichkäse	Margarine cheese spread

Other plant-based dairy alternatives may not use the term “milk” and in practice are often called “drink” instead.

To date, Austria has not adopted an additional voluntary front-of-pack nutritional labeling scheme, but there are controversial discussions on the topic. The European Commission has announced that it will propose harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labeling.

SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Austria fully applies EU-harmonized legislation to packaging and containers. For detailed information on the EU’s harmonized legislation on packaging and containers, please consult the latest EU FAIRS Report in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

In addition to these EU regulations, there are some Austrian [ordinances covering the materials of objects of utility in contact with food](#).

There are no special packaging or container size requirements. Due to the rising number of single households, there is higher demand for smaller packages.

Packaging Waste Recycling

Requirements for packaging collection and recycling are laid down in the [Austrian Packaging Ordinance](#). Companies or individuals putting packaging material on the market are obliged to collect the used packaging for recycling. If this is not financially viable, they can join a collection system. The most important organization for packaging material collection and disposal services is [ARA](#) (*Altstoff Recycling Austria*, Old Material Recycling Austria). Companies making use of collection and disposal services pay a license fee. Usually, packaging material eligible for collection and recycling has a specific logo or sign, a dot with two arrows in green and white. However, the sign on the packaging material is not a pre-condition for collection. Thus, products imported in original foreign packages can be collected if the importer pays the fees for the disposal service. Companies not participating in disposal services have the obligation to report the procedures, quantities, and qualities of their packaging material disposals and recycling procedures to the [Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology](#) and are periodically audited.

Since 2020, the use of single-use plastic bags given to end consumers to carry home their shopping items is prohibited in the retail sector. This plastic bag ban is laid down in an amendment to the [Austrian Waste Management Act of 2002](#). However, biodegradable, and very light bags made from renewable raw materials are exempted. The reasoning given is that they do not harm the environment and are necessary in the fresh food area (fruit, vegetables, meat, fish) for hygienic reasons.

The Austrian government is aiming at a higher percentage of reusable packaging material. By the end of 2020, the Austrian Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology proposed a so-called 3-point-plan to

- Increase the share of reusable packaging material
- Introduce a deposit system on disposable packaging (for plastic bottles and cans)
- Introduce a manufacturer tax for plastic packaging.

The proposed measures are only partially adopted yet (increasing the share of reusable packaging material is covered by an amendment to the Austrian Waste Management Act ([Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz 2002](#) and amendments).

As of January 1st, 2025, a deposit on single use beverage bottles (plastic bottles and single-use glass bottles) and beverage cans will become mandatory. A uniform deposit of 25 Euro cents will apply to all such containers. The deposit applies to all types of beverages except for milk and mixed milk drinks. Producers and importers are obliged to collect the deposit when selling the beverages. Retailers who sell beverages are obliged to take back the empty containers. A deposit system for re-usable glass bottles has been in place for many years.

SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

Austria applies EU-harmonized legislation for food additives and the EU list of allowed substances.

For detailed information on the EU harmonized food additives legislation, please consult the most recent EU FAIRS Report at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) and review the USEU website at: <https://usda-eu.org/food-drinks/food-additives/>

SECTION V. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides

The EU harmonized tolerance levels for pesticide residues in 2008. An EU database on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/start/screen/mrls>

For detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation on pesticide and contaminant regulations, please search for the most current EU FAIRS Report in the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) and the USEU website <https://usda-eu.org/plant-products/plant-protection-products/>. Austrian legislation on pesticide residues can be found in the [Pesticide MRLs Ordinance](#).

Private Industry Standards for Pesticide Tolerance Levels

As a marketing tool, some retail chains in Austria require their suppliers to exceed the EU regulations and adhere to stricter maximum residue levels of 30, 50, or 70 percent of the respective EU-mandated MRL. Reports indicate that suppliers violating the new contract standard are at risk of being removed from the approved supplier list of these retail chains.

According to the Austrian [Pesticide Law](#), all pesticides have to be registered. A list of approved pesticides in Austria can be found at the following webpage: [Approved Pesticides in Austria](#).

Registration office contact information:
[Austrian Federal Office for Food Safety](#)
 Spargelfeldstr. 191
 A-1220 Wien, Austria
 Phone: + 43 (5) 0555 - 33400

SECTION VI. OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

Exports of U.S. red meat, meat products, farmed and wild game meat, ratites, milk and milk products, seafood, bovine embryos and semen, porcine and equine semen, gelatin, animal casings and animal by-products to the EU may only originate from EU approved U.S. establishments. A comprehensive list of U.S. approved establishments can be found at the following link to the [USEU webpage: https://usda-eu.org/import-controls/approved-u-s-establishments/](#).

Generally, there is no EU requirement to register imported foods except for “novel foods” or those more unique, niche products that have not historically been consumed in significant quantities. However, registration is required for foods belonging to specific product categories. This includes infant formula and follow-on formula, processed cereal-based food and baby food, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control. Registration of such products is carried out at the [Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection](#).

The import of special products like blood, blood products, and material containing epizootic pathogens must be approved by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. Usually the importer (or possibly an exporter) applies to the Ministry with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application.

SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

For detailed information on EU harmonized requirements please consult the most recent EU FAIRS Report at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Vitamin Enrichment

There are no specific regulations in Austria for the enrichment of foods with vitamins and minerals.

Dietetic or Special Use Foods

Austrian regulations on various dietetic or special use foods:

- [Ordinance on energy restricted diet food for weight reduction](#)
- [Ordinance on grain preparations and transition food for nursing babies and young infants](#)

Food Sanitation

The 2006 Austrian Food Law covers hygiene regulations for all food products including meat. Additional ordinances include:

- [Ordinance on the adjustment of particular food hygiene regulations](#) (Food hygiene adjustment ordinance).
- [Ordinance on hygiene requirements for food retail](#) (Food retail ordinance)
- [Ordinance on raw milk and cream](#)
- [Ordinance on direct marketing of food](#)
- [Ordinance on the registration and certification of food establishments](#) according to food hygiene regulations

Laws/Guidelines

Other Austrian ordinances related to specific food products:

- [Ordinance on deep frozen food](#)
- [Ordinance on various sugars – sugar ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on cocoa and chocolate products – chocolate ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on honey – honey ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on jams, jelly, marmalade, and chestnut cream – jam ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on fruit juices and some other similar products – fruit juice ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on some particular kinds of concentrated milk and dry milk](#)
- [Ordinance on coffee and chicory extracts](#)
- [Ordinance on food supplements – food supplements ordinance](#)
- [Ordinance on casein and caseinate for human consumption](#)

SECTION VIII. TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Trademarks and brand names are legally protected in Austria. Companies interested in the registration of trademarks or brand names must apply at the patent office (Patentamt) where information folders and application forms are available. The contact information of the patent office is as follows:

[Patentamt](#)

Internationale Markenregistrierung
(International Trademark/ Brand Name Registration)
Österreichisches Patentamt
Dresdner Straße 87
A-1200 Wien
Phone: + 43 (1) 534 24

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES

Customs matters are regulated by EU legislation – for details search the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) for the most recent EU FAIRS Report.

Product samples for trade shows or non-commercial distribution are subject to the same import regulations as all other products, such as registration and certification regulations when they are intended for distribution or consumption.

Incoming goods go either to customs storage (for small shipments) or to a freight forwarding facility. Customs officers ensure that documentation matches the goods stored or removed from terminals. Later, the invoice for import duties is issued. Food inspectors at the storage facilities at ports of entry do not routinely check packaged foods. However, the customs officer may take samples to double check for ingredients (sugar, milk powder, alcohol) as they are responsible for correct assessment of customs duties.

Fresh/frozen food goes into deep freeze/cold storage facilities which are checked by the customs office and an official veterinarian who checks documents at the time of placement into storage and removal.

If direct imports of meat are made from third countries into the EU, the border veterinarian checks the meat, collects the accompanying veterinary documents, and issues new veterinary documents, the so called “Annex B.” Meat can move freely within the EU with the “Annex B” documentation. Most U.S. products coming into Austria go through the Netherlands or Germany where the border clearance is made. Thus, on the way to Austria, no additional controls are carried out.

Alcoholic beverages require an import license from the Finance Ministry.

The importation of livestock, meat, and dairy products requires veterinary certification according to EU regulation. These certificates must be attested by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Food Safety Inspection Service. Live animal imports require an import license from the Austrian veterinary service at the [Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection](#).

Veterinary and customs import documents must be in German. However, if a customs officer or border veterinarian can read and understand another language, he or she can accept it. Veterinary certificates are usually bilingual. There is no appeal of decisions by the customs office or the veterinary service.

Foods are not automatically inspected at the point of entry. However, food inspectors of the municipality of Vienna and the offices of the provincial governments (see Appendix II) may draw samples at the point of entry or at the wholesale and retail level at any time. Samples are then brought to official testing institutes (see Appendix I).

If an importer objects to the quality of the product, the case can be brought to Austria’s arbitration center at the following address:

[International Arbitral Center](#)

of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

Wiedner Hauptstr. 63

A-1045 Wien

Phone: +43 (5) 90900-0

SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION

As a member of the EU, Austria follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations where available. Since the EU is a customs union, all member states apply the same import duties on goods imported from outside the EU based on tariff classification of goods and the customs value. For details on the EU legislation and import duties search the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) for the most recent EU FAIRS Report.

Advance Rulings

The customs duties that must be paid upon import of a product depend on the tariff classification applicable to the product. The “Binding Tariff Information” (BTI) system was introduced to ensure legal certainty for business operators when calculating import duties. All currently valid BTI decisions are accessible in the public BTI database. Detailed information on the BTI system can be found at the European Commission’s website:

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/what-is-common-customs-tariff/binding-tariff-information-bti_en

For more information on customs procedures when importing into Austria please visit the Austrian customs authority’s website at:

<https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs.html>

Pre-Clearance Program

For information on EU-accepted pre-clearance programs please refer to the most recent EU FAIRS Report which can be found at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Electronic Certificates / Filing

For accepted electronic certificates please refer to the most recent EU FAIRS Report which can be found at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

The Austrian electronic customs declaration is a procedure for the electronic submission of the customs declaration for operators. The Austrian "[e-customs](#)" (e-zoll in German) procedure is available around the clock (seven days a week, 24 hours a day), so that clearances can take place within the shortest possible time. There are several private software-companies offering e-customs applications.

Import Control Fees

For information on import control fees please refer to the most recent EU FAIRS report which can be found at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Average Release Time – Common Delays

The main ports/airports in Austria execute customs procedures and the necessary veterinary and plant inspections timely and efficiently. The most common reason for delays in the clearance of goods is incomplete or incorrect certificates.

Duplicative Inspections

Inspections on imported foods are concentrated at the external borders of the EU. Once goods have passed inspection at the port of entry and customs duties are paid, goods can move freely throughout the EU. However, official controls remain possible at any stage of distribution.

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

[Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz](#)

(Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)

Radetzkystrasse 2

A-1030 Wien

Phone: +43 (1) 71100 – 0

[Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft](#)

(Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management)

Stubenring 1

A-1011 Wien

Phone: + 43 (1) 71100 - 0

[Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie](#)

Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Radetzkystrasse 2

A-1030 Wien

Phone: +43 (1) 71100 – 0

[Bundesministerium für Finanzen](#)

Federal Ministry of Finance

Johannesgasse 5

A-1010 Vienna

Phone: +43 (1) 51433-0

[Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung](#)

(Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research)

Minoritenplatz 5

A-1011 Wien

Phone: +43 (1) 53120 - 0

[Agrarmarkt Austria \(AMA\)](#)

(Agricultural Market Austria)

Dresdnerstr. 70

A-1200 Wien

Phone: +43 (1) 33 151 – 0

The AMA is responsible for import and export licenses of food products.

The federal authority for label clearance and product testing lies with the:

[Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit](#)

(Federal Office for Food Safety)

Spargelfeldstraße 191

A-1220 Wien, Austria

Phone: + 43 (5) 0555 - 3500

APPENDIX II. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Each province has its own control organizations that may inspect food products. The addresses of the head offices of Austria's Federal States regarding food inspection are as follows (websites only in German available):

[Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung](#)

Lebensmittelinspektion

Arnulfpl. 2

9021 Klagenfurt, Austria

Phone: + 43 (463) 536 - 0

[Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung](#)

Gesundheitswesen - Lebensmittelaufsicht

Landhaus

Europaplatz 1

7000 Eisenstadt, Austria

Phone: + 43 (2682) 600 – 682

[Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung](#)

Lebensmittelaufsicht

Harrachstr. 20

4010 Linz, Austria

Phone: + 43 (732) 7720 - 4271

[Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung](#)

Nahrungsmittelkontrolle
Landhausplatz 1
A- 3109 St. Pölten, Austria
Phone: + 43 (2742) 200 - 0

[Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung](#)

Gesundheitswesen
Trautmannsdorffgasse 2
8010 Graz, Austria
Phone: + 43 (316) 877 - 0

[Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung](#)

Abteilung Vc, Nahrungsmittelkontrolle
Neues Landhaus
Eduard Wallnhoeferplatz 1
6010 Innsbruck, Austria
Phone: + 43 (512) 508 - 2669

[Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung](#)

Referat 9/03
Nontaler Hauptstrasse 55
5010 Salzburg, Austria
Phone: + 43 (662) 80 42 - 2200

[Amt der Vorarlberger Landesregierung](#)

Nahrungsmittelkontrolle
Landhaus
6900 Bregenz, Austria
Phone: + 43 (5574) 511 - 0

[Amt der Wiener Landesregierung](#)

MA 59
Am Modenapark 1-2
1030 Wien, Austria
Phone: + 43(1) 711 16 - 0

Other Food Testing Institutes:

A list of official food testing institutes of the Austrian Federal States and the Agency for Health and Food Safety can be found at:

[Lebensmitteluntersuchungsstellen der AGES und der Länder - KVG \(verbrauchergesundheits.at\)](http://www.lebensmitteluntersuchungsstellen.at)

EC directives in English can be obtained at the following webpage:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

Austrian regulations can be obtained at the following website (Austrian regulations are only available in German)

<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Bund/>

U.S. Embassy Vienna

FAS Vienna - Office of Agricultural Affairs

Email: agvienna@fas.usda.gov or agvienna@state.gov

APPENDIX III. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EU

Composite Products to the EU

The EU defines a composite product as a food product containing both processed products of animal origin (dairy, egg, fishery products, or meat products) and products of plant origin. [USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service \(FSIS\) will issue EU composite product certificates](#) for composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities and bearing the USDA mark of inspection. AMS Dairy Program will issue the EU composite product certificates for composite products NOT produced in an FSIS-regulated facility and not bearing the USDA mark of inspection, regardless of whether dairy is an ingredient in the composite product.

The new EU requirements for composite products will impact stakeholders who have not been required to obtain an export certificate from AMS Dairy Program in the past. Prior to requesting a certificate from AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. [Go to How to Apply for an AMS Dairy or Composite Product Export Certificate for more information.](#)

Dairy to the EU

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for EU export certificates for dairy products regulated by FDA. For more information, contact William Francis (william.francis@usda.gov) or John Kelly (John.Kelly2@usda.gov). In order to obtain an EU Health Certificate, the manufacturers must have their final production, blending, and/or packing facility listed on the [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#). Exporters should check whether they have been included in this list. Exporters may apply for inclusion on these lists through the FDA Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions.

Dairy to Other Export Markets

A sanitary certificate is accepted by numerous countries, the Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Grading Branch offers these certificates and this certificate can be [obtained through this website](#).

Eggs and Egg Products

In the egg sector, USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for export certificates for egg products regulated by FDA. The AMS Livestock, Poultry and Seed Division is responsible for the EU export certificates for the food products containing eggs or egg products that are regulated by FDA. In addition to shell eggs, FDA-regulated egg products include hard boiled eggs, cooked omelets, frozen egg patties, imitation egg products, egg substitutes, noodles, cake mixes, freeze-dried products, dietary foods, dried no-bake custard mixes, egg nog mixes, acidic dressings, mayonnaise, milk and egg dip, foods containing egg extracts, French toast, sandwiches containing eggs or egg products, and balut and other similar ethnic delicacies. For more information on jurisdiction overlap for commercial products regulated by either or both FDA and USDA, please refer to the [FDA/USDA jurisdictional chart](#) (Exhibit 3-1). U.S. exports of eggs and egg products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#).

Seafood

The EU export health certificate is required by the EU Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection and attests to the safety of fish and fishery -- both wild and aquaculture -- products shipped to the EU. U.S. exports of seafood products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the [Export Listing Module \(ELM\)](#). Please visit Online Applications for Export Lists for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. Please note that the EU will only accept export certificates signed after an establishment has been added to the list published on the [EC website](#) and the list has entered into force. Once listed, U.S. establishments may contact National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program to request export certificates for U.S. seafood exports to the EU. Prior to exporting, industry should consult the EC's EU List of Approved Establishments External Link Disclaimer to verify that the establishment from which they intend to export is listed. These certificates must be requested and issued prior to shipment of the product. [Follow this link to submit a request online.](#)

Honey to the EU

The European Union (EU) has listed the United States as a country eligible to export honey to the European Union provided honey producers meet their program requirements. Under the program, domestic U.S. companies must adhere to specific requirements for each shipment destined to an EU member country. The [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service outlines specific requirements for U.S. honey shipped to EU markets](#) related to Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Point (HAACP) planning, recordkeeping, testing, sampling, as well as labeling requirements in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and that the product(s) have been handled and where appropriate, prepared, packaged, and stored in a hygienic manner in accordance with the requirements of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 ([these regulations can be downloaded from the following link](#)).

Seeds for Sprouting to the EU

USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for seeds for sprouting regulated by FDA. See: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-announces-seed-sprouting-export-certification-program>.

Attachments:

No Attachments