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### **Report Highlights:**

This report provides information on the regulations and standards to import agricultural and related products into Nigeria. In addition to minor updates in all sections, Section IX outlines new market access for importing U.S. cattle and small ruminants, and semen of cattle and small ruminants. Appendix 1 was revised to reflect officeholder changes. In 2024, the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, which oversees international trade in livestock and livestock products, moved to the newly created Federal Ministry of Livestock Development from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

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**DISCLAIMER**

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the Government of Nigeria's (GON) regulations and standards for importing agricultural and related products. Import requirements are regulated under several key acts, including the Animal Diseases (Control) Act of 2022, the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (Establishment) Act of 2017, and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act of 2004. The key government offices that regulate and monitor import regulations and standards include the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), under the Federal Ministry of Health, the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS), under the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, and the Federal Department of Fisheries, under the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy.

NAFDAC oversees most consumer-oriented import regulations, including packaging, labeling, manufacturing facility certification, and ingredient, nutritional, and additive rules. All consumer-oriented products must be registered with NAFDAC prior to being imported, however [NAFDAC's global listing for supermarket \(GLS\) items guidelines](#) allows major supermarket operators and importers to import mixed containers of high value products in limited quantities without this registration. In addition to consumer-oriented products, NAFDAC also oversees [animal feed import registration and regulatory compliance](#).

The DVPCS is responsible for international trade in livestock and livestock products. In December 2024, the United States and Nigeria agreed upon several new protocols to export U.S. live animals and genetics to Nigeria. These new (and existing) protocols can be found on [USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service website](#). The Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF) ensures imported and exported fish and fishery products conform to national standards. The Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service serves as the enforcement arm of DVPCS, FDF, and other regulatory agencies.

Import procedures officially follow most international standards, however there is wide latitude in how imports are cleared in practice. The GON has announced moves to streamline import and export procedures, reduce paperwork, and improve customs clearing times, however authorities are still spread over many ministries, departments, and agencies, and no single trade window is operational. The Nigerian Customs Service inspects food and agricultural products at the point of entry and collects tariffs. In addition to official tariffs, Nigeria's various government ministries, departments, and agencies collect additional import duties and levies depending on the product and importer. These additional duties and levies are frequently subject to change and are not always transparent.

## SECTION I. FOOD LAWS:

### Regulatory Environment

The following government organizations and agencies regulate, monitor, and enforce food, beverage, and feed safety, standards, and trade:

1. Federal Ministry of Health
2. Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
3. Federal Ministry of Livestock Development
4. Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy
5. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment
6. Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
7. National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
8. Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON),
9. Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS)
10. Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

[NAFDAC](#) regulates and controls the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale, and use of food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, packaged water, chemicals, and detergents, and operates at the federal and state levels. At the local government level, primary healthcare agencies are responsible for street food vendors and traditional markets, although they refer to NAFDAC for all cases that enforce food safety laws. The primary enforcement strategy employed by NAFDAC for locally manufactured and imported food products is product registration and certification of production sites. The agency inspects facilities of foreign exporters to ascertain optimum compliance necessary for certification of imported food products.

NAFDAC has a port inspection directorate which controls the channels through which regulated products are imported. The investigation and enforcement directorate enforces and ensures compliance with all regulatory requirements, while the laboratory services directorate conducts appropriate tests to ensure compliance with standards.

The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS) under the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development is responsible for the prevention, control, and eradication of trans-boundary animal diseases and pests, control of vector and vector-borne diseases, zoo-sanitary certification services, wholesomeness of foods of animal origin, and international trade of most live animals and animal products. The Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF) under the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy ensures imported and exported fish and fishery products conform to standards. In addition, the [Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service](#) under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security enforces sanitary and phytosanitary measures for plants, animals, and fisheries, and serves as the enforcement arm of DVPCS and FDF.

The GON has attempted to improve food safety, however many factors have made this challenging, including inconsistently applying regulations, uncoordinated approaches among regulators, disputes among agencies over the interpretation of regulations, public unfamiliarity, and inadequate technical expertise and laboratory testing capacity.

## **Import Policies for Food and Agricultural Products**

- Some food and agricultural products such as unprocessed poultry, pork, beef, refined vegetable oils, tomatoes (whole or in pieces), tomato paste, and other products are on the [prohibited items import list](#). There is also an existing ban on catfish imports, and a ban on the import of rice through land borders.
- A permit is needed to import any animal, animal product, or commodity, fish, wildlife, pet food, feed, and feed additive (Animal Diseases Control Act of 2022).
- To regulate fish imports, the government allocates annual import quotas to selected fish importers. To be eligible for a quota, an importer should have proper storage capacity and must provide tax clearance and other documentation.
- The GON allocates raw sugar import approvals each year. To get approval, companies must apply for the quantity of the raw sugar to be imported and commence or already have invested in local raw sugar production. No refinery importing raw sugar is allowed to expand its capacity without government approval.
- The GON maintains high effective tariffs (and supplementary levies and duties) on imports of certain goods. The country imposes a 5 percent tariff on wheat imports, and an additional 15 percent levy (earmarked for the national wheat development program). For milled rice imports, the country imposes 10 percent tariff and an additional 50 percent levy. Supplementary levies and duties are subject to frequent change and interpretation varies by importer and authority.

## **Scope of the Food Laws and Regulations**

The food laws and regulations apply to all activities involved in the manufacture, labeling, importation, exportation, selling, advertising, distribution or use in Nigeria of pre-packaged foods, fortified foods, food additives, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, edible fats and oils, milk and dairy products, and non-nutritive sweeteners. They also apply to foods processed by ionizing radiation that is used in conjunction with applicable hygienic codes, food standards and transportation codes, manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, advertised, sold, or used in Nigeria.

The food laws and regulations also specify roles of other tiers of governments, industry, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, and consumers.

## **Laws Regulating and Monitoring Food Safety Standards and Practices:**

- Animal Diseases (Control) Act 2022 [Note: no hyperlink available]
- [NAQS \(Establishment\) Act, 2017](#)
- [SON Act N0. 14, 2015](#)
- [NAFDAC Act Cap. N.1 LFN 2004](#)
- [Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act Cap. C. 34 LFN 2004](#)
- [Food and Drug Act Cap F. 32 LFN 2004](#)
- [Food, Drug and Related Products \(Registration\) Act Cap F.33](#)

- [Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act, 2018](#)

## **SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

Pre-packaged food labeling regulations can be found [here](#).

### **General Requirements**

- All pre-packaged food shall bear the NAFDAC registration number.
- Any declaration required to be made on any pre-packaged food shall be in English and may include any other language.
- Stick-on labels meeting NAFDAC requirements are permitted provided they do not remove easily. Labels must be adhered prior to the product arrival at the Nigerian port of entry.
- Sample-size products or institutional packed products have no special labeling requirements.
- Expiration dates should be “at least half the shelf life as at time of inspection.” The last sentence is interpreted to mean that at the time of inspection by NAFDAC (after clearing Customs), that the period from the inspection date until the expiration date should be equal to or greater than half of the total shelf life of the product (date of production until expiration).
- NAFDAC does not grant exceptions to labeling requirements.

### **Name of Pre-packaged Food**

- The name of a pre-packaged food shall be indicated in the principal display panel of the label, clearly indicating the specifics and true nature of the food and not generic description.
- When a pre-packaged food has a brand name or trademark displayed on the label, the brand name or trademark shall not give the wrong impression of the nature, quality, or substance of the food.
- The most prominent letters on the label shall be the brand name and the name of the food product.

### **Labeling**

- A pre-packaged food shall not be described or presented on any label in a manner that is false, deceptive, or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its identity, character, quality, quantity, composition, origin, or is misleading.
- Claims concerning medicinal effects, such as preventive, alleviative, or curative effects shall not be made in respect of the properties of a pre-packaged food.
- The label on pre-packaged food shall be attached in a manner that it shall not become separated from the container through ordinary use.
- A pre-packaged food label that is directed at children shall not portray images or events which encourages unsafe uses of a product, shall not create unrealistic impression in the minds of children or their parents or caregivers about safety, and shall not encourage the consumption of such food items that are detrimental to children’s health.

### **List of Ingredients**

- Except for single ingredient foods, the list of ingredients shall be declared on the label.
- Food and food ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall require approval of the National Biosafety Management Agency as the competent authority.
- Food and food ingredients derived from GMO ingredients shall be declared on the label.

### **Name and Contact Information of Manufacturer and Distributor**

- The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, re-packer, distributor, importer, exporter, or vendor of a pre-packaged food shall be declared on the product label.
- Where a manufacturer has facilities in many cities or towns, the corporate head office shall suffice, provided that every food package has a code or mark to identify the processing facility where it was manufactured.
- Where the pre-packaged food is not manufactured by the person or company whose name appears on the label, the name shall be qualified with “manufactured for” or “packed for” or similar expression.
- The country of origin of a pre-packaged food shall be declared on the label.
- Where a food undergoes processing in a second country, which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be the country of origin for the purpose of labeling.

### **Date Marking**

- Pre-packaged food shall specify and legibly display the day, month, and year of manufacture on the label.
- Where a food is to be consumed before a certain date to ensure its safety and quality, the “Use-by Date” or “Expiry Date” shall be declared.
- Where “Use-by Date” or “Expiry Date” is not required on a pre-packaged food, the “Best-Before Date” or “Best Quality Before Date” shall be declared on the label.
- The day, month, and year shall be declared by un-coded numbers with the year to be denoted by two or four digits, where the day is denoted with one or two digits and where only numbers are used to declare the date, or where the year is expressed as only two digits, the sequence of the day, month, year shall be given by appropriate abbreviations accompanying the date mark as DD/MM/YYYY or MM/DD/YYYY.
- “Best Before” or “Best quality before” date shall not be required for: fresh fruits and vegetables, including tubers which have not been peeled, cut, or similarly treated; alcoholic beverages containing at least 10 percent alcohol in volume, and vinegar.

### **Ionizing Radiation**

- A pre-packaged food which has been treated with ionizing radiation shall be declared and the nature of the treatment stated on the label very close to the name of the food.
- The international food irradiation symbol shall be indicated on all irradiated food and shall be very close to the name of the food.



**Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling:**

- NAFDAC accepts the standard U.S. nutritional fact panel.
- Nutrient declaration shall be a mandatory requirement for all pre-packaged foods.
- Any nutritional claim on the product's label must be justified.
- Labels must contain directions for safe usage.
- Additional nutritional labeling information is voluntary.

**Prohibition**

No person "shall":

- Manufacture, import, export, distribute, advertise, display for sale, offer for sale, sell, or use a pre-packaged food unless it is labeled in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.
- Manufacture, import, export, distribute, advertise, sell, or use food whose:
  - Expiration date has lapsed.
  - Expiration date or best before date has been obliterated or forged.
  - Label has been altered, obliterated, or removed.
  - Importers or manufacturers make advertisement claim(s) or professional association endorsement on a food product label unless authorized by the Agency.

**SECTION III. PACKAGING & CONTAINER REGULATIONS**

NAFDAC has no specific regulation on packaging and does not impose any specific restrictions on packaging materials. However, packaging and container materials must be of food grade and non-toxic. Packaging and container materials must be non-reactive and should not leach into the product. For micro-scale food enterprises, NAFDAC requires that packaging materials be purchased from traceable sources and should be of good quality and standards.

Most Nigerian importers often express packaging preference for:

- Relatively small-sized products prepared and packaged for one-time use.
- Products that can be shipped in bulk and re-packaged locally.
- Perishable food products that undergo processing/packaging treatment to achieve an extended shelf life without refrigeration.

**SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS**

Food additives regulations can be found [here](#). These regulations apply to all food additives sold as either wholesale, retail or any other means, and food additives used in food processing.

Food additives shall be included in food in a quantity within the limits prescribed for such food and food additive in the national standards for the particular food and codex standards where applicable and as prescribed. Where the limit prescribed for a food additive in the codex standards is stated to be

“good manufacturing practice,” the amount of the food additive added to a food in the manufacturing and processing shall not exceed the amount required to accomplish the purpose for which that additive is required in that food.

A person who wishes to request for a food additive to be added to or a change to be made to a food product, they shall submit a request to NAFDAC including:

- A description of the food additive including its name and the name under which it is proposed to be sold, method of its manufacture, chemical and physical properties, composition, and specifications.
- A statement of the amount of the food additive for use and the purpose for which it is proposed to be used, together with all directions, recommendations, and suggestions for use.
- Where necessary, an acceptable method of analysis suitable for regulatory purposes that shall determine the amount of food additive in any substance arising from the use of the food additive.
- Data establishing that the food additive shall have the intended physical or other technical effect.
- Detailed reports of test method to establish the safety of the food additive under the conditions of use recommended.
- Data to indicate the residues that may remain in or on the finished food, when the food additive is used in accordance with good manufacturing practices.
- A proposed maximum residue limit of the food additive in or on the finished food.
- Specimen of the labeling proposed for the food additive; and
- A sample of the food additive in the form in which it is proposed to be used in foods and on request, a sample of food containing the food additives.

There is a restriction on the sale of baby foods containing food additives unless permission is granted by NAFDAC. A person shall not import, export, advertise, sell, or present any food item or beverage containing a non-nutritive sweetener for human consumption except as provided for in the [Non-Nutritive Sweeteners in Food Products Regulations, 2021](#). Where there are mandatory precautionary warnings for the use of any non-nutritive sweeteners, such precautionary warning shall be boldly and conspicuously indicated on the label such as “contains Aspartame.” Food additives which have been treated with ionizing radiation shall be so designated and in compliance with the [Food Irradiation Regulations, 2021](#).

List of permitted (or prohibited) food additives is available in English and can be received from the food registration and regulatory affairs directorate of NAFDAC.

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

NAFDAC’s [Guidelines for Registration of Imported Pesticides in Nigeria](#) describes pesticides to include herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, molluscides, nematocides, repellants, attractants, insect growth regulators, fumigants, and plant growth regulators. NAFDAC regulates imported pesticides as well as other residues using the following guidelines:

- [Guidelines for issuance of permit to import severely restricted chemicals \(pesticides, agrochemicals, and fertilizers\).](#)
- [Permit for clearance of imported severely restricted chemicals \(pesticides, agrochemicals, and fertilizers\).](#)

The following are the major standard requirements:

- All food products must have a certificate of analysis to ensure food items are free of radioactive materials and meet other quality parameters.
- All pesticides must have an acceptable maximum residue limit prior to approval.
- NAFDAC reserves the right to subject any domestic or imported product to its own analysis to determine wholesomeness of the food product.
- NAFDAC officials routinely subject imported foods to inspection and analysis at the port of entry, and at the point of sale.
- NAFDAC seizes and destroys contaminated products and offenders are prosecuted.

The pesticide residue limits and mycotoxin standards applied by NAFDAC in its assessment of food safety include limits and standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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

### **A. General requirements**

#### **Manufacturer/Exporter**

The manufacturer “shall” apply for the registration of processed foods.

- Manufacturers outside Nigeria “shall” be represented in Nigeria by a registered Nigerian company with facilities to implement a recall of the product when necessary.
- The representative will be responsible for ensuring that the competent health authority in the country is informed of any serious hazard newly associated with a product.

#### **Importer**

Importers of food products must first register the product’s trademark, patent, or design with the Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry. The registry is under the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment.

- After trademark registration, the prospective importer representing a foreign manufacturer applies for registration with NAFDAC, stating the name of the manufacturer, and name (brand name where applicable) of the product.
- A separate application form is submitted for each regulated product.
- Foreign manufacturers must be represented in Nigeria by a registered company or individual with the capacity to implement a product recall, when necessary.

- NAFDAC considers the local representative to be fully responsible for all matters related to the product - registration, distribution, re-calls, and legal actions, etc.
- The Nigerian importer/distributor must file evidence of a power of attorney from the manufacturer, which authorizes him to be his representative in Nigeria.
- The importer would present a certificate of manufacture and free sale issued by a competent health authority, authenticated by the Nigerian Embassy in the country of origin. Product license or evidence of product registration in the country of origin is an added advantage.
- Fifteen product samples (twenty in the case of dairy products) depending on pack size must be provided to NAFDAC for physical/laboratory analysis and vetting which takes about four to eight weeks.
- Permit must be obtained to import limited quantities for the purpose of registration.
- A comprehensive certificate of product analysis is issued by the manufacturer.
- A letter of invitation for inspection of factory to be submitted by the applicant in Nigeria and shall state the full location address of the manufacturer, name of contact person, e-mail address, and current phone numbers.

### **Guidelines for agents of foreign manufacturers**

Agents of foreign manufacturers must take necessary steps to ensure that regulated products intended for the Nigerian market are registered before consignments of such products are imported into the country.

- NAFDAC usually authorizes the importation of small quantities of unregistered products for the purpose of submission to the agency as samples for registration.
- The importer is expected to contact NAFDAC to obtain a written authorization specifying the quantity of the unregistered products to be imported.
- For further details, see [guideline for registration of imported food products in Nigeria](#).

### **B. Registration requirements**

The registration of any food product with NAFDAC is a detailed process. In theory, registration should not take more than three months to complete from the date the product samples were submitted for laboratory analysis. In practice however, registration can take up to a year or more due to administrative bottlenecks. NAFDAC registration process involves:

- Documentation
- Inspection of manufacturing facilities
- Review of the “good manufacturing practice” inspection report
- Laboratory analysis for assessment of wholesomeness and quality
- Vetting of labels to confirm compliance with NAFDAC's labeling regulations.
- Control to ensure information provided is not deceitful, fraudulent, or misleading.
- These activities culminate in the issuance of a NAFDAC registration number, which is an attestation of product quality and safety.

**NAFDAC certificate validity period:**

- A certificate of registration with a validity period of five years is issued if the registration process is successful.
- The agency also re-validates a re-submitted application after five years.
- NAFDAC may not approve re-submitted applications where a manufacture refuses to renew importer's registration documents such as power of attorney, etc., and/or where the agency believes the importer or applicant should be able to produce or show intention to manufacture the product locally after importing for five years.

**Registration fees**

- Local firms registering products with NAFDAC usually pay the registration fee. However, there have been instances where exporters decide to assist with defraying registration costs.
- Exporters must verify that the importing company requesting assistance will utilize the fund for intended purpose — where exporters decide to assist local firms with registration fee payments.
- USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service office in Lagos advises U.S. exporters wishing to support local firms with payment of registration costs to contact our office to seek guidance.

NAFDAC approved fees can be found [here](#). Importers are advised to contact NAFDAC for actual fees payable when making payment decisions.

**C. Requirements for importing samples for certification and laboratory analysis**

On arrival of the imported samples and presentation of the authorization forms at the ports, NAFDAC inspectors treat the consignment the same way as other standard imported consignments. Before clearing the consignment from the ports, the importer must present the following:

- Authorization to import samples of the unregistered product.
- Bank draft for the prescribed port inspection fees payable to NAFDAC.
- Completed Customs bill of entry.
- Certificate of analysis of the product issued by the manufacturer.
- Certificate of manufacture and free sale issued by a government authority empowered by law in the country of origin to exercise regulatory control over the product, authenticated by the Nigerian Embassy in the United States of America.
- Power of attorney notarized, issued by the manufacturer to the Nigerian local agent.

Where the above requirements are unfulfilled, NAFDAC clears the consignment from the ports to a bonded warehouse at the expense of the importer. The importer will be prosecuted, and the products forfeited to the GON with any assets or property obtained or derived directly or indirectly from committing the offence.

## **D. Advertisement requirements**

[Food Products Advertisement Regulations, 2021](#) regulates all advertisements of food products, manufactured, imported, distributed, sold, or used in Nigeria. It applies as follows:

- NAFDAC must approve all advertisement/promotional materials prior to utilization.
- Advertised food products must demonstrate the products are registered with NAFDAC.
- An application for advertisement must be submitted to NAFDAC for its approval. This approval process is in addition to the Certificate of Registration issued by NAFDAC, which authorizes importation and sale in Nigeria.
- The approval of an advertisement shall be valid for a period of 1 year from the date of approval. Subsequent advertisement applications shall be valid for 2 years provided no alteration is made and conditions of renewal of approval remain the same.

## **SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

[NAFDAC's global listing for supermarket \(GLS\) items guidelines](#) allows major supermarket operators or importers to import mixed containers of high value products in limited quantities.

- Items allowed are products sold in supermarkets, fast food chains, restaurants, hotels, embassies, and international organizations. Firms participating in the program must have supermarkets that are certified by NAFDAC and are routinely inspected by the agency.
- Already registered items shall not be considered for listing
- Quantity of each item to be imported shall not exceed 2500 cartons per product per year.
- Supermarket operators shall sell the imported items only on retail basis and can only distribute to owned supermarket chain.
- The importation of products banned by the GON shall not be allowed.
- Fortified food items shall not be allowed except they are fortified to the levels prescribed in the regulations.
- Any product labeled in a foreign language (except products imported by diplomatic missions) shall not be considered for listing unless an English translation is included on the label.

[Food Fortification Regulations, 2021](#) applies to all fortified foods, manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, advertised, sold, or used in Nigeria. NAFDAC requires that certain essential food commodities be fortified:

- Wheat and maize flour, vegetable oil and sugar must be fortified with Vitamin A.
- Salt must be fortified with iodine.
- Food represented for use in a very low-energy diet must be fortified with vitamins.
- Simulated meat products, simulated poultry meat products, meat product extenders and poultry product extenders must be fortified with thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, Vitamin B12, iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc, and copper.
- Meal replacements and nutritional supplements must be fortified with vitamins.

- Ready breakfast, instant breakfast and other similar breakfast replacement foods however described must be fortified with Vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin or niacinamide, Vitamin C, and iron.

[Spirits Drink Regulations, 2021](#) apply to all spirits drink as follows:

- A person shall not sell any spirit drink unless the principal display panel of the label carries a declaration of the actual percentage by volume of absolute alcohol it contains.
- Spirits drink shall not contain caffeine and any other substances, which when mixed with it could be injurious to health.
- The name of the spirits drink shall be presented in a manner as to protect the geographical indications and designations of the spirits drink.
- Health claims shall not be made on spirit drinks.

[Wine Regulations, 2021](#) apply to all wines as follows:

- Where sulphites are present in a wine at a level above 10 ppm, it shall require a declaration on the label that it contains sulphites.
- Any wine that contains less than 10 percent absolute alcohol by volume shall have the “Best Before” date declared.
- A clear indication of the country of origin shall be shown on the information panel of a wine.
- The “18+” age restrictions shall be prominently displayed on the product label.
- Wine shall not be flavored, however this shall not exclude traditional production methods.
- Wine may only contain added caramel to adapt color.

For guidelines on the registration of imported animal feeds, please click [here](#).

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

Nigeria does not have any specific law, regulation, or agreement on geographic indications. However, the Trademarks Act of 1965 made provisions for geographic indications upon proof of origin, quality characteristics, or method of manufacture.

Nigeria is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization and a signatory to the Universal Copyright Convention and other major international agreements on intellectual property rights (IPR). Despite active participation in international conventions and an apparent interest in IPR issues, GON efforts are largely ineffectual in curtailing widespread copyright violations.

The Trademarks Registry of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment is responsible for issuing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. Once conferred, a patent conveys the exclusive right to make, import, sell, use a product, or to apply a patented process. IPR is enforced by regulatory bodies such as the Nigerian Customs Service, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Consumer Protection



Council, and the Nigerian Police Force. It can also be enforced through the court system or the trademarks and patent tribunal. However, the expense and time required to pursue a copyright infringement case through the Nigerian judicial system often deters prosecution.

**Copyright:** [Nigerian Copyright Commission](#) established under Section 34 of the Copyright Act (Cap C28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004). The commission is responsible for all matters affecting copyright in Nigeria as provided for in the Act including monitoring, supervising, enforcing as well as advising on Nigeria's positioning in relation to international conventions.

**Trademarks:** The trademarks registry of GON's Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment is responsible for issuing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. Once conferred, a patent conveys the exclusive right to make, import, sell, use a product, or to apply a patented process. The Trademarks Act of 1965 governs the registration of trademarks. Nigeria operates a "first to file" system. It protects the person who is first to register a trademark from any form of infringement as well as offering him the right to prevent anyone else from using identical, confusing or imitated trademark for the same goods or services. The exception is where the use of the unregistered trademark predates the use or registration of the registered trademark.

#### **Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Act, 2021**

The PVP Act is enforced by the National Agricultural Seed Council of Nigeria. The Act protects plant varieties while encouraging investment in plant breeding and crop variety development. The Act also establishes a plant variety protection office for promoting increased staple crop productivity by smallholder farmers. Please click <https://seedcouncil.gov.ng/> for more information.

### **SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES**

Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), under the supervisory oversight of the Federal Ministry of Finance, is responsible for collecting import duties, as well as implementing anti-smuggling activities. U.S. manufacturers and exporters wishing to export their products into Nigeria should be aware of the relevant requirements of the [Nigerian Customs Service](#).

Clearance may require the approval of NAFDAC, SON, NAQS, and other agencies stationed at the ports. Importers may face inordinately long clearance procedures, and high berthing and unloading charges. However, it is hoped that the GON's "[Single Window for Trade](#)" will streamline operations when it becomes fully operational.

The following is a brief outline of steps for the customs clearance process:

- Arrange the necessary documents for import (including import certificates, permits, quotas, waivers, etc.)
- Open Form M on the [Nigerian Trade Platform](#) attaching the required documents such as insurance



certificate, proforma invoice, and the product certificate.

- Submit the listed documents to the authorized dealer bank and the originals of the documents to the processing bank prior to validation.
- The bank validates and processes Form M and sends to NCS.
- Customs issues a pre-arrival assessment report if they accepted the Form M, which is used to clear cargo.

### **Inspection**

Nigeria aborted its pre-shipment inspection policy in favor of a destination inspection (DI) policy for imports. Under this policy, NCS inspects all imports arriving in Nigeria.

- Under the DI scheme, goods destined for Nigeria's ports are inspected at the point of entry rather than at the point of shipment.
- Inspection is conducted by the NCS, while firms, which are destination inspection service providers, provide scanning services.

### **Sample Products**

NAFDAC under certain circumstances and procedures can grant permits for the import of sample food products for trade shows or other not-for-commercial distribution purposes through a written application to the Director General of NAFDAC.

### **Import procedure for cattle and small ruminants**

- To obtain an import permit, written application must be done through a registered veterinarian (with an up-to-date annual practice license) to the Director, Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS), Federal Ministry of Livestock Development. The application should be submitted as hard or soft copy to [livestockcommodityng@gmail.com](mailto:livestockcommodityng@gmail.com).
- Before approval of the application, a health certificate from the competent veterinary authority of the exporting country should be submitted to DVPCS.
- Pay the required inspection fee and fill out an application form.
- Relevant test results of diseases as found in the sanitary aspect of the application form are to be carried out and presented.
- All other relevant documents as applicable to the species (such as certificate of origin) are presented.
- Pre-arrival and post-arrival inspection visit to the destination farm by the staff of DVPCS. Post-arrival inspection is done within one month of arrival for the purpose of animal health and welfare of the imported animals.

### **Import procedure for semen of cattle and small ruminants**

- To obtain an import permit, written application must be done through a registered veterinarian (with an up-to-date annual practice license) to the Director, Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS), Federal Ministry of Livestock Development. The application should be

submitted as hard copy or soft copy to [livestockcommodityng@gmail.com](mailto:livestockcommodityng@gmail.com).

- Before approval of the application, a health certificate issued by the veterinary authority of the exporting country and a certificate of quality analysis of the semen should be submitted to DVPCS.
- The artificial insemination point should be approved and acknowledged with a letter from the state director of veterinary services.
- The semen to be imported should come in approved containers according to World Organization for Animal Health standards.

### **Cross-border Ecommerce**

The Nigerian Communications Commission ([NCC](#)) Act provides for the regulation of ecommerce which includes how to obtain licenses and resolve disputes. It is unlawful to carry on a business (ecommerce inclusive) in Nigeria without registering the company/enterprise with the [Corporate Affairs Commission](#). In addition, it is mandatory under the Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency ([NITDA](#)) Act that all companies or individuals engaging in ecommerce register with NITDA.

## **SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION**

### **Port clearing system:**

Due to burdensome documentation, poor handling, and inconsistent application of policies by GON agencies, importers typically hire clearing agents who are experts in port operations. These agents have developed unique working relationships with port officials to get goods cleared.

### **Single window portal:**

Nigeria's Single Window Portal is a trade facilitation project of 12 GON agencies involved in the customs clearance process. It is not yet operational.

- The single window portal allows traders to access customs regulations online, submit customs documents electronically, track transaction status online, and submit electronic payments.

### **Pre-arrival assessment report (PAAR) system:**

The NCS uses the PAAR system, which allows importers to submit their import documents online for assessment and clearance prior to the arrival of the cargo.

- In 2013, PAAR replaced the risk assessment report system with the objective of facilitating trade and revenue collection.
- The NCS is also working with the World Customs Organization to grant authorized economic operator status to importers and clearing agents who have maintained a satisfactory level of trade compliance.
- Additionally, the NCS maintains a fast-track window through which select importers may forward their products directly to warehouses where customs procedures such as examination and payments are undertaken.
- Importers selected as beneficiaries of the fast-track scheme are those who have consistently

exhibited integrity in their documentation and dealings with NCS.

## **Documentation**

To receive clearance for goods imported into Nigeria, importers must present a bill of lading, commercial invoice exit note, completed Form M, packing list, single goods declaration, and a product certificate.

Until recently, the importer was also required to submit a combined certificate of value & origin (CCVO), which contains a description of the goods, destination port, country of origin, date of shipment, country of supply, etc. However, in line with international trading procedures and recommendations from stakeholders, the Central Bank of Nigeria reviewed its trade transactions guidelines and replaced the CCVO with the simpler certificate of origin in April 2017. The revision also prescribes a 48-hour maximum processing time from the receipt of application. Any person intending to import physical goods into Nigeria “shall” in the first instance process Form M through any authorized dealer bank irrespective of the value and whether payment is involved or not.

Refer to: <https://trade.gov.ng/en/custom-pages/guidelines-and-procedures> for customs related guidelines and procedures [Note: As of March 2025, hyperlinks to these guidelines and procedures were deactivated].

## **Duty**

The amount of customs duties and taxes payable is based on the CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) valuation method comprising:

- The cost of the imported goods
- The cost of freight
- The insurance cost. Additionally, some commodities also have sales and other forms of taxes.

## **Customs duty payments procedures**

All imports “shall” continue to be assessed for duty at the CIF value using the rate of exchange on the approved Form M.

- It “shall” be the responsibility of the importer’s bank through which the Form M was processed to collect the assessed import duty if it is a designated bank.
- For transactions in respect of dutiable personal effects, payment of duty can be made at any designated bank.
- The designated bank will match the printed assessment notice with the electronically received assessment notice for the single goods declaration (SGD). If the information tallies, the bank will receive payments and issue a signed bank receipt.
- The designated bank “shall” send an e-confirmation message to NCS acknowledging receipt of duty and taxes in respect of the SGD.
- All payments “shall” continue to be transferred electronically daily by designated banks to the

respective pool accounts with the Central Bank of Nigeria.

- Importer “shall” continue to pay an administrative charge of 1% of FOB value of all imports based on the exchange rate on the approved Form M.

### **ECOWAS common external tariff**

In January 2006, Nigeria began partial implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff. The GON reduced its tariff bands from twenty to five.

The five tariff bands are:

- I. A zero duty on capital goods, machinery, and medicines such as anti-retroviral drugs and other medicines not produced in the country.
- II. 5 percent duty on imported raw materials.
- III. 10 percent duty on intermediate goods.
- IV. 20 percent duty on finished goods; and,
- V. 50 percent duty on goods in industries that the GON wants to protect.

### **Customs taxes, surcharges, and levies:**

The GON collects additional levies on some imports. Duties and levies by harmonized system (HS) codes can be found on [Nigeria’s Customs Service website](#). All high value product imports are assessed a 7.5 percent value added tax. A port surcharge equivalent to 7 percent of the duty amount and a customs inspection service charge equal to 1 percent of the duty amount is charged for all import products. The GON frequently reviews its list of [items prohibited during import](#). Exporters to Nigeria should ascertain the import status of their products before shipment. **Import levies, surcharges, and taxes are subject to frequent change and are not always well documented.**

### **WTO Notifications**

Nigeria’s notification to the WTO committee on trade facilitation - under Article 22.3 of the agreement on trade facilitation are as follows:

In November 2022, Nigeria notified [G/TFA/N/NGA/2](#) to the WTO committee on trade facilitation – providing contact points details about the offices responsible for coordinating and prioritizing trade facilitation-related assistance and support for capacity building. The notification is in response to Article 22.3 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

In addition, Nigeria also notified [G/TFA/N/NGA/3](#) which references the official websites for the following:

- Procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents.
- Applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation.

- Fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with imports, exports, or transit.
- Rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes.
- Laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin.
- Import, export, or transit restrictions or prohibitions.
- Penalty provisions for breaches of import, export, or transit formalities.
- Procedures for appeal or review.
- Agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation, or transit; and
- Procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.

## **APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS**

### **A. PROCESSED PRODUCTS**

#### **Prof. Moji Christianah Adeyeye**

Director-General, NAFDAC

Plot 2032, Olusegun Obasanjo Way Zone 7, Wuse, Abuja, Nigeria

Mobile: +234 9060007693

[cm.adeyeye@nafdac.gov.ng](mailto:cm.adeyeye@nafdac.gov.ng)

#### **Fagboy T. Kayode**

Director, Food Registration and Regulatory Affairs

NAFDAC office complex, Lagos

[Fagboy.kayode@nafdac.gov.ng](mailto:Fagboy.kayode@nafdac.gov.ng)

### **B. STANDARDS, CODEX, LABELLING, AND PACKAGING**

#### **Dr. Ifeanyi Okeke**

Director-General, Standards Organization of Nigeria

52, Lome Crescent, Wuse Zone 7, Abuja, Nigeria

Mobile: +234 8002255766; +234 7056990099

[info@son.gov.ng](mailto:info@son.gov.ng)

#### **Mohammed Yunusa**

Head, Codex Entry Point, Standards Organization of Nigeria

[codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng](mailto:codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng)

## **C. LIVESTOCKS, GENETICS & HONEY**

### **Dr. Musa Mohammed Inuwa**

Chief Veterinary Officer, Federal Ministry of Livestock Development Abuja, Nigeria

[minuwanldp@gmail.com](mailto:minuwanldp@gmail.com)

### **Dr Nurallah Abubakar**

Director, Commodity Certification/Trade Standards & Measures, Dept. of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, Abuja, Nigeria

[drnurallah10@gmail.com](mailto:drnurallah10@gmail.com)

## **D. PLANTS, PRODUCE, AND COMMODITIES**

### **Dr. Vincent Isegbe**

Executive Director, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS)

18, Ralph Shodeinde Street; Central Business District Abuja, Nigeria

Mobile: +234 8093540848

[contact@naqs.gov.ng](mailto:contact@naqs.gov.ng)

## **E. SEEDS**

### **Dr. Ishiak Othman Khalid**

Acting Director General, National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), Km 29, Abuja-Lokoja

Expressway, Sheda, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria

Mobile: +234 8113887697

[info@seedcouncil.gov.ng](mailto:info@seedcouncil.gov.ng)

## **F. WTO, SPS, AND TRADE RELATED ISSUES**

**Rilwan Tukur Mohammed**, Director of Trade, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment Old Federal Secretariat, Garki Area 1, Abuja, Nigeria

[tukurilwanu@gmail.com](mailto:tukurilwanu@gmail.com)

## **G. AQUACULTURE, FISH, AND FISHERY PRODUCTS**

**Mr. Wellington Omoragbon**, Director of Fisheries, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, FCDA Complex, Area II, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

[wellington\\_omoragbon@yahoo.com](mailto:wellington_omoragbon@yahoo.com)

## **H. BIOTECH/GMO PRODUCTS**

**Dr. Agnes Asagbra**, Director General, National Biosafety Management Agency, National Parks  
Service premises along Airport Road; Abuja, Nigeria

**Mobile:** +234 8082254683

[nbma@nbma.gov.ng](mailto:nbma@nbma.gov.ng)

## **I. COMMERCIAL LAW DEPARTMENT, TRADEMARKS, PATENTS, AND DESIGNS**

Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, No. 5, Ndola Crescent, Zone 5, Wuse-Abuja,  
Nigeria

**Mobile:** +234 8092194426; +234 8092194416

[info@iponigeria.com](mailto:info@iponigeria.com)

## **J. NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION**

Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase I, Annex II, Ground Floor, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama District,  
P. M. B. 406 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

**Mobile:** +234 9019001400

[admin@copyright.gov.ng](mailto:admin@copyright.gov.ng)

## **K. NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**

Abidjan Street, Wuse, P.M.B. 26, Zone 3, Abuja, Nigeria

[info@customs.gov.ng](mailto:info@customs.gov.ng)

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments