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Report Highlights:

This FAIRS-Ghana Country Report Annual - 2025 outlines the Ghanaian government's requirements for imports of food and agricultural products destined for human and animal consumption. The report provides U.S. food manufacturers and commodity exporters with an overview of key Ghanaian laws, regulations, and requirements governing the import of food and agricultural products. Ghana is a growing market that serves as a gateway for the Coastal West Africa region. It offers good opportunities for U.S. exporters of consumer-oriented food products, such as, poultry meat, soups and other preparations, spices, bakery goods, cereals and pastas, and dairy products. Consumer-oriented food products form the bulk of U.S. exports to Ghana.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the U.S. Embassy/USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) Accra, Ghana for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **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.** [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge.]

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This FAIRS-Ghana Country Report Annual – 2025 provides U.S. food manufacturers and agricultural commodity exporters with an overview of key Ghanaian laws, regulations, and requirements governing the import of food and agricultural products. The report outlines regulations related to import procedures, labeling, packaging, and other relevant guidelines. The report also provides contact information for Ghanaian regulatory agencies.

For U.S. food and agricultural products exporters, Ghana is a growing market that serves as a gateway for the Coastal West Africa region. Ghana offers good opportunities for U.S. exporters of consumer-oriented food products, such as, poultry meat, soups and other preparations, spices, bakery goods, cereals and pastas, and dairy products.

Consumer-oriented food products form the bulk of U.S. exports to Ghana. However, there are also growing opportunities for intermediate products exports, for example, soybean meals, non-beverage ethanol, as well as sugar, sweeteners, and beverage bases have good potential. In calendar year (CY) 2024 (January-December), Ghana's global imports (cost-insurance-freight – CIF) of agricultural and related products were \$2.4 billion, up 11 percent from 2023. In 2024, Ghanaian imports of U.S.-origin agricultural and related products came in at \$147.1 million (CIF), up \$40 million from \$107 million in 2023, highlighting Ghana's continuing recovery from the economic crisis of 2022.¹

The Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana FDA) is the primary national regulatory body responsible for overseeing the safety and quality of food, drugs, dietary supplements, herbal and homeopathic medicines, veterinary products, cosmetics, medical devices, household chemical substances, tobacco products, and the approval of clinical trials.

¹ In December 2022, the Ghanaian government defaulted on much of its domestic and external debt. It launched Ghana's Domestic Debt Exchange program, restructuring domestic credit worth about 137 billion cedis (roughly \$10 billion).

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

Ghana's food laws are designed to ensure the safety, quality, and integrity of food products available to consumers. The primary objective of these regulations is to safeguard public health, prevent foodborne illnesses, and ensure that food products meet established safety and quality standards. Ghanaian regulatory agencies enforce compliance with food laws, regulations, and standards. Ghana's food laws and regulations impact all stages of the food supply chain, including production, processing, packaging, labeling, and distribution. Ghana's regulatory environment and guidelines for food safety consists of mainly the [General Labeling Rules \(1992\)](#) and the [Public Health Act 851 \(2012\)](#).²

The General Labeling Rules (1992): Ghana's General Labeling Rules (1992) regulate the labeling of products to ensure that consumers receive accurate and sufficient information about the products they purchase. These rules are designed to protect consumers and promote fair trade practices. All products sold in Ghana must comply with these labeling rules to be legally marketed and sold in the country.

The Public Health Act 851 (2012): The Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana FDA), within the Ministry of Health (MOH), was established by the Public Health Act 851 (2012). This Act mandates that the Ghana FDA regulate the manufacture, import, export, distribution, use, and marketing of food, drugs, food supplements, herbal and homeopathic medicines, veterinary medicines, cosmetics, medical devices, household chemicals, and tobacco products to ensure their safety, quality, and efficacy. The Ghana FDA requires registration and proper certification for all food products imported, advertised, sold, or distributed in the country. The Ghana FDA ensures that locally manufactured and imported food products meet the standards set by the [Ghana Standards Authority \(Ghana SA\)](#).³ The Ghana SA is the national statutory body responsible for the development and promulgation of Ghanaian standards. It establishes the essential requirements to which food commodities must conform.

To help avoid food adulteration, Ghana FDA inspects food processing facilities, provides destination inspection of imported products, and verifies exports and conducts post market surveillance. It is punishable by law to contravene the provisions of existing food and drugs laws. Failure to register any food item with the Ghana FDA bars that product's import.

The Ghana FDA sanctions unregistered product imports, imposing: 1) re-export; 2) destruction/confiscation; 3) fines; 4) prosecution according to the Public Health Act; and or 5) brings the product into compliance by authorizing "cleared under detention" (i.e., requiring product registration as the consignment exits the port). Non-compliance can lead to shipment rejections, fines and or penalties.

In January 2022, the Ghana FDA launched the [National Food Safety Policy](#).⁴ This measure provides directions and guidance on food safety. It promotes and guides research, training, monitoring, and food-borne disease surveillance activities. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported this policy.

² See, the Public Health Act 851 (2012), located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/laws/>. Ghana's General Labeling Rules (1992), are located at: [https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC017279/#:~:text=Ghana-.Ghana%20Standards%20Board%20\(Food%2C%20Drugs%20and%20other%20Goods\)%20General,with%20provisions%20of%20regulation%201.](https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC017279/#:~:text=Ghana-.Ghana%20Standards%20Board%20(Food%2C%20Drugs%20and%20other%20Goods)%20General,with%20provisions%20of%20regulation%201.)

³ Ghana Standards Authority, located at: <https://www.gsa.gov.gh/>.

⁴ Ghana National Food Safety Policy, located at: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gha211470.pdf>.

SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Ghana SA, overseen by the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry (MoTAI), develops and publishes standards. The Ghana FDA is responsible for enforcing standards set by the Ghana SA. FAS Accra (Post) strongly encourages U.S. exporters to read the [Ghana Standards Authority General Labeling Rules \(1992\)](#), as well as visit the Ghana FDA webpage on the [Guidelines for Imported Food Products](#) before designing labels for products for export to Ghana.⁵

Ghana's minimum labeling requirements include the following:

- Labeling should be in English. An English language translation must be shown on the label or package insert (where applicable) if it is in another language.
- Labeling shall be legible and shall be of indelible ink.
- The name of the product (brand, common name, and generic name) should be in bold letters.
- Provide net mass/weight, net volume, or drained weight of content (i.e., for solids in liquid medium, such as mackerel in tomato sauce). Essential ingredients should be specified in metric weight for solids, semi-solids and aerosols, and metric volume for liquids.
- The manufacturer/exporter/agent's name and complete address, including location.
- The country of origin must be provided on the product label.
- List ingredients (specific names of ingredients and/or E-numbers) by their common names in descending order of predominance by weight. If the food is "standardized," (i.e., there is a corresponding Ghana SA-issued standard for the food) the label must include only those ingredients, which are optional for that standard and include directions for use, if any:
 - a. Provide the production "batch" or lot number.
 - b. Provide date of manufacture of products.
 - c. Provide an "expiry," "best before," or a "use by" date.
 - d. Food additives and colors must be stated on the label. Spices, flavors, and colors may be listed as such, without naming the specific material, but any artificial color or flavor should be identified as such.
 - e. There is no additional labeling for U.S. food imports if the standard U.S. label addresses the above-mentioned items. Stick-on labels are not permitted.
 - f. Ghana does not require that the Ghana FDA registration number be on the product label.

The Ghana FDA enforces labeling laws at the port-of-entry and at manufacturing sites nationwide. Ghana FDA officials routinely inspect imported goods at retail store sites and outlets to ensure compliance with labeling regulations. There are no exceptions to the labeling regulations. Failure to

⁵ See, Ghana Standards Authority (Food, Drugs and other Goods) General Labeling Rules (1992) (L.I. No. 1541), located at: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gha17279a.pdf>. See, Ghana Guidelines for Imported Food Products, located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/imported-products/food-products-guidelines-import/>. Ghana uses the Codex Alimentarius (Codex) standards to formulate its labeling requirements. Codex is the collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations published by the Food and Agriculture Organization. Codex standards are located at: https://www.fao.org/input/download/report/487/al91_3e.pdf.

comply with labeling regulations can result in the prohibition of future imports, distribution, sale, or use of any food product, temporarily or permanently, as well as may be implemented against any product of a particular company for non-compliance (see, Ghana FDA [General Labeling Requirement](#) guidelines for pre-packaged foods).⁶

The Ghana FDA considers any special dietary food a “drug” if it helps in the “treatment, prevention, cure, mitigation or diagnosis of diseases in humans or animal.” Manufacturers must register dietary food as medicinal products in compliance with the Ghana FDA guidelines for registration of drugs.

B. OTHER SPECIFIC LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Wheat Flour and Vegetable Oil Products: The Ministry of Health’s, [Directive for the Fortification of all Wheat Flour and Vegetable Oil\(s\) Locally Produced and/or Imported](#), includes additional labeling requirements for wheat flour and vegetable oils.⁷ All vegetable oils, both imported and locally produced, are required to specify the name of the plant used in the production; for example, corn oil, ground-nut (peanut) oil, sunflower oil, and rapeseed oil among others. Labels bearing “No/low Cholesterol” or “Cholesterol Free” on edible vegetable oils are prohibited. According to the Ghana FDA, the declaration of “No/low Cholesterol” on the label of edible vegetable oils is considered a misleading claim unless it is stated on the label that all vegetable oils are cholesterol free. The Ghana FDA will either remove products from the store shelf or ask the importer to re-label the vegetable oil as required.

Infant Formula: There are specific labeling requirements for infant formula and follow-up formula that must conform to the [Labeling Requirements for Infant Formula and Follow-up Formula](#).⁸ In addition to the general labeling requirements for pre-packaged foods, labels must clearly state that breast milk is the best food for infants and prevents illnesses; provide proper preparation and usage instructions; and include a warning about health hazards associated with improper use. Labels must also indicate the health risks of introducing the product before the recommended age and specify the quantity needed to feed an infant for the first six months of life. Labels should not use terms like “maternalized” or display photographs or graphics, except for preparation instructions. Infant formula is defined as a product for infants up to six months, while follow-up formula is for infants older than six months and young children. Both require formulation to Ghanaian standards or Codex *Alimentarius* (Codex) standards.

Halal Food Labeling: In Ghana, there are no specific labeling requirements for the import of halal food products. For all U.S.-origin meat and non-plant-based food products shipped to Ghana, halal certification is strictly voluntary. Additional nutritional and religious labeling information such as halal or kosher is voluntary (see, [GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0002 | Ghana - Halal Overview-2025](#)).⁹

⁶ Ghana FDA, “General Labeling Requirement,” located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GENERAL-LABELING-REQUIREMENTS-1.pdf>

⁷ Ministry of Health, “Directive for the Fortification of all Wheat Flour and Vegetable Oil(s) Locally Produced and/or Imported,” located at: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gha233814.pdf>.

⁸ Ghana FDA, “Specific Labeling Requirements for Infant Formula and Follow-up formula,” located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/LABELING-REQUIREMENTS-FOR-INFANT-FORMULA-AND-FOLLOW-UP-FORMULA.pdf>

⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0002 | Ghana - Halal Overview-2025,” located at: https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Ghana%20-%20Halal%20Overview%20-%202025_Accra_Ghana_GH2025-0002.

Food/Feed Containing “Genetically Modified” (Genetically Engineered) Ingredients: The Ghana FDA developed [Guidelines for Labeling Food and Feed Derived from Genetically Modified Organisms \(“GMOs”\)](#) and those containing genetically modified (“GM”) (i.e., genetically engineered – GE) ingredients.¹⁰ These guidelines ensure compliance with the Public Health Act 851 (2012), and provide clear labeling requirements to inform consumers. The guidelines define key terms such as “GMOs” (i.e., products derived from biotechnology), “GM” food, and highly processed food, and outline mandatory labeling requirements for various categories of “GM” food and ingredients. Exemptions are provided for low-level “GM” presence and highly processed foods. “Non-GMO” claims must be substantiated and not misleading. Non-compliance with guidelines will result in regulatory sanctions.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Ghana does not require special packaging or container dimensions. Importers and consumers prefer processed and high-value products to be packaged in small- to medium-size packs that are affordable and for single use. Bulk product shipments that can be repackaged locally are also preferred. Ghana FDA officials carry out routine inspection and analysis of imported foods at the port-of-entry and at the retail level; they are mandated to seize and destroy contaminated products.

A. PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

In 2020, Ghana revised its National Plastics Management Policy which sets the framework for the proper and sustainable management of plastics across their life cycle, across the economy. Even though Ghana does not ban or restrict single use plastics, it has taken steps to manage plastic waste through the [Revised National Plastics Management Policy](#) (an integrated response to sustainably manage plastics).¹¹

SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

Ghana’s food additive regulations are based on [Codex standards](#). Ghanaian food additive regulations are specified in the [Public Health Act 851 \(2012\)](#).¹² Details are as follows:

- No person may manufacture, import, advertise, sell, or present any food item or beverage containing a non-nutritive sweetener for human consumption unless the product is “specified for special dietary usage.”
- It is not permissible to add non-nutritive sweeteners to any food or beverage to be consumed by infants or children.
- Non-nutritive sweeteners, including saccharin and cyclamates, may be used in low-calorie, dietary foods/beverages.

¹⁰ Ghana FDA, “Guidelines for Labeling Food and Food Ingredients Derived from GMOS,” located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/guidelines-for-labeling-of-foods-and-food-ingredients-derived-from-gmos-3/>

¹¹ See, “Revised National Plastics Management Policy,” located at: <https://mesti.gov.gh/documents/revised-national-plastics-management-policy/#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20National,plastics%20pollution%20crisis%20in%20Ghana>

¹² See, the Public Health Act 851 (2012), located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/laws/>.

- Ghanaian legislation prohibits the use of potassium bromate as a flour improver for bread. Food manufacturers are required to use ascorbic acid as a food additive.
- Effective February 1, 2010, it is mandatory for all wheat flour and vegetable oils imported and or locally produced in Ghana to be fortified with micronutrients (Gazette No. 92).
- Ghana bans all dairy products containing melamine, including baby formula.
- Effective July 1, 2005, all salts manufactured in Ghana and or imported must be iodized.¹³

All food additives that are Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS listed) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are permitted for their intended use by the Ghana FDA.

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS

The Ghana Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana EPA) is the national authority for pesticide management. It performs this function in coordination with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)/Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD), which regulates and approves agricultural pesticides. In January 2025, the [Environmental Protection Act 1124 \(2025\)](#), replaced the Environmental Protection Act 490 (1994). The Environmental Act 1124 (2025) consolidates various pieces of legislations that regulate environmental protection in Ghana, including the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 917 (2016) and the Pesticides Control and Management Act 528 (1996).¹⁴ The Act provides comprehensive regulations for the control and management of pesticides, including the establishment of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides in food and animal feed.

The Environmental Protection Act 1124 (2025) assigns the Ghana EPA responsibility for enforcing MRL limits, as well as for conducting periodic reviews and updates of MRL limits. The Ghana EPA is authorized to establish pesticide residue monitoring programs to ensure compliance with set MRLs, generating data for periodic reviews. The Ghana EPA fixes national pesticide MRLs; however, in the absence of an established national limit, it may adopt the limits specified in Codex as an Interim National Maximum Residue Limit.¹⁵ Ghana, currently defers to Codex; it does not maintain a national MRL list. The Ghana EPA's Chemicals Control and Management Center provides updated information on approved pesticides and MRLs (see, [Revised Register of Pesticides - December 2023](#)).¹⁶

The Environmental Protection Act 1124 (2025) covers the regulation of contaminants. It sets maximum levels (MLs) for various contaminants in food and other products to protect public health and the environment. Exporters must provide documentation and may be subject to testing requirements to ensure that imported goods comply with the established MLs for contaminants. The Ghana FDA conducts port inspections enforcing compliance with MLs for contaminants; sanctions for violations include administrative penalties and criminal charges.

¹³ Although the regulation has yet to be fully implemented, iodized salts are already sold on the Ghanaian market.

¹⁴ See, Ghana Environmental Protection Act 1124 (2025), located at: <https://epa.gov.gh/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Environmental-Protection-Act-2025-Act-1124-2.pdf>.

¹⁵ See, FAO, located at: https://www.fao.org/input/download/report/487/al91_3e.pdf.

¹⁶ See, the Ghana EPA Chemicals Control and Management Center, "Revised Register of Pesticides (December 2023)," located at: <https://epa.gov.gh/new/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Revised-Register-Of-Pesticides-December-2023-1.pdf>. U.S. exporters can obtain more information on approved pesticides and MRLs from the Ghana EPA through info@epa.gov.gh.

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended to work with a carefully vetted local agent, importer or distributor; while not legally required, these can provide an understanding of policies and procedures. An additional option is working with an association that counts with local representation and extensive knowledge of the Ghanaian market. In Ghana, an agent may represent several product lines. U.S. exporters need to ensure that agents have proper documentation, registration is required to operate in Ghana:

- The importer/agent has a registered company or business, capable to affect a product(s) recall.
- The Ghanaian importer/agent must provide proof of a manufacturer's Power of Attorney, authorizing representation on issues relating to the product(s).
- The original Power of Attorney must be notarized in the country of origin. It must be signed by the chairman or president of the company, stating the name of the product(s) being registered.
- The importer/agent coordinates imported food product(s) registration, registering the product(s) with the Ghana FDA, for a period of up to three years.

B. FACILITY REGISTRATION

The Ghana FDA product and facility registration for food product imports requires compliance with the [Guidelines for Licensing of Facility](#) requirements for issuance of a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Certificate.¹⁷ Documentation required includes:

- Business Registration Certificate.
- Sanitary or Phytosanitary (SPS) Certificate, where applicable.
- Certificate of Manufacture, Free Sale, and/or a U.S. [Food and Drug Administration's Certificate](#).
- Certificate of Analysis by product and variant and endorsed by an authorized officer.
- Radiation Certificate for food product (if food was subjected to or exposed to radiation).
- Documentation substantiating health, nutrition, superlative, and comparative, affixed on the label where applicable.
- A copy of the product label (model label).
- Two (2) product sample units of each product must be sent to the Ghana FDA for physical/laboratory analysis and vetting (four-to-eight weeks).
- Total Registration fee (non-refundable) as stated in the current Ghana-FDA fee schedule.¹⁸

Ghanaian importers must submit to the Ghana FDA, on behalf the trademark owner, a Certificate of Registration of Brand Name/Trademark. The importer should also present a letter of invitation for the inspection of the factory/warehouse in Ghana stating the full location address of the manufacturer, contact name, phone and fax numbers and E-mail address. Only company owners and/or competent

¹⁷ See, Ghana FDA, "Guidelines for Licensing of Facility," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/guidelines-for-licensing-of-food-manufacturing-facility/>.

¹⁸ See, Ghana FDA, "Approved Fee Schedule 2024," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/approved-fee-schedule> and included in this FAIRS-GHANA | GH2025-0019| FAIRS Country Report Annual – 2025, as a report attachment.

company representatives, with an adequate knowledge of the company, may complete the application form. Clearing agents are not permitted to complete these forms.

The Ghana FDA registration procedures review the manufacturing process, assesses food safety and quality, and confirm compliance with Ghana FDA labeling regulations. The registration of any food product with the Ghana FDA is a drawn-out process, which may take one-to-two months to complete from the date of product sample submission for laboratory testing. U.S. food manufacturers and exporters should be aware of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA)/Customs Division's requirements and regulations (Section IX, Import Procedures, page 16, herein). The registration of a pre-packaged food is valid for three years with renewal prior to the end of the third year. Registration is approved by the Ghana FDA before product import; samples used for the purpose of application are excluded.¹⁹

C. PRODUCT REGISTRATION

To meet Ghana FDA product registration requirements for food products imports, an [Imported Food Product Registration Form](#) is required.²⁰ A Certificate of Analysis is required for each product, as well as samples.²¹ Exporters do not need a Certificate of Free Sale (COFS) to accompany every single shipment, however, it is nonetheless required by the Ghana FDA for product registration.

The guidelines that regulate the sale of pre-packaged food products in Ghana are as follows:

- Pre-packaged food can be sold only if a label has been affixed to it.
- Any person who labels a pre-packaged food product in a manner which is false, misleading, or deceptive as regards its character, nature, value, substance, composition, merit, safety, quality, quantity, or origin commits an offense.
- Manufacturers must provide a complete list of ingredients used in preparing the food item on the label in a descending order of their predominance.
- Recommend storage and handling conditions along with a shelf life.
- Indicate on the label if a pre-packaged food item has been treated with ionizing radiation and the nature of the ionizing radiation.
- Submission of a Certificate of Free Sale from the competent health authority from the country of origin, indicating that sale of the product does not contravene the country's food laws.

D. ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Ghana FDA approves all advertisement and promotional materials (including the contents to be used) before they are utilized. This approval is in addition to the Ghana FDA issued Certificate of Registration of Food Product that authorizes import and sale in Ghana. Exporters may advertise in the print and electronic media (i.e., radio, television), billboards, posters and point of sale displays. The Ghana FDA is responsible for the approval of alcoholic advertisements. Once approved, the advertisement must include the phrase "This advert has been vetted and approved by the FDA."

¹⁹ See, Ghana FDA for guidelines, located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/guidelines-2/>.

²⁰ See, Ghana Food and Drugs Authority, "Imported Food Product Registration Form," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/imported-food-product-application-form/>.

²¹ For sampling and registration procedures, see Ghana FDA, "[Registration Requirements for Imported Pre-Packaged Foods](#)," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/registration-requirements-imported-food-products/>.

On February 5, 2025, the Ghana FDA issued a public notice on the Draft Guidelines for the Advertisement of Regulated Products.²² The draft guidelines aim to update and consolidate prior Ghana guidelines on advertisements. In particular, the Guidelines for the Advertisement of Foods – FDA/FID/GL-AD/2016/01 (February 1, 2016).²³ The measure effectively bans celebrities from advertising and sponsoring alcoholic beverages and the targeting of minors. Ghana sets the legal age for the purchase and consumption of alcohol at 18-years of age. These guidelines also provide more detailed specifications for the placement and format of health warnings in alcoholic beverage advertisements and explicitly states that advertisements for alcoholic beverages must not highlight the nutritive benefits of the product. The guidelines also require health warnings such as alcohol is not recommend for pregnant women or lactating mothers (see, [GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0010 | Ghana FDA Rolls Out Draft Guidelines for the Advertisement of Regulated Products - When Will It Notify the WTO](#)).²⁴

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS/LAWS

A. BIOTECHNOLOGY

Since the passing of a Legal Instrument Biosafety (Management of Biotechnology) Regulation (L.I. 2383) (2019) outlining the implementation of the Biosafety Act No. 831 (2011) provisions, Ghana requires all importers of genetically engineered products to seek approval from the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) and Ghana FDA before importing applicable products. The [National Biosafety Authority](#) is the designated national authority on all issues related to modern agricultural biotechnology in Ghana. The Act states that a person or organization intending to introduce a GE product into the environment, import, or place it on the market must obtain written approval of the NBA.

The Act provides guidance to institutions and offers procedures for the uptake of the technology from research to commercial release. A food safety assessment is required for bioengineered products that contain actively detectable GE traits.

Based on the scope of the [Biosafety Act No. 831 \(2011\)](#) and the [Biosafety \(Management of Biotechnology\) Regulations \(L.I. 2383\) \(2019\)](#), agricultural products, that contain GE elements, such as microbial biotech products, soybean, soybean meal, soybean oil, and other processed foods, are permissible.²⁵ Such agricultural products can be freely imported from the United States. There is

²² See, Ghana Food and Drugs Authority, Public Notices, “Draft Guidelines for the Advertisement of Regulated Products,” (February 5, 2025), located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/GUIDELINES-FOR-ADVERTISEMENT-OF-REGULATED-PRODUCTS-Final.pdf>.

²³ See, Ghana Food and Drugs Authority, Draft Guidelines for the Advertisement of Regulated Products,” (February 1, 2016), located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/guidelines-for-the-advertisement-of-foods/>.

²⁴ See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0010 | Ghana FDA Rolls Out Draft Guidelines for the Advertisement of Regulated Products - When Will It Notify the WTO,” located at: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Ghana%20FDA%20Rolls%20Out%20Draft%20Guidelines%20for%20the%20Advertisement%20of%20Regulated%20Products%20-%20When%20Will%20It%20Notify%20the%20WTO> Accra Ghana GH2025-0010.

²⁵ The Ghanaian Biosafety Act No. 831 (2011), provides rules relative to the transfer, handling and use of “genetically modified organisms” resulting from biotechnology for purposes of protection public health and the environment. It establishes the Ghanaian National Biosafety Authority (NBA) and defines its functions and powers. This Act also establishes an Appeals Tribunal and provides with respect to inspections. See, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAOLEX, “Ghana, Biosafety Act No. 831 (2011),” located at: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX->

currently no restriction in place on the import of GE products or products containing bioengineered material (see, [GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0012 | Ghana, Agricultural Biotechnology Annual-2024](#)).²⁶

B. VITAMIN-ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Public Health Act (2012) mandates all wheat flour and vegetable oils, imported or produced locally, to be fortified with micronutrients to address nutrient deficiencies in the population. Manufacturers and importers of wheat flour and vegetable oils need to adhere to the following Ghana Standards (GS):

- GS 811:2006 Cereals and Pulses - Specification for Fortified Strong Wheat Flour.
- GS 812:2006 Cereals and Pulses - Specification for Fortified Soft Wheat Flour.
- GS 813:2006 Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils - Specification for Fortified Vegetable Oils.



Note: Ghana FDA Fortification Logo.

All fortification premixes for the fortification of the above-named foodstuffs should conform to the Ghana Standards listed below:

- GS 809:2006 Standard - Specification for Fortification Premix for Wheat Flour.
- GS 810:2006 Standard - Specification for Fortification Premix for Vegetable Oil.

These standards mandate that animal and vegetable oils be fortified with Vitamin A (i.e., a blend of Vitamin A and D3) at a quantity of 10 mg/kg. They also mandate that strong and soft wheat flour be fortified with Vitamin A, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin, Iron and Zinc and other ingredients, including Pyridoxine, L-Ascorbic acid, Azodicarbonamide and Sulphur Dioxide.

[FAOC136733/#:~:text=This%20Act%20provides%20rules%20relative,defines%20its%20functions%20and%20powers](#). See, the Ghana Biosafety Authority, located at: <https://nba.gov.gh/act-and-regulations/> for the “Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act No. 831),” at <https://nba.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Act-831.pdf> and for the “Biosafety (Management of Biotechnology Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2383)” at <https://nba.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/L-I-2383.pdf>.

²⁶ See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0012 | Ghana, Agricultural Biotechnology Annual-2024,” located at: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Agricultural%20Biotechnology%20Annual%20Accra%20Ghana%20GH2024-0012>.

C. FAT CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Ghana prohibits the import of meat with high fat content in accordance with the following Ghana Standards:

- GS 89:2018 - Specification for Fresh, Chilled, and Frozen Pork (not to exceed 25% fat by mass).
- GS 90:2015 - Specification for Fresh, Chilled, and Frozen Beef (not to exceed 25% fat by mass).
- GS 91:2015 - Specification for Fresh, Chilled, and Frozen Poultry (not to exceed 15% fat by mass).
- GS 92:2015 - Specification for Fresh, Chilled, and Frozen Mutton (not to exceed 25% fat by mass).
- GS 334:2019 - Specification for Milk Fat Products (should be declared per percentage of mass and volume).

U.S. food manufacturers and exporters are advised to review the Ghana SA's [Ghana Standards Catalogue - 2019](#) for additional details and information.²⁷

D. DIETETIC OR SPECIAL USE FOODS, HALAL/KOSHER, PLANT-BASED MEAT, DAIRY ALTERNATIVES

Ghana is constitutionally a secular state; it has no standardized regulation for halal or kosher certification. Halal practices, however, are present in Ghana. Ghanaian halal certification is in the development and growth stages. It remains a voluntary practice, not mandated by current laws and/or regulations. The Ghanaian government neither mandates halal certification, nor provides a unifying regulatory law, making halal a religious attestation. There is no requirement to obtain halal certification, in the form of an internationally recognized certificate, or obtain trade permission for exports or imports. There are no specific labeling requirements for halal food products imports. However, if an importer makes a claim that a product meets a specific standard, such as halal or kosher, then the Ghana FDA will require the product to be accompanied by the appropriate certification from a recognized authority. Samples are subject to the same registration, certification, testing, and inspection requirements as regular shipments. Halal certification is voluntary, not mandatory for shipping U.S.-origin meat and non-meat-based food products.²⁸

The Ghana FDA provides general labeling requirement guidelines for the labeling of pre-packaged foods. Local manufacturers are not required to label halal products or register for halal certification. Ghana does not have specific labeling requirements for halal food products imported into the country (see, [GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0002 | Ghana, Halal Overview-2025](#)).²⁹

²⁷ See, Ghana Standards Authority, "Ghana Standards Catalogue - 2019," located at: https://www.gsa.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CATALOGUE-2019_04_03.pdf.

²⁸ See, Ghana FDA, "General Labeling Requirements Guidelines for Pre-packaged Food," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/general-labeling-requirements/>.

²⁹ See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service Accra, "GAIN-GHANA | GH2025-0002 | Ghana, Halal Overview-2025," located at: https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Ghana%20-%20Halal%20Overview%20-%202025_Accra_Ghana_GH2025-0002

SECTION VIII: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS, TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Ghana is a member of the [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#), the [Universal Copyright Convention](#) and the [African Regional Industrial Property Organization \(ARIPO\)](#).³⁰ Ghana is a party to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, which the [Ghana Copyright Act](#) (amended in 1985 and 2005) is based on.³¹ The WIPO lists Ghana's Copyright Act 690 (2005) as the main intellectual property law, further demonstrating its commitment to international copyright standards. The Act makes it a criminal offense to counterfeit, reproduce, export, import, exhibit, perform, or sell any work without the permission of the copyright owner.

Trademarks: The [Trademark Act \(1965\) \(as amended in 2004\)](#) protects trademarks and brand names.³² Manufacturers and traders are strongly advised to patent their inventions and register their trademarks in Ghana. This is to be done through a patent or trademark agent. Fees for registration vary according to the nature of the patent, however, both local and foreign applications pay the same rate.

The Ghanaian system for patent and trademark protection is based on British law. Local courts offer redress when infringements occur, though few cases have been filed in recent years. The Ghana Copyright Office is responsible for patents, copyright, and trademarks and registration of a trademark. This permits the holder to have the exclusive right to use the registered mark for a specific product or group of products. Upon approval of a patent, the applicant is given the exclusive right to make, export, import, sell, use a product, or apply a patented process.

Geographical Indicators: Ghana is the first ARIPO member state to accede to the [Geneva Act](#); promoting economic development through the use of geographical indicators.³³ The [Geographical Indications Act 659 \(2003\)](#) is the principal law in Ghana governing geographical indications (i.e., indicators) (GI).³⁴ The GI Act protects the reputation, standing, and distinctive characteristics of Ghanaian products, including agricultural products. It ensures that consumers can trust the quality and authenticity of Ghana's products.

³⁰ The United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is global source for intellectual property (i.e., patents, industrial designs, copyright, and trademarks) information. Located at: <https://www.wipo.int/portal/en/index.html>. The Universal Copyright Convention (UCC) is an international treaty designed to protect the rights of authors and other copyright holders across different countries. It was established in 1952 by UNESCO and came into force in 1955; located at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/universal-copyright-convention-appendix-declaration-relating-article-xvii-and-resolution-concerning#item-3>. The African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) is an inter-governmental organization (IGO) that facilitates cooperation among Member States on intellectual property matters, with the objective of pooling financial and human resources and seeking technological advancement for economic, social, technological, scientific and industrial development; located at: <https://www.aripo.org/>.

³¹ See, Ghana Copyright Act 690 (2005), located at: <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/1789>.

³² See, Ghana Trademark Act 664 (2004), located at: <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/9180>.

³³ The Geneva Act updates and enhances the existing international registration system protecting names that identify the geographic origin of products: the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration of 1958 located at: <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/textdetails/15625>.

³⁴ See, Ghana Geographical Indications Act 569 (2003), located at: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC168849/#:~:text=This%20Act%20makes%20provision%20for,characteristic%20specified%20in%20the%20Register>.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

A. DOCUMENTATION

Importers must provide an import declaration in the prescribed bill-of-entry format, disclosing the value of the imported goods. This declaration must be accompanied by the import license and sanitary phytosanitary certificate, along with supporting documents including commercial sale invoices and freight and insurance certificates. All documentation, including the bill-of-entry are submitted by the clearing agent to Ghana Customs electronically through the [UNIPASS/Integrated Customs Management System \(ICUMS\)](#), a single window customs interface for facilitating trade.³⁵

B. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

The [Customs Act 891 \(2015\)](#) instructs all importers, except for self-declarants, to engage the services of a licensed customs declarant (or clearing agent), for cargo clearance at any freight station in Ghana.³⁶ Customs clearance of cargo through the seaports/airports involves a number of different ministries, departments, and agencies overseeing import consignments' contractual and tax obligations. These bodies control different aspects of the import and clearance process (including the issuance of permits, exemptions or import declaration forms). Food and agricultural products import clearance involves: the Ghana Revenue Authority/Customs Division; the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority (GPHA); the Ghana FDA; the Ghana Standards Authority; the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry (MoTAI); the Ministry of Food and Agriculture's Veterinary Services Directorate and the Animal Production Directorate and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate; the Ghana EPA; the National Drug and Narcotics Board; Shipping Lines; and other agencies and port service providers.

Ghana's customs clearance process involves:

1. Consignment licenses and permits being obtained prior to shipment or before arrival.
2. Cargo data submitted through the GRA/Customs Division's UNIPASS/ICUMS.
3. Customs document verification; system validation; cargo classification and valuation; cargo verification at the Customs Compliance Section; risk assessments; and quality assurance.
4. Customs issues a Customs Classification and Valuation Report (CCVR) with the risk level.
5. Payment of duty and taxes.
6. Manifest matching.
7. Release by the shipping agent.
8. Delivery by the port operators, including the GPHA and other receipt delivery service providers.
9. Customs physical examination or scanning of cargo before cargo is allowed to exit the port.

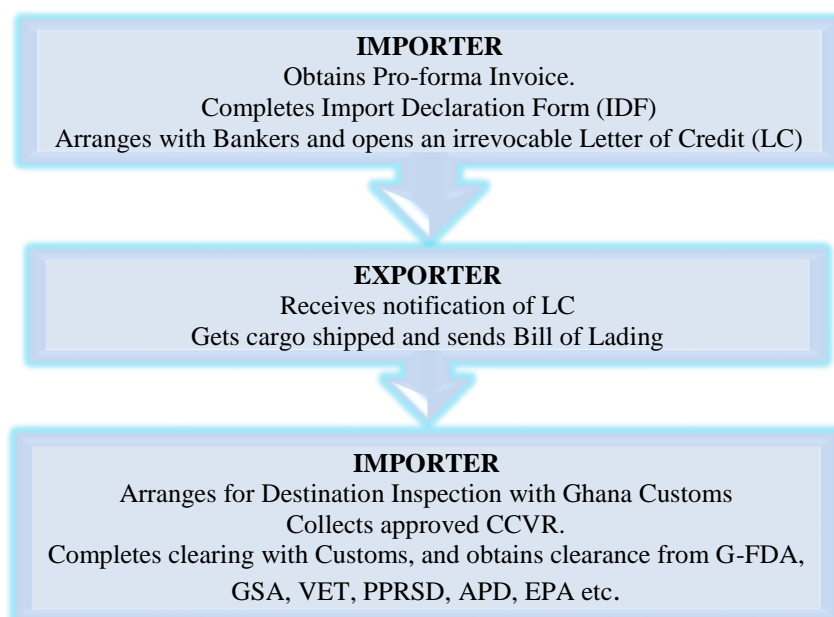
Customs clearance takes 48-to-72 hours when documents are accurate and complete. Ghana Customs prohibits the import of goods deemed illegal by all trade standards and that breach international trade laws, spread diseases, and cause destruction.³⁷

³⁵ See, the UNIPASS/ICUMS single window portal, located at: <https://external.unipassghana.com/login/login.do>.

³⁶ See, Ghana Customs Act 891 (2015), located at: <https://gra.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Customs-Act-2015.pdf>.

³⁷ See, Ghana Revenue Authority for additional information on prohibited import items, located at: <https://gra.gov.gh/customs/import-prohibitions-and-restrictions/>.

C. FLOW CHART: IMPORT DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES



D. DUTIES

Ghana is a member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It implemented the [ECOWAS Common External Tariff \(CET\) – ECOWAS Trade Information System \(ECOTIS\)](#) in 2016.³⁸ The CET has five (5) rate bands, along with other levies and charges. Ghana also applies a 15 percent value-added tax (VAT) to imports, as well as commodity specific excise taxes (with varying ranges).

Table 1: ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) Rates, Levies, and Charges

CET Rates	Categories
0%	Essential social commodities
5%	Basic raw materials, capital goods and specific inputs
10%	Intermediate products
20%	Final consumer goods
35%	Specific goods for economic development
Percentage	Other Levies and Charges
2.5%	National Health Insurance Levy (NHIL)
2.5%	Ghana Education Trust Fund (GET) Fund
1%	COVID-19 Health Recovery Levy
1%	Examination Fee
0.2%	African Union Levy
0.5%	ECOWAS Levy
1%	Processing fee

Source: Ghana Revenue Authority (Customs); FAS Accra office research.

³⁸ The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional political and economic union of fifteen countries of West Africa. Collectively, the countries comprise an area of 5,114,162 square kilometers (1,974,589 square miles) with an estimated population of over 424 million. The 15-member states include: Benin; Burkina Faso (suspended); Cape Verde; Côte d'Ivoire; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea (suspended); Guinea-Bissau; Liberia; Mali (suspended); Niger (suspended); Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; and Togo. See, ECOWAS Trade Information System (ECOTIS), "ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET)," located at: https://ecotis.ecowas.int/?page_id=24111.

SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

Ghana is streamlining the food and agricultural products import clearance process. It aims to enhance transparency through paperless transactions.

The Single Window Portal, UNIPASS/ICUMS: In early 2020, Ghana instituted the Single Window Portal, UNIPASS Ghana System/Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS). The [UNIPASS Ghana System](#) is a port clearing system that processes documents and payments through one window.³⁹ Post's sources indicate that cargo clearance occurs within 24-to-48 hours, following the submission of full and accurate consignment documentation.

Use of Electronic Documents: With the implementation of the Single Window Portal, UNIPASS/ICUMS system, Ghanaian regulatory agencies are issuing electronic permits, electronic exemptions, and electronic import declaration forms. For example, the MOFA/Animal Production Directorate issues e-Permits for the import of animal feed and feed ingredients electronically.

Customs Advance Ruling: An interested party may apply in writing to the GRA Commissioner General for a ruling relating to the tariff classification, customs value, origin of goods and or any activity to which the customs law applies. The request shall include a statement of relevant facts, names, and addresses of interested parties, name of the port where the goods are expected to arrive or depart and a detailed description of the transaction. A customs advance ruling is binding until the ruling is revoked by the Commissioner General.

Required fees: Fees are reviewed periodically by the Ghanaian authorities; fee schedules are accessible through the Ghana Revenue Authority/[Customs Division portal](#).⁴⁰

³⁹ See, Ghana Revenue Authority, UNIPAS/ICUMS, located at: <https://external.unipassghana.com/login/login.do>.

⁴⁰ See, Ghana Revenue Authority/Customs Division, located at: <https://gra.gov.gh/customs/>.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ghana, Government Regulatory Agencies	Role
Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) P. O. Box M37, Ministries, Accra- Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 50 916 3727 Email: info@mofa.gov.gh Website: https://mofa.gov.gh/site/	Lead agency responsible for developing and executing policies and strategies for the agriculture sector.
Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry (MOTAI) P. O. Box M37, Ministries, Accra- Ghana Tel: +233(0) 553 619 943 Email: motichief@moti-gh.com Website: https://moti.gov.gh/new/	Lead policy advisor to government on trade, industrial and private sector development.
Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana FDA) P. O. Box CT 2783, Cantonments – Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 223-3200/ 223-5100 Email: fda@fdaghana.gov.gh Website: http://fdaghana.gov.gh/	Registration of food and beverage products.
Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) Off Starlets’ 91 Road, near Accra Sports Stadium P. O. Box 2202, Accra-Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 303 941 108 Email: info@gra.gov.gh Website: https://gra.gov.gh/	Ghana’s Customs Authority.
Ghana Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana EPA) P.O. Box M.326 Accra, Ghana Email: info@epa.gov.gh Tel: +233 506 694 760; +233 506 699 466 Website: https://www.epa.gov.gh/new/	Lead agency dedicated to improving, conserving and promoting the country's environment.

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Ghana, Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts	Role
Ghana Standards Authority (Ghana SA) P.O. Box MB245, Accra – Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 302 506 991-5 Email: gsanep@gsa.gov.gh / gsadir@gsa.gov.gh Website: https://www.gsa.gov.gh/	Standards and norms development.
Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority P. O. Box 150, Tema, Ghana Tel: +233 303202631 Email: headquarters@ghanaports.net Website: ghanaports.gov.gh/	Ghana’s Ports and Harbors Authority.

APPENDIX III: POST CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) Coastal West Africa Region	
U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Accra No. 24 Fourth Circular Road Cantonments Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 274-1590 Email: AgAccra@usda.gov Websites: https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana http://www.fas.usda.gov	U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Abidjan Abidjan, Cocody Riviera Golf 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire Tel: +225 2722 494 000 Email: AgAbidjan@usda.gov Websites: https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire http://www.fas.usda.gov

Links to U.S. Government Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USDA/FAS: http://www.fas.usda.gov• USDA/FAS Regions/Ghana: https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana• USDA/FAS Regions/Côte d'Ivoire : https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS): https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN): https://gain.fas.usda.gov/• U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration (ITA) - Ghana Country Commercial Guide: https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/ghana-market-overview• U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana: Website https://gh.usembassy.gov• U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana: X https://x.com/USEmbassyGhana• U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana: Facebook https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyGhana/• U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana: Instagram https://www.instagram.com/usembassyghana/

Attachments: [GHANA FDA Approved Fee-Schedule 2024.pdf](#)