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**Report Highlights:**

This report is an annual update on the food import standards and enforcement mechanisms in Jordan. For assistance on trade policy and port issues in Jordan, U.S. exporters are encouraged to contact FAS Amman at [AgAmman@usda.gov](mailto:AgAmman@usda.gov).

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by USDA/FAS’ Office of Agricultural Affairs in Amman, Jordan. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY. .... 4

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

U.S. food exports to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Jordan) benefit from a free trade agreement, but face competition from geographically closer suppliers. In 2024, U.S. agricultural and related product exports to Jordan totaled \$241.8 million— up 1.8 percent compared to 2023. Tree nuts, rice, and condiments and sauces were the leading exports. While U.S. exports to Jordan are sometimes restricted by halal, biotech, and licensing measures, it is generally welcoming of competitive U.S. agricultural products. The Jordanian market provides opportunities for a variety of U.S. food and feed manufacturers, including exporters of rice, vegetable oil, nuts, beef, poultry and feed (e.g., corn), soymeal, dried distillers' grains with soluble (DDGS), silage, and more.

In 2021, Jordan Customs launched [the Jordan Trade Facilitation Portal](#), an online platform posting information about customs legislation, procedures, and paperwork, for all goods imported to, exported from, or transiting through Jordan. This resource includes a wealth of detailed guidance in an easy-to-use interface, including expected timelines and fees as well as clear references to relevant legal or regulatory statutes for specific agricultural commodities (Note: The Jordanian Trade Facilitation Portal does not address specific details for U.S. agricultural exports). References to individual categories are embedded in relevant sections of this report.

This report contains general information on Jordan’s policies and regulations for the importation of food and agricultural products. U.S. exporters are encouraged to pay special attention to the role food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary agencies within the government of Jordan play prior to and upon the arrival of shipments at ports in Jordan. [The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization](#) (JSMO) is responsible for the development of standards and ensuring conformity with existing product standards. JSMO delegates product testing responsibilities for food and agricultural products to [the Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) (JFDA), a sub-agency of the Ministry of Health. However, JSMO continues to retain responsibility for the development of standards (including for food) and ensuring conformity with standards. Any non-compliant products face strict penalties, including potential rejection and the costs associated with re-export or destruction. JSMO is also the national Enquiry Point and notification authority for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. [The Ministry of Agriculture](#) (MoA) regulates unprocessed agricultural products, including the import of veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, pesticides, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, animal feeds, and seedlings.

As of 2025, Jordan has introduced new regulations related to food labeling, including stricter guidelines for gluten-free claims and food traceability. U.S. exporters should be aware of these updates and ensure compliance to avoid delays or rejections at customs

## SECTION I – FOOD LAWS

Jordan's food safety and agricultural regulatory framework was established following its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO)<sup>1</sup> on April 11, 2000. This regulatory framework is founded on two specific laws: Agriculture Law No. 13 (2015), which mandates advanced import licensing for raw, unprocessed food items to ensure compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, and Jordan Food Law No. 30 (2015)<sup>2</sup>, which gives JFDA regulatory control over all food safety and quality issues. This law is pivotal in streamlining the importation of processed foods and resolving multi-agency conflicts by establishing clear traceability and recordkeeping from production to consumption.

JSMO continues to develop standards, manage the national metrology system, and accredit testing labs, playing a crucial role in ensuring conformity with international and national standards. JFDA utilizes international regulations to maintain control over food quality and emphasizes the importance of knowledge and practical experience in food safety through educational initiatives for food handlers.

U.S. exporters are advised to diligently review Jordanian standards due to the country's low tolerance for deviations from established food safety protocols. Non-compliance can lead to consignment rejections, with products subject to re-export or destruction at the importer's expense. Staying informed about these regulations is crucial for U.S. exporters aiming to enter or maintain their presence in the Jordanian market.

## SECTION II – LABELING REQUIREMENTS

**Labeling Requirements:** JSMO sets labeling requirements that provide guidelines for the use of nutrition and health claims. A list of specific labeling requirements is available on the [JSMO website](#).

A list of ingredients in descending order of predominance is not required. All labels must be in Arabic or carry an Arabic language adhesive label – a requirement that was recently clarified. The label, at minimum, must contain:

- Product name,
- The manufacturer's name and address,
- Net weight,
- Fortifying matter (e.g., added vitamins and minerals to powdered milk),
- Lot number and a "use before" or "best by" date,
- Country of Origin,
- Storage conditions.

Jordan's labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs) levels. Nutritional labeling is mandatory for certain food categories (e.g., infant formula and food for dietary use or any food with special cases or claims). Shelf-life labeling has been replaced by the "best before" standard.

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<sup>1</sup>[Jordan and the WTO](#).

<sup>2</sup> [FAOLEX Database: Jordan Food Law No. 30 \(2015\)](#)

JSMO interprets “best before” as being the product’s expiry date; no product is authorized for sale beyond this date. Jordan scrutinizes product labels at border crossing points. Current legislation holds the importer accountable for a product’s content as specified on the label. Labeling ambiguities and printing errors can lead to rejections.

U.S. consumer-oriented export products (such as cereals, breakfast bars, and confectionary products) shipped to Jordan must comply with Jordanian labeling requirements for genetically engineered (GE) products, clearly stating the phrase “genetically modified” and a listing of the ingredients produced from GE production on the label. Although there are no restrictions on U.S.-origin product labeled “containing” or “may contain genetically engineered (GE) ingredients,” traders reports that these products are currently being selectively subjected to discriminatory treatment at border points and customs. Please refer to Section VII—Other Specific Standards, below, for more information.

**Nutritional Labeling Requirements:** Jordan's nutritional labeling requirements, governed by JSMO, are particularly stringent for certain food categories such as infant formula and foods designated for specific dietary uses or which make health claims. According to JSMO regulation JS 1474:2019, all products falling into these categories must feature nutritional labeling that adheres to specific guidelines. This includes mandatory information such as the name of the product, the manufacturer's name and address, net weight, list of ingredients in descending order of predominance, fortifying agents like vitamins and minerals, the lot number, a "best before" date, country of origin, and storage conditions. Labels must be in Arabic, or alternatively, have an Arabic adhesive label attached.

Importers are responsible for ensuring that foreign suppliers are fully aware of these requirements to avoid issues at customs. Any ambiguity in labeling or errors in printing can lead to the rejection of shipments at Jordanian borders. Additionally, products specifically labeled for containing or potentially containing GE ingredients must clearly state this on the label to comply with Jordanian GE labeling requirements.

### **SECTION III – PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS**

Jordan's regulations for imported products, particularly concerning labeling and marking, are stringently enforced to align with international standards and protect domestic interests. Importers must ensure that labels are fully compliant with JSMO requirements. Key labeling specifications include mandatory information in Arabic or with an Arabic adhesive label, which should detail the product name, manufacturer’s details, net weight, list of ingredients in descending order, fortifying matter, lot number, 'best before' date, country of origin, and storage conditions.

Special attention is given to nutritional labeling, which is obligatory for products like infant formula or foods for special dietary use, or those that make health claims. For these categories, labels must include detailed nutritional information to meet the specific regulations set by JSMO. Jordan’s labeling requirements are available on the [JSMO website](#).

Additionally, Jordan imposes specific restrictions on package sizes for certain imports to protect its domestic industries. For instance, poultry parts are restricted to a maximum package size of 2.5 kilograms for direct consumers, and honey imports are capped at 2 kilograms. However, exemptions are

made for larger package sizes used in manufacturing processes, such as partitioning and repacking for factories. These activities must occur in facilities approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Products such as grains, oilseeds, and fruits require a Phytosanitary Certificate from USDA-APHIS to comply with Jordan's import standards.

## **SECTION IV – FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS**

In Jordan, the regulation of food additives<sup>3</sup> is jointly managed by JSMO and JFDA. JFDA is primarily responsible for the regulatory enforcement concerning food additives. Jordan maintains a comprehensive list of approved additives, with permissible concentration levels that generally align with the Codex Alimentarius (Codex), specifically referring to Codex Standard 192<sup>4</sup> for food additive issues. In cases where Codex standards are not specified, Jordanian regulations defer to European Union (EU) standards, which can impact some U.S. exports (e.g., the prohibition of the color additive tartrazine E102 in pickled preparations, which aligns with the EU standard).

## **SECTION V - PESTICIDE AND CONTAMINANTS**

In Jordan, the regulation of pesticides and other contaminants is meticulously managed to ensure food safety and compliance with international standards. MoA's Plant Protection Directorate (PPD)/Pesticides Division is the primary regulatory body overseeing the import and use of agricultural pesticides. Jordan utilizes the Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC)<sup>5</sup> handbook to analyze pesticides, ensuring rigorous testing and compliance. For further assurance of food safety, food samples are regularly sent to laboratories, analyzed for pesticide residues and other contaminants using methodologies endorsed by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists and the European Commission's EU Pesticide Database.

To bolster the tracking and safety of food products, JFDA operates the Jordan Electronic National Food Safety Information System (JENFSIS). This system integrates recordkeeping and traceability, monitoring various safety and quality parameters such as pesticide residues and microbial contamination, across the food production and distribution chains.

Jordan has established several laboratories capable of testing pesticide residues, especially in fresh fruits and vegetables. These labs aim to ensure that residue levels do not exceed the maximum residue levels (MRLs) set by the Codex Alimentarius. Moreover, MoA and JFDA are actively working to enhance the capabilities of these laboratories to improve pesticide testing methodologies, as part of a broader strategy to ensure that all agricultural and food products meet stringent safety standards, safeguarding public health and facilitating trade compliance.

## **SECTION VI – OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES**

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<sup>3</sup> [FAOLEX Database: Jordan's regulation on the licensing of secondary food additives](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Codex Standard 192: General Standard for Food Additives](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council](#)

**Live Animal, Livestock Genetics, and Embryo Requirements:** MoA issues pre-import clearances for live animals and their products, including frozen animal semen. Prior to departure, importers must apply for pre-import clearance. Jordan's Veterinary Quarantine Regulations No. Z/21 (2018) outlines Jordan's Veterinary Quarantine Procedures. Exceptions from quarantine requirements may be granted for shipments from exporting countries or regions with disease-free status according to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE). U.S. exporters have raised concerns about the difficulty of obtaining MoA import licenses for live dairy cattle.

MoA has suspended the importation of heifers to stabilize local milk prices and mitigate market saturation. In 2017, milk prices collapsed, causing significant financial losses for local farmers, particularly those with small holdings. This experience has influenced the current decision to suspend imports. However, MoA may approve heifer imports, if the health status of the exporting country is satisfactory, there is demand from local farmers, and the cost of the heifers is reasonable. Reportedly, heifer imports were approved in 2024 – with MoA granting import licenses for more than 2,000 head – to compensate farmers impacted by a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in August 2023.

**Live Plants, Propagation Material, and Plant Product Requirements:** Importers of live plants and propagation materials must obtain pre-import clearance from MoA before shipment from the country of origin. Import permits are regulated through both automatic and non-automatic licensing, depending on the type of plant material. All plant imports must be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by recognized authorities, such as the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to comply with Jordanian regulations. Articles 31, 32, and 33 / 2022 of the Jordanian regulation detail the importation and quality control of seedlings and saplings. Import requests must be submitted to the Plant Production Directorate, specifying the type, quantity, and source, along with a valid license or agricultural referral. After approval, the request is processed for licensing and border clearance. Licensed nurseries, exhibitions, and agricultural institutions may import various plants, such as fruit-bearing, ornamental, and forest species, with prior ministry approval. Specific guidelines apply to the import of strawberry seedlings and cut flowers. Imported and locally produced saplings must meet stringent quality standards, including healthy root systems, pest-free conditions, and proper labeling. Transport conditions should allow for easy inspection of the plants.

**Slaughterhouse Registration:** MoA issues pre-clearances for fresh/chilled/frozen beef and beef products. JSMO, Organization Center, Conformity Certificates Directorate, Agro farming Certificates Division also administers slaughter establishment compliance with Jordanian Standard No. 1716 and its amendments or in accordance with ISO 22000 and its amendments.<sup>6</sup> Each establishment must pass the field inspection for the production site in accordance with JSMO's internal procedures, which are not enumerated on its website. The slaughter of animals must adhere to Islamic traditions, that is slaughtering occurs in the presence of a Muslim male accredited by any national- or state-recognized Islamic association/institution (see Section VII: Other Specific Standards for more details.)

For meat and poultry exports to Jordan, MoA requires that any slaughterhouse exporting to Jordan for the first time be registered. The following documentation is required:

- Slaughterhouse license certificate from the U.S. federal government (i.e., USDA),
- Registration code,

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<sup>6</sup> [The Official Site of the Jordanian e-Government: Granting a halal logo and certificate](#)



- Quality assurance certificate – International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22000 or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points (HACCP),
- Halal certificate (including slaughter date) issued by an Islamic association/institution in the state where the slaughtering took place or by any nationally recognized Islamic association/institution.

Typically, importers submit the required documents to MoA, which verifies the information in a few days.

**Dairy Product Requirements:** MoA issues pre-import clearances for milk products. Jordan does not allow the use of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in processed dairy products. Processed cheeses or other products that replace milk fat with any other fat, must not use partially hydrogenated oils. Exporters are encouraged to clearly mark the oil used on any product that could potentially contain PHOs. New to market dairy products should expect increased scrutiny by Jordanian customs officials.

According to the WTO and Jordan's Protocol of Accession, imports of powdered milk used to produce certain types of ice cream, white cheeses (triangle, feta, and Damiat cheese), flavored milk and yogurt, soup powder, and baking mixtures, require import licenses.

**Dairy Product Facility Registration:** Dairy product exporters must register their facilities with JFDA prior to shipment. This registration entails verification of the exporter's HACCP certification with the importer providing JFDA with a copy of the exporter's HACCP certificate. This is not product registration; instead, it is a form of insurance to ensure a facility is monitored by a federal agency rather than a local one. When a facility exports for the first time, a certificate of free sale is required for cheese.

**Radiation Release Inspection Requirements:** Jordan imposes mandatory radiation contamination inspection of food product imports originating in countries impacted by radiation release.

## SECTION VII – OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

**Grain Imports:** MoA regulates and issues permits for grain imports, specifically of corn, into Jordan. On September 17, 2024, the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified USDA that MoA has extended its acceptance of the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS)'s Official Export Inspection Certificate (Form 909), an official USDA grading record which includes foreign matter percentage, by an additional three years (through the end of 2027). The acceptance of the FGIS certificate as a valid grading record allows U.S. corn shipments to bypass additional testing and delays, thereby facilitating smoother trade flows.

Jordan's standard for yellow corn, No. 523 of 2014, requires that the percentage of broken corn and foreign materials shall not exceed 7 percent. MoA's regulation (Regulations for the Approval of Imported Feed Materials, No. Z/1 of 2016) requires compliance with the Jordanian standard for yellow corn, and it states that the product must pass all necessary laboratory tests, including the broken corn and foreign materials percentage. Accordingly, judgment of the imported consignments is based on laboratory tests conducted upon arrival at the border and not in the country of origin.

**Regulation of GE Products:** Although GE ingredients are not banned, they may be subject to delays or additional inspection at border points. U.S. exporters are encouraged to clearly label products containing GE ingredients. Jordan enforces strict regulations on GE products through its "Regulation for Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms," which closely aligns with European Union standards. This regulation prohibits the import and cultivation of GE crops designed for environmental release, as well as the sale of foods containing unapproved GE traits. Detailed governance on GE products is documented in [Jordan's Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#) report, which outlines the regulatory framework and specific cases impacted by these laws.

**Halal Certification:** Jordan mandates that all meat and animal-derived products exported to the country be halal, excluding pork and its derivatives. JSMO regulates halal certification, ensuring compliance with Jordanian Standard No. 1475 and related amendments. Exporters are required to collaborate with certified Islamic centers to obtain halal certificates that must accompany every consignment. These products must also include halal certification details on their labels in Arabic, fulfilling both religious and regulatory requirements. JSMO also performs inspections to verify adherence to halal standards and food safety protocols.

**Poultry and Poultry Products:** MoA also controls the importation of poultry and poultry products, maintaining an informal quota system that favors local producers over certain imports. Despite this, U.S.-origin poultry enjoys full market access under the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. In Jordan, the maximum package size for poultry parts intended for direct consumer sale is restricted to 2.5 kg to safeguard the domestic industry from large-scale imports and repackaging. However, exemptions are made for larger package sizes used as production inputs in manufacturing processes, such as partitioning and thawing, which are not intended for direct consumer access. These activities must occur in facilities approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Notably, American poultry products benefit from more flexible regulations, permitting both large and small package imports for use in companies and factories.

**Olive Oil Regulations:** Olive oil imports require specific licensing from MoA, which is closely monitored by JFDA to prevent fraud and ensure quality standards. These imports are occasionally subjected to governmental measures designed to protect and promote local producers.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 2: JORDAN, [Standards and Regulations for Food and Agricultural Products, 2004-20](#)**

Standard/ Regulation	Year	Title
<b>116-Amd1</b>	2023	Milk and milk products - Butter Amendment 1:2023
<b>1719</b>	2022	Cereals, pulses, and derived products - Instant Noodles
<b>370</b>	2020	<a href="#">Spices and condiments – Determination of extraneous matter and foreign matter content</a>
<b>288</b>	2020	<a href="#">Foodstuffs – Shelf life of foodstuffs</a>
<b>1750</b>	2020	Organically produced foods
<b>2286</b>	2020	<a href="#">Packaging – Poultry cages - Technical requirements</a>
<b>2242</b>	2019	<a href="#">Spices and condiments – Preparation of a ground sample for analysis</a>
<b>1861</b>	2019	<a href="#">Spices and condiments – Cinnamon</a>
<b>1761</b>	2019	<a href="#">Drinks and juices – General standard for fruit juices and nectars</a>

<sup>7</sup> <https://traderepository.customs.gov.jo/english/page5.1.html>

<b>19</b>	2019	<a href="#">Cereals, pulses and derived products – Bread</a>
<b>1474</b>	2019	<a href="#">Label – Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims</a>
<b>1355-3</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 3: Calculation of fat content
<b>1355-2</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 2: Determination of non-fat solids content (Reference method)
<b>1355-1</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 1: Determination of non-fat solids content (Reference method)
<b>1925</b>	2019	Hygiene affairs and food safety maximum pesticide residue limits and extraneous residue limits in food and feeds
<b>2236</b>	2019	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products – Freekeh
<b>121</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products – Milk powders and cream powders
<b>2169</b>	2019	Rotational molded polyethylene storage tanks for drinking water
<b>1353</b>	2019	Vegetables, Fruits and Derived products – Sweet chestnuts
<b>1214</b>	2018	Water – Bottled drinking water
<b>200</b>	2018	Water - Natural mineral water
<b>2197</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Pulses - Determination of glycosidic hydrocyanic acid
<b>2246</b>	2018	Feedstuffs - Alfalfa hay used in feed
<b>472</b>	2018	Infant and Children Foods – Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants
<b>2205-2</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products - Determination of nitrate and nitrite contents Part 2: Method using segmented flow analysis (Routine method)
<b>2229-3</b>	2018	Photovoltaic System Performance - Part 3: Energy evaluation method
<b>203</b>	2018	Canned Evaporated Milk - Determination of tin content - Method using graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry
<b>600</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products – Sterilized milk
<b>2194</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Coffee and Coffee Products - Determination of acrylamide - Methods using HPLC-MS/MS and GC-MS after derivatization
<b>2195-1</b>	2018	Spices and Condiments - Rapeseed - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography
<b>2210-1</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 1: Determination of arsenic content by atomic absorption spectrometry
<b>2210-2</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 2: Determination of mercury content by atomic absorption spectrometry
<b>2210-3</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 3: Determination of lead content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization
<b>2210-4</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products -

		Heavy metals content Part 4: Determination of cadmium content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization
<b>2196-1</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Oilseed Residues - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography
<b>1474</b>	2018	Label – Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims
<b>2201</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products - Determination of Lead Content - Graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometric method
<b>1279</b>	2018	Meat and Meat Products - Determination of Nitrate Content (Reference method)
<b>2178</b>	2017	Fruits, Vegetables and Derived Products – Pomegranate
<b>2169</b>	2017	Rotational molded polyethylene storage tanks for drinking water
<b>2167</b>	2017	Fire extinguishers - throw type and automatic-thrown type water-based fire extinguishers
<b>1340</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products - Cheese - determination of fat content - Van Gulik method
<b>1339</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products - Cheese and Processed Cheese Products - determination of citric acid content- Enzymatic method
<b>1214</b>	2017	Water – Bottled drinking water
<b>840</b>	2017	Spices and Condiments – Ground thyme mix
<b>600</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products – Sterilized milk
<b>484</b>	2017	Pesticides - Labeling information on pesticides containers
<b>465</b>	2017	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products – Packed chickpeas with tahini
<b>200</b>	2017	Water - Natural mineral water
<b>94</b>	2017	General standard for food additives
<b>77</b>	2017	Drinks and Juices – Flavored drinks
<b>67</b>	2017	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products – Dried dough (pasta)
<b>94</b>	2010	General standard for food additives
<b>67</b>	2008	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Dried pasta
<b>840</b>	2007	Ground thyme mix
<b>77</b>	2004	Drinks and Juices – Flavored drink and its concentrates

Source: JSMO and FAS/Amman

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

Jordan has established a legal framework for the protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) through both domestic legislation and international commitments. The key domestic instrument is the Geographical Indications Law No. 8 of 2000, which defines GIs as any indication that identifies a product as originating from a specific geographical location, where a given quality, reputation, or characteristic of the product is essentially attributable to its origin. The law provides protections against

the misuse of GIs and allows for legal remedies in case of infringement, including injunctions and compensation for damages.<sup>8</sup>

To receive formal protection in Jordan, GIs must be registered with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply through the Registrar of Trademarks. The application must include documentation proving that the GI is tied to a specific geographic origin and that the product's characteristics are attributable to that origin. While governed by its own GI law, the registration process is closely linked to procedures outlined in the Trademarks Law.

Jordan's legal framework supports the protection of intellectual property (IP) rights, and its IPR enforcement has improved in recent years.<sup>9</sup> Prior to joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), Jordan enacted a series of laws to enhance the safeguarding of patents, copyrights, and trademarks. Historically, Jordan recognized and enforced foreign copyrights and trademarks even without local registration, demonstrating its commitment to international intellectual property standards.

With the adoption of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliant legislation, Jordan now requires that patents, copyrights, and trademarks be formally registered. The registration of patents and trademarks is handled by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Registrar of Patents and Trademarks, while copyrights are registered with the Ministry of Culture's National Library.

For trademarks and brand names, registration must be carried out at the Ministry of Industry and Trade by the importer or an accredited supplier's office in Jordan. This process ensures that intellectual property rights are properly documented and protected within the country.

Furthermore, Jordan is actively working to deepen its engagement with international intellectual property protocols. It is pursuing membership in the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the international registration of marks. Jordan actively participates in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

## SECTION IX – IMPORT PROCEDURES

**Trade Facilitation and Customs Procedures:** Exporters and importers engaging in trade with Jordan must register with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply (MOITS), which issues an importer card equipped with a unique identification number to facilitate customs procedures. While commercial traders can clear imported shipments without registration, unregistered shipments incur a penalty of 2.5 percent of the CIF value. Although the use of a licensed customs broker is not mandatory, foreign firms must appoint an agent registered with Jordan Customs to manage their operations.

Jordan operates two independent customs organizations: Jordanian Customs and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA). These entities utilize the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) to streamline customs declarations and enhance the efficiency of importer customs clearance processes at border crossings.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/2602>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/jordan-protecting-intellectual-property>

Exporters are encouraged to utilize the Jordan Trade Facilitation Portal, launched in 2021, which provides detailed information on customs legislation, expected timelines, and trade procedures, to streamline the import/export process.

**Electronic Declarations and Pre-Arrival Processing:** All commercial trade imports must be declared electronically via the ASYCUDA platform. Importers are encouraged to submit a pre-arrival declaration to address compliance issues promptly. Customs declarations should include the commercial invoice and a certificate of origin. Since 2018, Jordanian authorities have removed the requirement for consularization or legalization of invoices, simplifying the import process.

**Customs Clearance and Inspection:** After the payment of customs duties and other applicable taxes and fees, traders can request the release of their shipments from customs custody. The duration of the customs clearance process varies, typically ranging from a few hours to several days, depending on factors such as border traffic, the efficiency of the clearance agent, and the accuracy of the submitted documentation. Delays can extend to several weeks in complex cases. Jordan Customs aims to reduce the average release time of shipments to under three days.

**Advanced Rulings and Inspection Channels:** Jordan Customs offers binding advance rulings on classification and origin issues upon request, valid for one year from the date of issuance. If a consignment fails to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, it must be re-exported within a specified period or destroyed, as directed by the Director-General of JFDA.

**Risk-Based Inspection System:** Jordan employs a three-tier inspection system for imported food products, categorized by health risk levels:

- **Red Channel:** For high-risk goods requiring thorough examination.
- **Yellow Channel:** For medium-risk goods needing additional documentation and possible further examination.
- **Green Channel:** For low-risk goods, allowing immediate release without document verification or inspection.

**Import Licensing and Sector-Specific Regulations:** Import licenses, managed by various ministries depending on the product category, are crucial for importing specific food products and agricultural goods. The Ministry of Health and MoA issue pre-import clearances based on risk assessment, acting as import licenses for certain commodities. The process can be time-consuming and lacks transparency, but ongoing dialogues aim to streamline and clarify these procedures.

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures:** MoA issues pre-import clearances for live animals and various food products, enforcing sanitary measures to protect public health and agricultural integrity. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply oversees clearances for staple commodities like barley and corn, while JFDA manages health-related clearances for food and medical products.

These comprehensive import procedures and regulations reflect Jordan's commitment to ensuring a safe, efficient, and transparent trading environment, aligning with international trade practices and standards.

**Table 3: List of Selected Jordanian Agricultural Import Licenses and Licensing Authorities**

Product Category	Type	Licensing Authority
Live animals (Chapter 1)	Non-automatic	MoA
Frozen semen of animals	Non-automatic	MoA
Fresh, Frozen, Chilled Meat (Chapter 2)	Non-automatic	MoA
Fish <sup>10</sup>	Non-automatic	MoA
Olive oil	Non-automatic	MoA
Seeds used for planting and fruit	Non-automatic	MoA
Dairy	Non-automatic	MoA
Dairy products	Automatic	MoA
Yogurts	Non-automatic	MoA
Powdered milk for factories	Automatic	MoA
Honey, Beeswax, Propolis, and Royal Jelly	Automatic	MoA
Special food and dietary supplements and herbal products	Automatic	JFDA
Milk and baby food	Non-automatic	JFDA
Potatoes, onions and garlic	Automatic	MoA
Fresh fruits and vegetables	Automatic	MoA
Saplings of fruit seedlings, ornamental plants and cut flowers	Automatic	MoA
Food additives	Automatic	JFDA

**Perishable Goods Importation:** As per the 2018 amendment, original import licenses are not required at the time of product entry for perishable goods, such as beef and fruit. Rather, photocopies or faxes of these documents are acceptable. Jordan's Customs Authority allows the release of these shipments under bond while awaiting the submission of the original documentation. Importers may use the same license for multiple consignments until its expiration or the specified quantity limit is reached.

**Regulation of Sample Products:** Product samples for trade shows or those not intended for commercial distribution are subject to the same stringent import regulations that apply to regular products. This includes registration and certification requirements. Importers must submit a prior request to clear samples through customs. This protocol also extends to samples involved in mail-order transactions and cross-border e-commerce, particularly if the size of the shipment is deemed commercial.

**Notification and Appeals System:** Jordan has established a notification and appeals system for detained or rejected products. Each case is processed according to the specific regulations governing the authority in charge. Import documents are generally required to be translated into Arabic to facilitate customs clearance, although original documents in other languages are accepted.

**Tariff Structure:** Under its WTO accession agreement, Jordan set a reduced tariff rate ceiling ranging from 0 to 30 percent for most products. However, certain items like alcoholic beverages and tobacco products carry significantly higher tariff rates, ranging from 150 to 200 percent. Since 2010, the U.S.-

<sup>10</sup> [Jordan Trade Facilitation Portal, Jordan Customs: Submit an application for an import license for fish](#)

Jordan Free Trade Agreement has phased out import duties on many items (excluding alcohol and tobacco).

**Customs Integrated Tariff System (CITS)<sup>11</sup>:** Launched in 2005, the Customs Integrated Tariff System allows importers to access detailed information on import requirements, evaluate tariffs, and review trade agreement specifics. The system supports data in both Arabic and English, enhancing transparency and accessibility for international traders.

**Customs Documentation and Valuation:** Jordan's Customs Law<sup>12</sup> mandates that all customs declarations must include a bill of lading, a commercial invoice, and a certificate of origin. A notarized certificate of origin is particularly essential, and Jordanian customs officials may accept certification from the export country's chamber of commerce in lieu of local consular approval. A value declaration form is necessary for shipments exceeding a specified value, ensuring compliance with WTO valuation standards.

**VAT and Special Sales Taxes:** Imported products are subject to a 16 percent value-added tax (VAT) based on the cost-insurance-freight (CIF) value, with certain items like agricultural and pharmaceutical products exempted. Special sales taxes apply to products like tobacco and alcoholic beverages, reflecting additional fiscal measures.

**Inspection and Testing:** Imported goods undergo mandatory inspections, including sampling and testing at the border, especially for prepared and mixed foods. Along with other regulatory bodies, JFDA performs these inspections to ensure compliance with international and national safety standards. Products failing to meet these standards are promptly removed from distribution and destroyed. Exporters are encouraged to communicate with importers and to submit conformity certificates or test reports prior to shipment arrival. Prior notice may provide sufficient documentation to avoid test sampling and inspection.

**Laboratory Accreditation and Testing Frequency:** To enhance its testing capabilities, JSMO announced plans to obtain international accreditation for its laboratories, including those testing food and agricultural products. The frequency of pesticide residue testing is notably lower, with ongoing efforts to improve inspection procedures. The Government of Jordan routinely tests inbound consignments for radiation levels and chemical contaminants, as well as for heavy metals, food additives, animal hormone growth promotants (HGP), and veterinary drug residues. If a product fails to meet technical requirements or is found unfit for human consumption, it is removed from distribution channels and destroyed. Generally, inspection procedures follow International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), Codex, and national standards. This comprehensive adherence aims to ensure that all agricultural imports, regardless of their nature, are subject to stringent quality checks to maintain safety and compliance.

**Customs Clearance and Legal Recourse:** Appeals related to customs matters can be addressed to Jordan Customs within a 19 day timeframe, with further judicial recourse available through the Customs

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<sup>11</sup> [Application of Custom International Tariff Site through Mobiles \(Mobile CITS\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Ibid.](#)



Court, if necessary. This structured process is intended to ensure fairness and transparency in trade regulations and enforcement.

## SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

**Exemptions and Import Licensing:** Goods entering Jordan under specific conditions such as temporary entry, bonded status, or those benefiting from the investment promotion law are exempt from the requirement for import licenses. For detailed information on these exemptions, stakeholders are encouraged to visit the [Jordan Investment Commission's official website](#).

**Advance Rulings and E-Certificates:** Currently, Jordan does not allow advance rulings for all food products, which can affect the predictability of import regulations for food traders. Moreover, the use of electronic certificates (e-certificates) is not fully accredited, although Jordan is in the preparatory stages of adopting the Global e-Phyto hub, an initiative by the International Plant Protection Convention aimed at streamlining plant health certifications through digital means.

**Fees and Tariff Structure:** While free trade agreement provisions often result in zero tariffs for many U.S. products, traders must account for additional costs such as VAT at the border and freight charges, which vary depending on the origin, packaging, seasonality, and nature of the product. Notable exceptions include alcoholic beverages, which are subject to ad valorem tariffs, and hatching eggs for broilers, which incur a 25-percent tariff. Traders should understand these financial obligations to ensure accurate cost assessments when planning exports to Jordan.

**Facilitated Trade Programs:** Jordan Customs offers the "Golden List" program for registered traders with a strong compliance record and low risk profiles. This program facilitates smoother market access through benefits like reduced document reviews and inspections, priority treatment, and scheduled customs controls at designated times and locations, enhancing operational efficiency for compliant traders.

Additionally, JSMO runs the "Complying Trader Program," which assesses the risk profiles of registered importers and adjusts the frequency of inspections accordingly. This program aims to streamline processes for lower-risk importers, allowing for more focused regulatory oversight where it is most needed.

## APPENDIX I – GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

U.S. Embassy Amman, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs  
Physical Address: American Embassy, Abdoun, Al-Umawyeen Street, Amman, Jordan  
Phone: (962-6) 590-6056 • Fax: (962-6) 592-0146 • [AgAmman@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgAmman@fas.usda.gov)

(\*) NOTE: The GAIN Report System was redesigned in 2019 and includes reports from all previous legacy systems going back to 1995. Because these reports were created in different systems, it might be necessary to try a variety of search options to retrieve older reports.

SEARCH GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

### Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate  
Tel: (962-6) 568-6151 • Fax: (962-6) 568-6310 • [www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)

**Ministry of Environment**

Tel: (962-6) 556-0113 • Fax: (962-6) 556-0288 • <http://moenv.gov.jo/Default/En>

**Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply**

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/566-3774 • Fax: (962-6) 560-4691 • [www.mit.gov.jo](http://www.mit.gov.jo)

**Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization**

Tel: (962-6) 568-0139 • Fax: (962-6) 568-1099 • [www.jsmo.gov.jo](http://www.jsmo.gov.jo)

**Jordan Food and Drug Administration**

Tel: (962-6) 461-2663 • Fax: (962-6) 461-2663 • [www.jfda.jo](http://www.jfda.jo)

**Jordan Customs Authority**

P.O. Box 90, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6 • Fax: (962-6) 464-7791

E-mail: [Customs@Customs.gov.jo](mailto:Customs@Customs.gov.jo) • [www.customs.gov.jo](http://www.customs.gov.jo)

**Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority**

P.O. Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 3 203 5757/8 • Fax: (962-6) 3 203-0912 • [www.aqabazone.com](http://www.aqabazone.com)

**APPENDIX II – Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts****Jordan Chamber of Industry**

Tel: (962-6) 464-2649 • <https://jci.org.jo/Chamber/About/20153?l=en>

**Jordan Chamber of Commerce**

Tel: (962-6) 590-2040 • [https://www.jocc.org.jo/index\\_en.php](https://www.jocc.org.jo/index_en.php)

**Attachments:**

No Attachments