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**Report Highlights:**

The FAIRS Annual Country Report contains an overview of Bangladesh's agricultural and food products import regulations. In addition to an overview of the Government of Bangladesh's regulatory infrastructure on production and import control policies this report includes FAS/Dhaka's assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural imports. Post has made substantive changes in Sections IV, V, VI, and X.

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**DISCLAIMER:**

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, U.S. agricultural and related product exports to Bangladesh were valued at \$790.6 million. Most U.S. agricultural exports to Bangladesh are bulk products, specifically soybeans and cotton. Intermediate products including soybean meal, distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), live animals, and planting seeds make up 15 percent of exports. Consumer-oriented products, as well as agricultural related product exports are minimal.

Bangladesh's food safety policies and regulatory framework are relatively new. Functionality remains a challenge due to a lack of coordination, insufficient inspection capacity, and application of rule of law. The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) is enacting more regulations and increasing regulatory and inspection capacity. BFSA is the first agency to notify the draft regulations to the WTO. In 2025 BFSA requested public comments on the revised Food Safety (Use of Food Additives) Regulations, 2024, and Food Safety (Chemical Contaminants and Toxins) Regulations, 2024. In February 2025, BFSA enacted the Food Safety (Health-supporting food/Supplementary Food, Food Used for Special Diets, Food Used for Special Diets for Medical Purposes, Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2025.

The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute Act, 2018 and the Food Safety Act, 2013 are the key overarching legislation for food standards and safety in Bangladesh. The Import Policy Order (IPO), 2021-24; Plant Quarantine Act, 2011; Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005; Fish Quarantine Act, 2018; Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010; and Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 are the key regulatory documents governing the importation and marketing of food, non-food, feed and feed ingredient items into the country.

In 2025, Bangladesh Customs launched the online Single Window Service which will issue 119 certificates, licenses, and permits related to trade and business when fully operational. To improve regulatory and trade facilitation activities, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) started providing paperless services through an e-trade portal for animal and animal products, e-certification and a lab information management system web portal for fish and fish products. For the first time, the Bangladesh Government introduced the e-Port Management System at the Bhomra land port. While automation will partially speed up the customs and port clearance and reduce corruption, unnecessary testing and certification requirements are costly and time-consuming.

## SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

Bangladesh has many food related laws and regulations aimed at ensuring food standards, food safety, and quality. The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute ([BSTI](#)) (Bangla) of the Ministry of Industries ([MoI](#)) (Bangla) leads food and non-food standard management by administering and formulating the [Bangladesh Standards](#) (BDS) (Bangla) for food and non-food products, and licensing standard certification marks (CM) (Figure 1) for [mandatory products](#) (Bangla). BSTI also provides halal certification marks, and issues standard compliance [certificates](#) required by the IPO 2021. The regulatory framework that BSTI works with includes the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Act, 2018; Weights and Measures Standard Act, 2018; Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Regulations, 2022; and Commodity Packing Rules (CPR), 2021 (Table 1).

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

Although the FSA assigned BFSA as the coordinating authority for food safety, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has divided the responsibilities of food safety governance, implementation, enforcement, and oversight among the [Food Control Agencies](#) (Bangla) including 15 ministries and 18 subordinate departments, city corporations, municipal corporations, and municipalities, creating confusion and duplication in responsibilities. The ministries and their subordinate departments and directorates involved in ensuring food and feed safety are the Ministry of Food (MoF), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Ministry of Industries (MoI), Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives (MoLGRDC), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA), Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT).

According to Chapter 2.3 of the FSA, the National Food Safety Management Advisory Council (NFSMAC) was formed to advise and guide BFSA. The NFSMAC is comprised of 29 members, including the Minister of Food and a member of the Parliament nominated by the Speaker of the House of the Nation. The Minister of Food decides the twice-a-year meeting schedule of NFSMAC.

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

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

mycotoxin, antibiotic, medicine related active substances and growth promotants is not determined under any existing law;

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

To meet the above defined duties, BFSA approved several [rules and regulations](#) (Bangla) in the past 12 years. As Bangladesh is as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), BFSA has started to notify the WTO about new regulations that impact trade. BFSA notified to the WTO the drafts of the following regulations: Food Fortification Regulations, 2023; Food Safety (Labeling and Packaging Food) Regulation, 2023; Food Safety (Advertisement and Claims) Regulations, 2024; and Food Safety (Food Contact Materials) Regulations, 2024. BFSA is revising the notified regulations, and the Ministry of Law will approve the final revised draft and publish it.

**Table 1: Acts, Rules, and Ordinances Related to Food, Feed, and Agricultural Products in Bangladesh**

<a href="#">Agricultural Marketing Act, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Alcohol Control Rules, 2022</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal Disease Act, 2005</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal Disease Rules, 2008</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal Feed Rules, 2013</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Act, 2011</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Rules, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Animal Welfare Act, 2019</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Biosafety Guideline, 2007</a> (English)

<a href="#">Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practice Policy 2020</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Act, 2014</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Rules, 2016</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Rules, 2016 Amended</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Industrial Design Act, 2023</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Patent Act, 2023</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution Act, 2018</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution Regulations, 2022</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Breast-Milk Substitutes, Baby Foods, Commercially Manufactured Supplementary Baby Foods and Its Equipment (Regulation of Marketing) Act, 2013</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Copyright Act, 2023</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Copyright Rules, 2006</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Digital Commerce Operational Guidelines, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Essential Commodity Act, 1957</a> (English)
<a href="#">Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Act, 2020</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Fish Feed and Animal Feed Production and Marketing Management Guideline, 2020</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Fish Feed Rules, 2024</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Fish Quarantine Act, 2018</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Fish Quarantine Rules, 2024</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Additives Use Regulations, 2017</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Production, Storage, Transfer, Transport, Supply, Distribution and Marketing (Prevention of prejudicial activity) Act, 2023</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Production, Storage, Transfer, Transport, Supply, Distribution and Marketing (Prevention of prejudicial activities) Control Rules, 2024</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety (Compliance of Food Businessman) Rules, 2020</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety (Food Processing and Administration System) Rules, 2014</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety (Food Tactile/Contact Materials) Regulations, 2019</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety (Health Food/Dietary Supplements, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2025</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Food Safety Act, 2013</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Food Sample Collection, Testing and Analysis Regulations, 2017</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Formalin Control Act, 2015</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 2013</a> (Bangla) ( <a href="#">English</a> )
<a href="#">Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2015</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Import Policy Order, 2021-24</a> (Bangla) (English attached)
<a href="#">Iodized Salt Act, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009</a> (English)

<a href="#">Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Marine Fisheries Act, 2020</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Mobile Court Act, 2009</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">National Digital Commerce Policy, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">National Environment Policy, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Narcotics Control Act 2018</a> (English)
<a href="#">Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205</a> (English))
<a href="#">Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017</a> (Bangla) (English)
<a href="#">Patents and Designs Rules, 1933</a> (English)
<a href="#">Pesticide Act, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) in 2010</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Pesticide Rules, 1985</a> (English)
<a href="#">Plant Quarantine Act, 2011</a> (Bangla) (English)
<a href="#">Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018</a> (Bangla) (English)
<a href="#">Protection and Conservation (Amendment) Ordinance 1982 (Ordinance No. LV)</a> (English)
<a href="#">Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules, 1985</a> (English)
<a href="#">Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Special Powers Act, 1974</a> (English)
<a href="#">Speedy Disposal and Release of Perishable Goods Rules, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance, 2018</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Substandard, Hazardous or Poisonous Food Withdrawal Regulations, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">The Penal Code, 1860</a> (English)
<a href="#">Trademark Rules, 2015</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Trademarks (Amended) Act, 2015</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Trademarks Act, 2009</a> (Bangla) (English)
<a href="#">Trans Fatty Acids Based Food Control Regulations, 2021</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Vitamin A Fortification in Edible Oil Act, 2013</a> (Bangla)
<a href="#">Weights and Measures Standard Act, 2018</a> (Bangla)

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

## SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

### A. General Requirements

BFSA endorsed the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 (PFLR) (Table 1), and BSTI enacted the Commodity Packaging Rules, 2021 (CPR) (Table 1), which are the two primary regulatory tools related to the packaging and labeling of food and non-food products.

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



Both the regulations of BSTI and BFSA have similar clauses that call for the label to be in Bangla and requires the label to include the importer's name and address; name of the packaged food; manufacturing, import and expiry date; net weight; and the maximum retail price.

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

The following information should be printed on the package label as stated in the PFLR, 2017:

1. Name of the producer, supplier
2. Type of food (natural and processed)
3. Batch, code, or lot number
4. Net weight, size or number and total weight
5. Date of manufacture
6. Date of packaging
7. Date of expiry or use by date
8. Best before use date
9. Nutritional information
10. Food additive info
11. Instruction of use, if not possible to consume without instructions

Country of origin labeling is mandatory. Details including the name and contact information of the producer, importer, re-packer, and re-bottler, distributors, and agent are to be printed on the label. The importer may add a sticker with the name, address, and contact info of the importer/distributor on the imported product prior to retail sale. Shelf-life information is mandatory and must include the "expiry date" or "use by date" on perishable products and "best before use" on products with a longer shelf-life.

There have been no instances that Post was made aware of where standard U.S. labeling was considered false or misleading.

BFSA enacted the Food Safety (Healthy Food/Dietary Supplements, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purposes, Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2025, which includes conditions that nutrition information should follow the recommended daily allowance ([RDA](#)) as specified by the government and in cases where it is not specified, Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) standards can be applied.

The CPR requires the use of net weight, quantity, or number rather than using undefined terms like minimum, maximum, total, approximate, jumbo, giant, full, economy, big, and additional.

The CPR set limits on the use of health and nutrition claims (Clause 20, Section 3) including 100 percent Halal, 100 percent Refined, 100 percent Pure, Super Pure, Super Refined, and Export Quality unless there are government accepted and approved information, evidence, and scientific publications supporting these claims. In addition, BFSA drafted, notified the WTO, and is revising the Food Safety

(Advertisement and Claims) Regulations, 2024. These rules will regulate advertising and publishing food claims; nutritional claims; no added sugar; salt, food additives; health claims; prohibited claims; and disease risk reduction (DRR) claims. The draft rules have restricted using the term “healthy” and “balanced food” based on one or more ingredients. The draft rules also prohibit claims that a food is suitable to prevent, mitigate, treat, or cure any disease, disorder, or special physical condition, except in accordance with any other rules, regulations made under law or the guidance of Codex.

BSTI can grant exceptions to their CPR labeling regulations for a maximum of 120 days if any producers or packers applied for registration certificate of initial packaging, revised packaging, packaged products under observation, promotional packaged products, or corrected packaged products. Packers can’t produce or pack anything for sale, distribution, or supply without the registration certificate.

The CPR heavily focuses on package size, product weight and labeling requirements for BSTI certified locally produced packed food (Figure 1 and Figure 2), and non-food products. The rules also cover the standard weights per container and other requirements depending on package size. The PFLR and the CPR contain overlapping information.

## **B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements**

The PFLR has specific labeling conditions for food that contains food additives, irradiated food, food that may contain allergens or cause intolerance reactions, baby food, vegetarian, and non-vegetarian food, altered hereditary traits-based food (genetically engineered products), and processed milk.

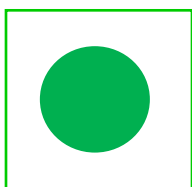
The regulations have mandatory labeling requirements for “genetically modified food” or genetically engineered (GE) food ingredients, defined as “produced through a change in hereditary traits.”

The PFLR and the CPR have guidelines to use color-based symbols on packaged food labels to signify whether it is vegetarian or non-vegetarian. The packaged vegetarian food must be labeled with a green circle and non-vegetarian food with the brown circle label (Figure 2).

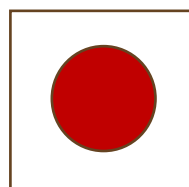
**Figure 1: BSTI’s Standard Mark**



**Figure 2: BSTI Approved Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Label**



Vegetarian Product



Non-Vegetarian Product

The PFLR does not include any clauses related to implied claims. There are no specific labeling clauses for plant-based meat or dairy alternative products.

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

The PFLR and the CPR do not contain any conditions on the material type used for packaging nor on container size requirements. Both rules cover labeling conditions for packaged food.

#### **Packaging Sustainability Measures**

##### ***Single-Use Plastic Ban***

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (Table 1) includes provision 6A that enabled the Director General (DG) of the Department of Environment (DoE) to issue an official order to ban the production and use of polyethylene or polypropylene injurious to the environment. By amending the act in 2002, Bangladesh was the first country to ban the production, import, marketing, sales, display, storage, distribution, transportation, and use of polythene of less than 55 microns thickness for business purposes. In 2017, the DoE issued a Public Notice to stop using polyethylene bags for personal and commercial purposes.

While the ban on using single-use plastics is still in place, due to a lack of regulatory enforcement, the production and use of single-use plastics and polythene bags still occurs. In 2021, the High Court ordered the government to phase out the use of single-use-plastic. In October 2024, MoEFCC started phasing out single-use plastic bags at grocery stores.

##### ***Municipal Waste Disposal Laws***

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021 (Table 1) require the implementation of best practices for managing single-use plastics and waste. This includes reducing waste at the source, segregating, collecting, recovering, reusing, recycling, controlling, transferring, transporting, processing, and disposing of waste. These rules require producers/importers, waste producers, and users to take responsibility for managing waste. Although, according to the rules, food producers and importers are supposed to collect packaging waste from end users and dispose of it in an environmentally friendly manner, this is not enforced.

There are no recycled contents or other design requirements for plastic bottles, glass, or other materials-based packaging.

##### ***Packaging-Related Waste***

The GoB does not have a specific national strategy, goal, or proposal aimed at reducing packaging-related waste. However, the National Environment Policy, 2018 (Table 1), includes an action plan outlining waste management strategy. The policy ensures the sustainable use of industrial raw materials, waste reduction, and waste management through reducing, reusing, and recycling.

The GoB issued the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010 (Table 1), which was enacted in January 2014, to control the use of non-biodegradable synthetics for packaging. This Act made it mandatory to use jute

sacks for bulk commodities including paddy, rice, wheat, maize, sugar, fertilizer, ginger, garlic, onions, potatoes, fish feed, poultry feed, flour, chilis, pulses, coriander, and rice bran.

The laws and regulations that aid waste management include the [Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance, 1977](#) (English); [Environment Conservation Act 1995 \(Amendment\), 2000](#) (Bangla); [Environment Conservation Rules, 2023](#) (Bangla); [Environment Court Act, 2010](#) (Bangla); [Medical Waste Management and Processing Rules, 2008](#) (Bangla); [Ozone Depletion Substance \(Control\) Rules, 2004](#) (Bangla) and [Ozone Depletion Substance \(Control\) Rules, 2004](#) (Amended) 2014 (Bangla). Rules, acts, guidelines, restrictions, or limitations on using any packaging materials or packaging sustainability are not found in any of the ordinances.

## **SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS**

BSTI regulates the types and levels of food additives used in imported or locally produced food by following BSTI established standards. Out of 687 [BSTI agriculture and food products standards](#) (Bangla), 309 standards are BSTI formulated Bangladesh Standards (BDS), 128 are adopted from Codex standards (BDS CAC), and 236 are from International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards (BDS ISO) and 14 halal standards (BDS OIC/SMIIC) are from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) affiliated Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC). Food importers or producers can apply to use certification marks on imported or domestic products produced from ingredients and additives that comply with the BSTI standards.

The BFSA's Food Additives Use Regulation, 2017 (Table 1) includes a list of the additives permitted for adding to food. The authorized uses of additives are listed in English according to the category of additives such as color, preservative, flavor enhancer, antioxidant, stabilizer, non-nutritive agent, sweetener, acid or acidity regulator, antifoaming agent, foaming agent, firming agent, thickener, anti-caking agent, sequestrant, gelling agent, emulsifier, bulking agent, flour treatment agent, glazing agent, humectant, raising agent, and propellant. If new additives are not referenced in the Food Additives Use Regulation, 2017, then the permissible level should be based on Codex standards for food additives or other intentionally approved standards.

BFSA enacted the Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) Based Food Control Regulations, 2021 (Table 1) regulating the maximum level of use, labeling, and method of analysis. The regulation states that TFA (except ruminant-produced TFA) higher than two percent of the total oil (including emulsion of fat) or fat present in food or used as food ingredients are banned from production, processing, import, storing, supply, distribution, and marketing. Ruminant-based TFA use higher than two percent is allowed if the producers receive analytical certificate from the legal authority. The nutrition fact label must include TFA amounts per 100 gram and separately account for ruminant-based TFA. Importers are required to receive a TFA analysis certificate from BFSA. The analysis protocol can be based on World Health Organization (WHO), ISO, Association of Official Analytical Chemists, American Oil Chemists' Society, or the International Dairy Federation protocols. Food producers are prohibited from using labels with messages such as "TFA free" or "low TFA."

BSTI's BDS for energy drinks BDS 2043:2025 limits the amount of caffeine to no more than 145 mg/liter. The Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (NCA) (Table 1) defined any beverage having more than

0.0145 percent of caffeine as a Class “B” narcotic. The NCA’s narcotics’ definition lowering the caffeine threshold may affect the import clearance of energy drinks, soft drinks, coffee, and tea.

## **SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS**

### **Pesticides**

Pesticide production, marketing, and use is regulated by the [Plant Protection Wing](#) (PPW) (Bangla) of the MoA. BFSA regulates maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in fresh food. There are no rules and regulations nor any regulatory authority for port inspection or sanctions for MRL violations.

PPW regulates chemical pesticide and biopesticide (biochemical and microbial pesticide) brand registration and licensing. Per the Pesticide Act, 2018, the regulatory authority can approve a company for a two-year pesticide business license and register a pesticide brand for three years to produce, import, and sell in the country. PPW regulates import quality control and inspection through the Pesticide Act, 2018; the Pesticide Rules, 1985; the Pesticide Rules 2010 (Amended); and IPO 2021-24, which are linked in Table 1. PPW publishes a list of [approved](#) and [banned](#) pesticides for marketing and use in Bangladesh.

BFSA enacted the Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins, and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017 (Table 1), which restricts the production, import, processing, storing, supply, marketing, and selling of food exceeding the MRLs for listed heavy metal, nitrates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, radionuclides, toxins, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, miticide, nematocide, plant growth regulators, and veterinary medicine residue. The regulation recommends following Codex and other international standards for MRLs of any new chemical components. BFSA and PPW do not have a regulatory, inspection, or monitoring role to control MRLs of pesticides in domestic and imported food products.

In 2024, BFSA notified to the WTO the drafts of the following regulations, which contain detailed lists of MRLs: Food Safety (Pesticides and Other Chemical Residues) Regulations, 2023; Food Safety (Determination and Control of Microbiological Contaminants) Regulations, 2023; and Food Safety (Residues of Veterinary and Fishery Drug) Regulations, 2024. BFSA is revising the regulations based on the comments.

### **Contaminants**

BFSA regulates MRLs of contaminants through the Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017 (Table 1). BFSA followed Codex to establish the MRLs for contaminants. Although BFSA plays a vital role in ensuring food safety, Bangladesh Customs along with BSTI, the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), and the Department of Fisheries (DoF) also regulate contaminants through the IPO 2021-24; BSTI’s food standards; Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010; Fish Feed Rules, 2024; Animal Feed Rules, 2013; and Fish Feed and Animal Feed Production and Marketing Management Guideline, 2020 (Table 1).

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

### **Mandatory Documents and Certificates for Customs Clearance and Payment**

#### General and shipping documents

- a) Bill of lading (B/L)
- b) Commercial invoice
- c) Packing list
- d) Certificate of origin
- e) Letter of credit (L/C)
- f) Import permit or no objection certificate
- g) Insurance certificate or policy
- h) Bill of entry
- i) Beneficiary's compliance certificate
- j) Shipment details

#### Certificates from the exporting country

- a) Certificate of analysis issued by the competent laboratory
- b) Health certificate issued by the competent laboratory
- c) Radioactivity level test certificate issued by the competent laboratory
- d) Phytosanitary certificate issued by the agricultural department
- e) Animal health certificate for live animals issued by APHIS
- f) Certificate of weight and quality condition issued by the exporter
- g) Halal certificate issued by the competent organization

#### Certificates from Bangladesh received during Customs clearance

- a) [Radioactivity retest certificate](#)
- b) Bangladesh Standards compliance test report and release order
- c) Phytosanitary release order

#### Documents required for L/C based bank payment clearance

- a) Letter of credit
- b) Bill of exchange
- c) Bill of lading
- d) Packing list
- e) Certificate of origin
- f) Commercial invoice
- g) Insurance certificate or policy
- h) Import permit or no objection certificate
- i) Post arrival customs clearance
- j) Value Added Tax (VAT)/ Business Identification Number (BIN) certificate

### **Certificate and Testing Requirements**

Per the IPO 2021-24 (attached), Bangladesh Customs requires a fit for consumption or health certificate for shipments of food to be issued by the competent authority of the exporting country stating that the

foodstuffs are “fit for human consumption”, “not injurious to human health”, contains “no harmful substance”, and is “free from all types of germs”. For shipments of feed or feed ingredients, Bangladesh Customs requires a health certificate stating that the feed or ingredient is suitable for fish, poultry, or animal consumption.

For shipments of animal feed, the IPO 2021-24, requires laboratory testing certificates from the exporting country stating that the feed ingredients are free from harmful antibiotics, hormones, and steroids including chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and melamine. Shipments of meat and bone meal, fish meal, and protein concentrate must be certified that it is free from chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, harmful antibiotics, harmful chromium, tannery by-product, melamine, and porcine material. For shipments of animal-based protein concentrate, the veterinary authority of the exporting country must certify that “the produced product is not infected with Bovine Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)” and is free from anthrax and tuberculosis (TB).

In 2018, Bangladesh banned meat and bone meal (MBM) imports and use due to a detection of tannery by products (bovine DNA) and porcine meal and bone meal (porcine DNA). Per the IPO 2021-24, importers must submit certificates from the competent authority of the exporting country stating that the feed, MBM, meat meal, bone meal, and protein concentrates are free from by-products of pigs and tannery products. But in practice, per the No Objection Certificate (NOC)/Import Permit (IP) of DLS, Customs requires a laboratory test report from the GoB authorized laboratories confirming that the product is porcine and bovine by-product free.

Phytosanitary certificates issued by the competent authority of the exporting country are required for all plant and plant-based products (Plant Quarantine Act, 2011, and Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018). Country of origin certificates are required for all commodities (IPO 2021-24). The Plant Quarantine Wing (PQW) of MoA issues import permits with a condition that the import permit number and issue date must be written on the phyto certificate. Soybeans, corn, wheat, fruit, seeds, lentils, pulses and other plant products phyto certificates must have a declaration that the product is free from soil. Phyto certificates for soybean meal must include a declaration that the product is a non-transgenic product.

DLS issues a No Objection Certificate (NOC) Import Permit containing the product specific requirements to import live animals and animal products, veterinary drugs, animal and poultry feed, and nutritional ingredients for animal feed.

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues animal health certificates and phytosanitary certificates, which are mandatory for exporting live animals and plant and plant-based products to Bangladesh (Animal and Animal Products Quarantine Act, 2005 and Plant Quarantine Act 2011).

Per the IPO 2021-24, fit for human consumption certificates are required for milk powder, milk products, and milk-based food. Certificates are required for milk and milk products, stating they are free from melamine, and sourced from dairy cattle that are free from estrogenic hormones and hormonal growth promotants (HGP) treatment. Certificates are also required for milk, vegetable seeds, and grains directly used as food, demonstrating compliance with Codex standard heavy metal MRLs (IPO 2021-24).

Per the IPO 2021-24, Bangladesh requires radioactivity test certificates for shipments of feed and feed ingredients, grains, vegetable seeds for food, and other food items. The certificate is submitted with the B/L. The certificate must mention the level of Cesium-137 (CS-137) per kilogram and state that the food items are suitable for human consumption and feed for animal consumption. Milk powder, milk products, and milk-based foods require certificates that the radioactivity level (becquerel or “bq”) per kilogram of CS-137 is below 95 bq per kilogram of CS-137. For edible oil and other types of food and agricultural products the radioactivity level is 50 bq per kilogram of CS-137. Except for fish, poultry and animal feed, post arrival retesting is mandatory.

### **In-Country Food Safety Inspection**

Several regulatory agencies oversee standards, quality, and sanitation for food safety in the retail, wholesale, warehouse, and processing industries. The anti-adulteration and safety audits are conducted by the MoC, MoI, MoF, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Directorate of National Consumer’s Right Protection, BFSa, and BSTI law enforcement team’s Mobile Court can inspect markets, warehouses, and food processing industries without prior notice to adjudicate laws for the purpose of ensuring food safety and consumer rights. The laws that cover inspection and enforcement are the Mobile Court Act, 2009; the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009; the Food Safety Act, 2013; the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Act, 2018; Food Production, Storage, Transfer, Transport, Supply, Distribution and Marketing (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Act, 2023 (Bangla) which are linked in Table 1. For imported products, the Mobile Court checks the import documents, labels for importer’s contact information, expiration date, and the authenticity of the product.

## **SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

### **A. Halal Food**

The Bangladesh [Islamic Foundation](#) (IF) (Bangla) stipulates in the [Halal Certificate Policy, 2023](#) (Bangla) that food, consumable products, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals approved by the Islamic Sharia laws for consumption and use are defined as halal. The halal confirmation rules of this policy ensure that the food, consumable products, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals must be produced, processed, packed, and marketed per the Islamic Sharia laws. The policy also lists halal and haram (non-halal) product categories, and guides the animal slaughtering, processing, handling, and certification process. All halal meat and meat products of halal animals must be slaughtered and processed according to proper Islamic customs as defined by the Bangladesh IF. Halal certification requirements for food products include that the products must be free from ingredients or additives of haram (non-halal) animals or any other products. This is also applicable to non-meat products.

**Figure 3: IF’s Halal Logo**





Both the IF and BSTI issue halal certificates or halal certificate markings for companies producing food or non-food products for export or domestic consumption. As halal certificates or markings are not mandatory for any products produced locally or traded, businesses can voluntarily apply halal certificate marks to their products. Both agencies issue halal certificates for exported products; but neither verifies halal certificates for imported products submitted to Bangladesh Customs.

BSTI's Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions Regulations, 2022 (Table 1) are the first official rules for halal certification and marks. It defines halal as any processed product, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, or other processes and services produced or provided as per the accepted Islamic Shariah law. Per the regulations, BSTI can issue a halal certificate mark for products, processes, or services that is valid for three years. BSTI has the right to cancel the certificate at any time. The CPR states that an institution cannot write "halal" or "100 percent halal" without the approval of the related authority or by showing valid evidence.

Bangladesh is a member of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), an affiliated institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that provides halal standards for member countries for food and other goods. BSTI started issuing halal certificates in May 2022, following the international SMIIC halal [standards](#) (BDS OIC/SMIIC 1, 2, 3, 9, 17 18, 23, 24, 33, 34, 35, and BDS OIC/SMIIC 36: 2022). BSTI provides halal certification for five categories of products: food and processed food, livestock and fisheries, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and canned food for domestic consumption or export.

**Figure 4: BSTI's Halal Logo**



Bangladesh Customs requires halal certificates for some categories of imported products including dairy products, meat, and meat products. Currently, Customs accepts halal certificates for imported products issued by any certified agency from the exporting country. Customs does not coordinate with BSTI or IF to verify halal certificates.

## **B. Weight and Measures**

The CPR and PFLR include rules for packaged products in retail and wholesale markets and for import and export. Standard units of the product must be mentioned. If the unit is not standard, the importer will convert it to a standard unit and add an extra sticker to the package.

## **C. Novel Foods (GE Foods)**

To import GE novel food and living modified organism (LMO) for human, the IPO 2021-24 follows the Bangladesh Biosafety Guidelines, 2007 and the Bangladesh Biosafety Rules (BSR), 2012 (Table 1). The BSR states that a person or agency cannot produce, export, import, sell, or purchase and use GE products for any commercial purpose without the permission of the MoEFCC. The PFLR, 2017 also

states that the phrase “Genetically Modified Food” must be added to the packaging of GE foods. The IPO 2021-24 requires a “no genetically modified organism” certificate for animal feed and animal nutrition products.

#### **D. Food Sanitation Laws**

BFSA enacted the Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018 (Table 1), to regulate the sanitation conditions applicable for production, import-export, and retail. The rules cover various sanitation and hygiene conditions, including the cleanliness of food processing and preservation establishments, health guidance for health workers, rules for cleaning drainage systems, waste management, water supply, transport of food and food ingredients, controlling temperature, and equipment used for food production and preservation.

#### **E. Animal Quarantine**

Bangladesh’s Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005; Animal Disease Act, 2005; Animal Disease Rules, 2008; Fish Quarantine Act, 2018; and IPO 2021-24 (Table 1), cover quarantine, control import and export of animal and animal products that has contagious disease risk for human and animal. The additional conditions for importing poultry birds, day-old chicks, meat, eggs, frozen cattle semen, animal-sourced feed ingredients are included in the IPO 2021-24.

Day-old chicks are allowed to be imported with (a) a certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country to the effect that the imported chicks are free from contagious diseases; (b) the latest information on avian influenza free area published on the website of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) has to be submitted, which proves that the exporting country is free from avian influenza; and (c) at the time the Letter of Credit (L/C) is opened, the importer must submit the certificate from the director or an authorized officer of the Livestock Directorate stating that the importer has either a hatchery or breeding farm.

According to the IPO 2021-24, eggs (HS code 0407.00) are allowed to be imported with prior permission from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock subject to the following conditions: (a) eggs are imported in limited quantity from a country free from avian influenza; and (b) for every consignment of imported eggs, there must be a certificate to the effect that the goods are free from avian influenza virus and harmful bacteria; this should be issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.

Frozen semen and embryos (HS code 0511.10), except for Friesian; Friesian Cross; Sahiwal; Sahiwal Cross, Friesian-Sahiwal Cross, Australian-Friesian Sahiwal (A.F.S.), A.F.S. Cross, Brahman, Murrah, Nili-Ravi, and Mediterranean varieties can be imported. For the import of semen, a certificate must be obtained from the competent authority of the exporting country regarding the variety of semen and note that it is free from any contagious and venereal diseases, and the exporting country is also free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy. For the import of embryos, a certificate must be obtained that states the product is free from any contagious and venereal diseases. Further local laboratory testing is compulsory to ensure quality.

#### **F. Wine, Beer, Other Alcoholic Beverages**

Import requirements for wine, beer, and other alcoholic beverages are stated in the IPO 2021-2024. The Alcohol Control Rules, 2022 (Table 1), state that a license from the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Ministry of Home Affairs is required for alcohol import and export; production

and processing; supply; marketing and purchase and selling; and preservation and warehousing or storing. Per the IPO 2021-24, beer and wine of all categories (HS codes 22.03 to 22.06) can be imported by a Department of Narcotic Control's bar license holder or approved club, restaurant, resort, motel, or international hotel bar. Such goods in fixed quantities and limited value can be imported with approval from the MoC with prior permission from the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. Per the rules, a permit from the Department of Narcotics Control is required for drinking alcohol, use, and application of alcohol.

### **G. Plant-Based Meat Alternatives and Dairy Alternatives**

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

### **H. Product Samples**

The IPO 2021-24 defines samples as a limited quantity of commercially unusable and easily identifiable products. Per Chapter 3, without any prior permission or permit, samples, advertising materials, and gifts can be imported free of charge if they are within the cost and freight (CFR) value limit. An Import Permit (IP) must be obtained, and prior approval of the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, is necessary if the CFR is above the ceiling.

**Table 2: Product Categories and CFR Value Limit for Importing Product Samples**

Sl. No.	Classification of Importers	Goods of samples, advertising materials & gifts	CFR maximum value limit
1.	Importers of medicine-relevant indenters and agents	Herbal and medicines	10,000 US dollars
2.	All importers, indenters, and agents	Other samples and advertising materials	10,000 US dollars
3.	Agents of foreign manufacturers appointed in Bangladesh	A new brand of the item for sale to introduce it to the consumers	5,000 US dollars
4.	Individual or Institution	Appropriate gifts	5,000 US dollars

Advertising materials include, among others, diaries, brochures, posters, calendars, pamphlets, and technical booklets, as well as a ballpoint pen, key ring, and lighters with the company name engraved or printed on them.

Source: IPO 2021-24

## **SECTION VIII: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Bangladesh signed the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in 1995. Bangladesh is a consignee of some international treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), including the WIPO Convention (1985), the Paris Convention (1991), the Berne Convention (1999), and the Marrakesh VIP Treaty (2022). However, Bangladesh is not a contracting party of other [WIPO treaties](#), including the Lisbon Agreement and Madrid Agreement. Per Bangladesh's Department of Patents, Design and Trademarks (DPDT) no international agreement is

being processed or committed to harmonizing the Geographical Indications (GI) approval and trademark process.

The MoI enacted the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 2013, and Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2015 (Table 1), to regulate geographical indicators. The Geographical Indications Unit of DPDT is the GI registration and protection authority in Bangladesh. An association or society of producers, trade organizations, or the competent authority can file an application to register a GI to the DPDT. The e-service led [registration procedure](#) (Bangla) includes filing the application, examination, publication, objection, counter-objection and reply, registration (if objection is not sustained), and non-registration (if objection is sustained). Based on the purpose of registration, goods will be classified per the [WIPO NICE](#) classification regime.

The DPDT administers the intellectual property rights (IPR) of the industrial sector and the Copyright Office Bangladesh ([COB](#)) (Bangla) of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) regulates copyrights of any cultural creations.

The Bangladesh Patent Act, 2023 (BPA), and Patents and Designs Rules, 1933 (Table 1), regulate patent licensing, granting, refusal and modification, restoration, ownership change and assignment, cancellation, revocation, and dispute settlement. The act does not protect patents in the areas related to plant and animal, whole or portion, changed or not (seed variety, species), essential biological process to produce plant and animal, and microbiological process or any product, organism, natural sourced biological resource (whether its full or portion, any refined, partitioned, revised), its genome, germplasm, gene, cell, protein, sequence, cell line, cell culture or including any other constituent, except manmade microorganisms.

The IP regulatory framework related to trademarks includes the Trademarks Act (Amended), 2015 (TA, 2015); Trademarks Act, 2009; and Trademark Rules, 2015 (Table 1), to protect the registered service of business and trademark of traded or manufactured products including agricultural products, herbal plants, and certification trademark. The DPDT has a separate procedure to register for patents, industrial designs, and [trademarks \(Bangla\)](#) through the e-service system. The TA 2015, has the provision to amend and cancel the registration entry of the trademark and brand name if the trademark creates confusion, fails to follow the rules of trademarks, or raises any unethical and unexpected issues against the perspective of the Bangladesh population and society.

## **SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES**

### **Customs Clearance Procedures**

#### **Obtaining an import permit, opening a Letter of Credit, shipping goods, and payment:**

1. The importer applies for an import permit from the appropriate ministry. MoA's Plant Quarantine Wing issues import permits (IP) for plant and plant-based products; MoFL's DoF issues No Objection Certificate (NOC) for fish and fish feed products; and DLS issues for live animals, animal products, animal feed, and animal feed ingredients imports.
2. The exporter sends Pro-forma Invoice/Commercial Invoice to the importer.
3. The importer opens a [Letter of Credit \(L/C\)](#) through an issuing bank.

### *What is a L/C?*

A letter of credit is a guarantee the importer's bank gives to pay the invoice to the exporter's bank on maturity. The importer's bank (Issuing Bank) and exporter's bank (Advisory bank) work as intermediaries to confirm the shipment of the product and the payment transaction as per the agreement of the trading parties. The L/C is a financial mechanism and a regulatory requirement of the IPO 2021-24 to secure smooth cross-border trade and transactions.

4. To open the L/C, the importer provides the following documents to the bank (varies based on the agreement with the exporter and the financial institution):
  - a) Application form
  - b) Purchase contract/agreement
  - c) Proforma invoice/indent
  - d) Bill of lading
  - e) Packing list
  - f) Importer's Import Registration Certificate ([IRC](#))
  - g) Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate
  - h) Value-added tax (VAT) registration certificate
  - i) Business trade license
  - j) Business bank account
  - k) Income tax clearance certificate
  - l) Insurance cover note with money receipt
  - m) Membership certificate of recognized chamber of commerce and industries or registered trade association

After depositing the margin amount (total value of imported goods) by the importer and blocking that money as security money, the issuing bank issues the letter of credit on behalf of the importer. After the importer receives the product, the bank releases the money to the advisory bank.

5. The issuing bank sends L/C to the advisory bank.
6. The advisory bank shares the L/C with the exporter.
7. The exporter ships the products to the importer and sends the export documents package to the advisory bank.
8. The advisory bank sends the export document package to the issuing bank as per the L/C.
9. After receiving the documents, the issuing bank advises the importer to pay the exporter's bill and collect the document package to manage customs clearance.
10. After the products are at the seaport, the importer authorizes a clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent to complete all required activities to start processing customs clearance, pay the exporter's bill, collect the documents from the bank, and release the shipment from the port and the customs house.

### **Port Clearance:**

1. E-manifest: The shipping agent submits the e-manifesto/import general manifest (IGM) to the automated system for customs data ([ASYCUDA](#)) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of Bangladesh Customs.
2. The ship arrives at the port, and the container is discharged by the port authority.

**Bill of Entry and tariff assessment:**

3. Customs registers the e-manifesto/IGM information in the ASYCUDA system and approves the manifest given to the C&F agent.
4. The C&F agent submits the goods declaration Bill of Entry (B/E) and other documents in the ASYCUDA system online and submits the hardcopy to the Revenue Office for tariff assessment based on the [Bangladesh tariff schedule 2024-25](#).
5. The Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) checks the B/E and sends the B/E to the Revenue Office for examination decision.
6. The Revenue Office gives the file to the respective officer for examination/sample collection and hands over the file to the agent.

**Sample testing:**

7. The agent submits documents to the joint commissioner at the jetty.
8. The agent obtains the location of the goods from the Port Authority and requests examination/sample collection.
9. The agent submits the documents to the examination zone.
10. The agent applies to the office of Container Terminal Management System of the port authority to keep the container on the port/yard floor, and a date for permission to open the container.
11. On different dates, the ARO examining officer, sample collector nominated by agent, and other government agency representatives (BSTI, PQW, DLS, BCSIR, DOF, BAEA) collect samples.
12. The collected samples are sent to the designated laboratory by the agent or sample collector.
13. The approved laboratory tests the sample and sends test reports/clearance certificates/examination reports to Customs and the clearing agent.

**Tariff assessment:**

14. The agent submits the testing certificates/clearance certificate for tariff assessment.
15. The Revenue Office checks the document and implements the decision to assess the tariffs and approves the assessed tariff value, which is then updated in the ASYCUDA system and notifies the agent.
16. The agent collects the assessment notice.
17. The importer/agent pays the duty and taxes at the bank and submits the customs house-endorsed assessment notice.

**Port processing and release order:**

18. The agent submits all the documents to get the delivery order from the shipping agent.
19. The port authority verifies the documents submitted in the one-stop service and enters the “Exit note” in the ASYCUDA system.
20. The agent pays the port bills.
21. The traffic inspector approves the bill and the release order.
22. The agent applies to the port authority to deliver the products.

**Physical inspection:**

23. The agent submits all related documents to the customs officer for physical inspection.
24. The customs officer does a physical inspection or collects samples from the container trailer at delivery stage.

25. The officer submits the inspection or sample test result certificate.

**Container loading and unloading:**

26. The officer issues clearance for delivery

27. The agent loads the products.

**Product delivery:**

28. The agent submits all documents at the delivery gate of the port.

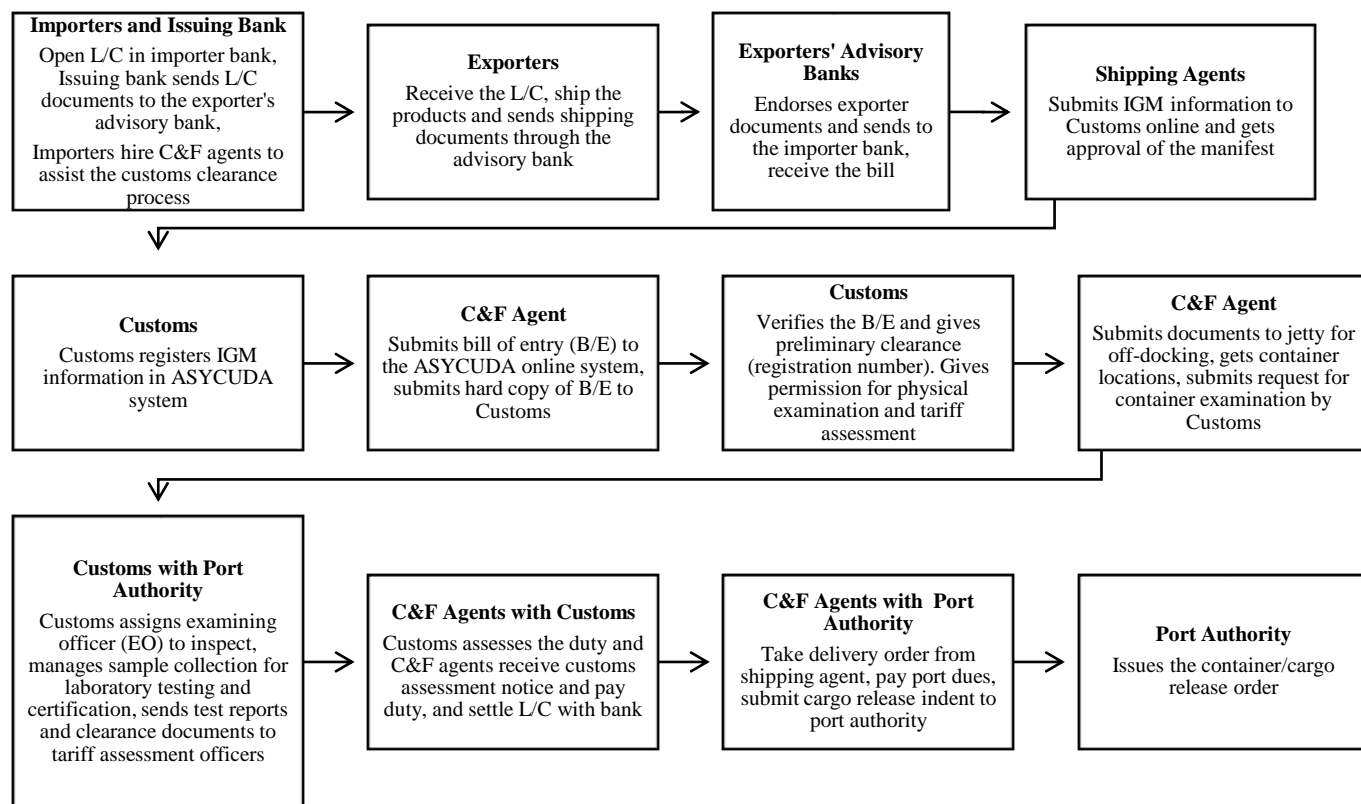
29. The product container exits the port area.

Source: [Time Release Study for Agricultural Commodities 2021-22](#), [Comprehensive Time Release Study 2022](#), and [Bangladesh Trade Portal](#)

**Documents submitted to Customs at various stages of clearance process:**

1. Power of Attorney for the C&F agent issued by the importer
2. Import form (IMP form) for the payment against import, regulated by Bangladesh Bank
3. Import permit
4. Bank-endorsed Letter of Credit Authorization and Bank-endorsed Letter of Credit
5. Bank-endorsed invoice
6. Bank-endorsed packing list
7. Bank-endorsed copy of Clean Report Findings certificate
8. Bank-endorsed original copy of the bill of lading
9. Insurance cover note and insurance policy document
10. Bill of exchange (invoice of the product)
11. Certificate of analysis (description of product)
12. Country of origin certificate issued by any trade association of the exporting country
13. Certificate of weight and quality condition
14. Packing list/container list
15. Datasheet signed by the C&F agent
16. Health certificate (fit for human consumption) for any kind of food
17. Radiation certificate issued by the competent laboratory of the exporting country
18. Phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country
19. Animal health certificate for live animals
20. Conformity certificate
21. Halal certificate

**Figure 5: Flowchart of Customs Clearance Procedures**



Source: FAS Dhaka

**Table 3: Bangladesh Agencies Involved in Customs Clearance at Chattogram Seaport**

<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Ministry of Shipping	Manages ports, supports maritime trade and vessel movements
Chattogram Port Authority	Manages and operates the port in which the shipment is off-loaded and stored
National Board of Revenue	Customs, administration of customs valuation, tariffs and other duties, tax holidays and tax concessions, duty drawbacks
Customs House, Chattogram, National Board of Revenue	Receives import tariff payments, verifies all certificates, inspects products, and gives release orders
Chief Controller of Import and Export, Ministry of Commerce	Provides importer and exporter registration, controls import and export volume, provides a decision on detained shipment, provides inputs on IPO.
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Chattogram Office	Tests radioactivity level and issues release order if cleared



Agencies	Activities
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, Chattogram Office	Tests processed food compliance with Bangladesh standards and issues release order for compliant products
Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Tests and certifies the standards compliance of imported processed food not included in the BSTI's mandatory product list covers <a href="#">IPO</a> (Bangla) and <a href="#">Certification Marks</a> (Bangla)
Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurement	Checks and certifies the standards of imported processed food not included in the BSTI's mandatory product list covers IPO and Certification Marks
Plant Quarantine Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Head Office and Chattogram Office	Issues an import permit, checks the presence of insects, and pests in agricultural products, fumigates the products, assesses the exporter's phytosanitary certificate, and issues a release order for the consignment
Poultry Research and Training Center (PRTC) Laboratory, Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Provides a private laboratory service to test imported feed and feed ingredients
Commercial Bank	Provides services to open and settle the letter of credit (LC), endorses all the documents submitted to customs for clearance, and helps NBR to receive import tariffs
Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Chattogram	Supports importers by collecting all the necessary documents, does all necessary customs clearances, and releases products from port and transports to private container depot

The time-released study commissioned by the USDA-funded Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Project revealed that the average time required to complete overall import clearance procedures, starting from the time the ship arrives to the release of the cargo/container, is 7 days, 7 hours and 58 minutes (minimum 1 day 1 hour 30 minutes; maximum 19 days 9 hours) ([Time Release Study for Agricultural Commodities 2021-22](#)).

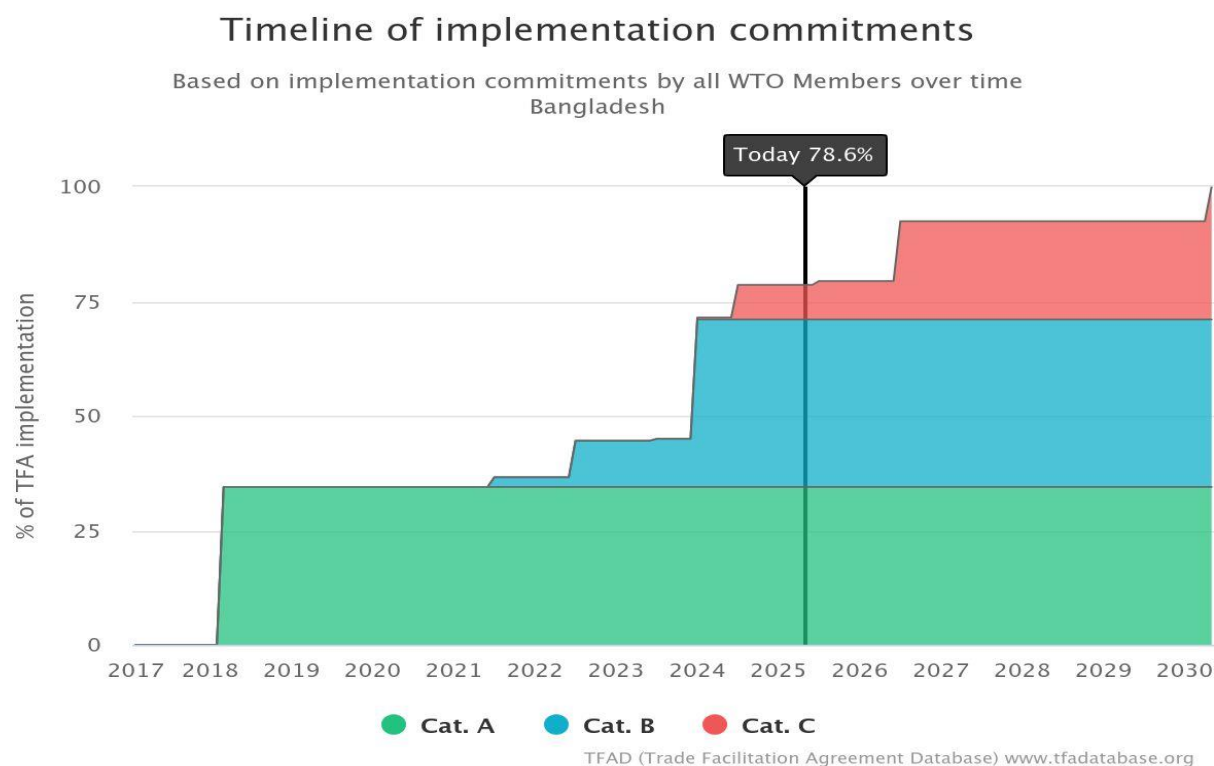
### Cross Border E-commerce Services

The MoC published the National Digital Commerce Policy, 2018 (Table 1) to provide a working environment for cross-border e-commerce in Bangladesh. The Digital Commerce Operational Guidelines, 2021, has a provision that foreign digital commerce businesses must be registered, obtain a Digital Business Identity number, and approval to establish a business in Bangladesh. In 2021, the Bangladesh Bank published guidelines regulating online payments in e-commerce transactions, which is also applicable to digital commerce businesses in Bangladesh.

## SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

Trade barriers are a significant obstacle to increasing U.S. agricultural exports to Bangladesh. Despite recent GoB reforms to improve the business and trading environment, Bangladesh's overall implementation of modern trade-supporting initiatives has been slow. Bangladesh ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on September 27, 2016, and it went into effect on February 22, 2017.

**Figure 3: Timeline of Bangladesh's TFA Implementation**



Category A: 34.5 percent rate of category A commitments

Category B: 36.6 percent rate of category B commitments

Category C: 8.82 percent rate of category C commitments

Based on [Bangladesh's notifications](#), 78.6 percent of its commitments have been implemented to date across the category (Figure 3).

### Single Window

The Bangladesh Government via a \$56.5 million World Bank loan is establishing the Bangladesh National Single Window to improve trade by improving connectivity, reducing logistical bottlenecks, and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation. Following Article 10.4 of TFA, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) launched the digital gateway Bangladesh Single Window ([BSW](#)). This one-stop digital platform provides services to apply for and receive regulatory certificates, licenses, and permits (CLP). GoB agencies currently inspect agricultural imports and exports using manual documentation processes, which increase the time and cost of clearing

goods at the ports of entry. Agricultural traders must physically collect import certificates before the arrival of goods as a part of the pre-arrival process; once consignments arrive, traders deliver them in person to Customs.

### **Advance Ruling System**

Through the NBR's Advanced Ruling System ([ARS](#)), regulated by the [Customs Ruling \(Advance\) Rules, 2016 \(Bangla\)](#), the importer, exporter, and the registered business appointed in Bangladesh can apply to get advance ruling services. The system works only on classified goods and enables traders to apply for a ruling that specifies the HS code for specific goods or items. To use the system for a single product, applicants must submit the application form 60 days before submitting the Bill of Entry and share the product catalog, specification, chemical composition or ingredients, and production process documents. NBR approves the requested HS codes for a certain period (i.e., 18 months), and the ruling can be reviewed, revised, and canceled per the rules.

### **Electronic Certificates and Electronic Filing**

NBR uses the ASYCUDA World, web-enabled digital system to manage customs clearance process in customs houses, custom stations, and off-docks services. The overall implementation of paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade remains below the Asia-Pacific regional average in 2023 ([UNTF SURVEY](#)). Chattogram Port is also in transition from a paper-based terminal management to a paperless digital terminal operating system, but there is no definite date to reach the goal. However, the port authority has introduced [terminal operating systems](#), digital berthing systems, and vessel traffic management information system (VTMIS). In 2023, the port authority announced that it is developing 50 software modules to digitize major functions of the port, and introducing digital payment system for cargo and container carrying vehicles is the latest development.

The MoA's Plant Quarantine Wing has an online platform to [apply and issue](#) import permits, phytosanitary certificates, release orders of imported plant and plant products. MoFL's DLS introduced an [E-trade portal](#) (Bangla) to issue licenses (feed production, import, storage, marketing and sales), NOCs (feed ingredients, vaccines, medicine, pets, and wild animals), import permits (veterinary equipment, live animals, frozen semen and day old chicks), health certificates, pre-arrival/shipment notifications, quarantine certificates, and farm registrations. The trade portal has an online verification option so that exporters can verify the NOC and import permit from the website.

Bangladesh is not using the global e-phyto hub and does not accept e-certificates but follows the validation technique to verify the authenticity of e-phyto certificate if possible.

### **Port Fees, Duties, and Taxes**

The Chattogram Port Authority published the Tariff on Goods and Vessels, 2008 ([Bangla](#)) ([English](#)) and a separate schedule for the Pangaon inland container [port](#) that outlines the port tariffs and fees for container handling (loading and discharge).

### **Common Delays**

Chattogram Port's average turnaround time was 2.2 days for all ships, and the dwell time of containers was 9.5 days ([Annual Report, 2022-23, CPA](#)). The most common delays are bills of lading and bill of entry submission delays, slow customs assessment for import clearance and export shipment, issuing release/clearance orders from different government authorities, slow lab testing to comply with product

quality and standards, fumigation of agricultural products, slow bureaucratic process to solve document discrepancies, solving false customs declaration disputes, software glitch of ports and customs houses, delays in port discharging, and delays in ship berthing due to container congestion. The major cause of delays in issuing certificates is the shortage of laboratory testing facilities at the port.

### **Duplicative Inspections**

Duplicative inspection is a very common problem in Bangladesh. Lack of coordination and regulation among the border management agencies leads to multiple inspections and sample collections, further delaying the customs and port clearance process. In the clearance process, several border and regulatory agencies are involved, such as Bangladesh Customs, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate, Department of Immigration and Passport, Chief Controller of Import and Export, Plant Quarantine Wing, DLS, DoF, BSTI, BCSIR, private testing laboratories, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Drug Administration, Land Port/Sea Port/Civil Aviation Authority, Border Guard, Bangladesh Bank, and Commercial Banks.

## APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
<p>Secretary Ministry of Commerce Building #3, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka E-mail: <a href="mailto:secy@mincom.gov.bd">secy@mincom.gov.bd</a> Website: <a href="https://mincom.gov.bd/">https://mincom.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla) Public Relations Officer Mail: E-mail: <a href="mailto:pro@mincom.gov.bd">pro@mincom.gov.bd</a></p>	<p>Agency: <a href="#">Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Office of the Chief Controller of Import and Export</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Bangladesh Competition Commission</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Directorate of National Consumer's Right Protection</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute</a></p> <p>Publishes Import and Export <a href="#">Policy Orders</a> (Bangla) Import Policy Order, 2021-24 Export Policy Order, 2024-27</p> <p><a href="#">Bangladesh Trade Portal</a></p>
<p>Director General WTO Cell Ministry of Commerce E-mail: <a href="mailto:dg.wto@mincom.gov.bd">dg.wto@mincom.gov.bd</a></p>	<p>WTO inquiry point/notification authority <a href="#">SPS-TBT Enquiry Points</a></p>
<p>Chief Controller Office of the Chief Controller of Import and Export Ministry of Commerce Mail: <a href="mailto:controller.chief@ccie.gov.bd">controller.chief@ccie.gov.bd</a> Website: <a href="https://ccie.gov.bd/">https://ccie.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)</p>	<p>Involved in formulating the Import Policy Order Decides import and export control related issues Manage import and export registration certificate</p> <p><a href="#">Import and Export (Control) Act, 1950</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Registration Order, 2023</a> (Bangla)</p>
<p>Director General Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection Ministry of Commerce Email: <a href="mailto:dg@dnrcrp.gov.bd">dg@dnrcrp.gov.bd</a> Web: <a href="https://dnrcrp.gov.bd">https://dnrcrp.gov.bd</a> (Bangla)</p>	<p>Ensures safe food for consumers</p> <p>Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009</p>
<p>Director Plant Quarantine Wing (PQW) Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 Email: <a href="mailto:dpqw@dae.gov.bd">dpqw@dae.gov.bd</a> Website: <a href="https://dae.gov.bd">https://dae.gov.bd</a></p>	<p>Issues import permits, verifies phyto certificate, tests product quality, fumigates plant products, issues imported product release order for customs clearance and issues phytosanitary certificates.</p> <p>Regulated by: Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018</p>

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
	Plant Quarantine Act, 2011  <a href="#">Plant quarantine service portal</a>
Director Plant Protection Wing Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 Phone: +88-02-9131295 Email: <a href="mailto:dppw@dae.gov.bd">dppw@dae.gov.bd</a>	Pesticide regulatory authority  The Pesticide Rules, 1985 The Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) 2010 The Pesticide Ordinance, 2007 The Pesticide Act, 2018  Rules/Regulations/Acts are available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla)
Director General and Chief Veterinary Officer Department of Livestock Services (DLS) Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 Email: <a href="mailto:dg@dls.gov.bd">dg@dls.gov.bd</a> , Website: <a href="http://www.dls.gov.bd/">http://www.dls.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)  Director International Trade Cell Department of Livestock and Services Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 Mail: <a href="mailto:directoradmin@dls.gov.bd">directoradmin@dls.gov.bd</a>  Cross Border Risk Management Unit Deputy Director (Risk) Mail: <a href="mailto:sharmin.samad@dls.gov.bd">sharmin.samad@dls.gov.bd</a>	Issues <a href="#">online</a> (Bangla) import permits for live animal and animal feed products  Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010 Animal Disease Rules, 2008 Animal Disease Act, 2005 Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005 Rules/Regulations/Acts are available <a href="#">here</a> . (Bangla)  <a href="#">Online service: E-Trade Portal</a> (Bangla)
Director Department of Fisheries Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Mail: <a href="mailto:dg@fisheries.gov.bd">dg@fisheries.gov.bd</a> Website: <a href="https://fisheries.gov.bd/">https://fisheries.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)	Rules/Regulations/Acts are available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla)  Fish Feed Rules, 2024 Fish Quarantine Act, 2018 Fish Quarantine Rules, 2024  <a href="#">FIQC E-certification system</a>
Chairman Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) Ministry of Food Police Convention Center, Ramana Thana, Probasi Kollan Bhaban, 71-72, Iskaton Garden, Dhaka,	Develops national food safety standards related act, rules and regulations, Coordinates the activities of food quality and safety related organization, Monitors, inspects, enforces food safety

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
<p>Bangladesh  Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@bfsa.gov.bd">chairman@bfsa.gov.bd</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.bfsa.gov.bd/">http://www.bfsa.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)</p>	<p>regulations to ensure quality food in the market</p> <p>Rules/Regulations/Acts are available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla)  Food Safety Act, 2013  Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017  Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017  Use of Food Additives Regulations, 2017  Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018  Food Safety (Food Tactile) Regulations, 2019</p> <p><a href="#">Lab information repository</a></p>
<p>Director General  Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute  Ministry of Industries  Maan Bhaban, 116-A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka  Phone: +88-02-55030054  Email: <a href="mailto:dg@bsti.gov.bd">dg@bsti.gov.bd</a>  Fax: +88-02-55030092  Website: <a href="http://www.bsti.gov.bd/">http://www.bsti.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)</p>	<p>Formulate standards and tests compliance of imported products  Inspects and implements local standards  Codex representative</p> <p>List of mandatory products under import policy, available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla).</p> <p>Rules/Regulations/Acts are available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla).</p>
<p>Chairman  Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)  Ministry of Science and Technology  E-12/A, Agargaon, Shere-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@baec.gov.bd">chairman@baec.gov.bd</a>  Website: <a href="http://baec.gov.bd/">http://baec.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)</p> <p>Director  Atomic Energy Centre, Chattogram  Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)  Office: 1018/A Bayezid Bostami Road, East Nasirabad, Chattogram-4209  Mail: <a href="mailto:aec.baec@gmail.com">aec.baec@gmail.com</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.aecc-baec.org">www.aecc-baec.org</a></p>	<p>Tests and certifies radiation levels in food and agricultural products</p> <p>Import Policy Order 2021-2024.  <a href="#">Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205</a></p>
<p>Director General  Department of Environment  Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  E/16, Paribesh Bhavan, Dhaka 1207  Email: <a href="mailto:dg@doe.gov.bd">dg@doe.gov.bd</a></p>	<p>Approves genetically engineered products for research, production, import, and export with consideration of environmental biosafety.</p> <p>Biosafety Rules, 2012</p>

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
<a href="http://www.doe.gov.bd/">http://www.doe.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)	Biosafety Guideline, 2007
Commissioner Customs House, Chattogram National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance Port Rd, Chattogram Website: <a href="http://chc.gov.bd/">http://chc.gov.bd/</a> (Bangla)  <a href="#">Bangladesh Customs</a> <a href="#">Bangladesh Customs</a> (NBR) <a href="#">National Board of Revenue</a> <a href="#">Customs House Dhaka, NBR</a> (Bangla) <a href="#">Customs House, Chattogram, NBR</a> (Bangla)	Customs clearance  <a href="#">Customs Act, 2023</a> <a href="#">All Customs Rules</a>  Customs statutory regulatory order (SROs), available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla) and <a href="#">here</a> . Import and Export Policy Orders, available <a href="#">here</a> (Bangla). <a href="#">Bangladesh tariff schedule 2024-25</a> <a href="#">Duty Calculator</a>

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

## APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

[Chattogram Port Authority](#) (Bangla)  
[Mongla Port Authority, Khulna](#) (Bangla)  
[Bangladesh Logistics](#) (Bangla)  
[Chattogram Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent Association](#)  
[Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association](#)  
[The American Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry](#)  
[Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries](#)  
[Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Bangladesh Foodstuff Importers and Suppliers Association](#)  
[Bangladesh Poultry Industries Coordination Committee](#)  
[Feed Industries Association Bangladesh](#)  
[Animal Health Companies Association of Bangladesh](#)  
[Bangladesh Agro Feed Ingredients Importers and Traders Association](#)  
[Bangladesh Cotton Association](#)

Note: Bangladesh Government official websites have an English translation option on the top of the page. Accessibility of the links may vary depending on security firewalls

**Attachments:** [Import Policy Order 2021-24-Unofficial Translation.pdf](#)