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**Prepared By:** Miguel Herrera

**Approved By:** Marcela Rondon

**Report Highlights:**

Since August 7, 2024, the Superintendence for Sanitary Regulation has been responsible for food and beverage product registration in El Salvador. The Consumer Protection Law is enforced by the Consumer Protection Agency (DDC). Food safety norms are becoming stricter, sometimes leading to the creation of non-tariff barriers.

**“This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in San Salvador, El Salvador, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in preparing 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 unavailable. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.”**

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## Executive Summary

El Salvador is a small but growing market for U.S. agricultural products. In 2023, the country imported \$799 million of U.S. agricultural and related products, of which consumer-oriented products reached a record \$299.1 million. El Salvador is a signatory of the CAFTA-DR free trade agreement since 2006, and most U.S. products enjoy duty-free access.

Food safety in El Salvador is regulated by the recently created Sanitary Regulation Superintendency (SRS). Product registration is required to commercialize food and beverage products in this market. Besides dealing with burdensome regulations, importers also face delays and sometimes discretionary barriers from Customs officials. However, the government administration that took office in June 2024 has been working on trade facilitation by reducing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and expediting import procedures.

The Government of El Salvador's (GOES) entity in charge of consumer protection is the Salvadoran Consumer Protection Agency (DDC). The DDC carries out random testing in supermarkets and open-air markets to make sure products are within their expiration dates to avoid human health hazards.

Due to El Salvador's membership to the Central American Customs Union, most of the food and beverage technical regulations are based on regional agreements that outline the norms that are applied in each market in the Central American region.

### Section I. Food Laws:

El Salvador does not have a specific food law for imported food. Instead, the Salvadoran Health Code enforces food safety for all food products. Since August 7, 2024, the Superintendence of Sanitary Regulation (SRS) has been responsible for all registrations and authorizations to import, manufacture, and sell food and beverages and materials used in production.

According to the Government of El Salvador, SRS is a new entity in the country that regulates and oversees the commercialization of products for human and veterinary use, replacing the National Medicine Directorate and some divisions previously under the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. Its responsibilities include regulating the quality, safety, and efficacy of products; granting sanitary registrations, marketing authorizations, and import and export permits; monitoring products; and authorizing and determining medicine prices. More information can be found at the following web site: <https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/taxonomy/term/2711> (Spanish).

Section 12, Article 88 of the Salvadoran Health Code (Legal framework Public Health Council - [Marco Legal | CSSP \(Spanish\)](#), referenced link in Spanish) relates to food imports. It states that importing any food or beverages must be authorized by a Certificate of Free Sale and Consumption issued by the competent health authority in the country of origin. Each certificate must include the name of the product and its components.

The Government of El Salvador (GOES) lacks an overarching food safety and enforcement system, mainly due to a lack of resources. The Ministry of Economy, through the DDC, enforces the Consumer

Protection Law. The National Assembly has ratified an updated version of the law that designates DDC as the sole entity safeguarding consumers from unsafe products.

Most food products are inspected by SRS and the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) for safety at the port of entry. In addition, SRS and DDC are the government institutions in charge of random testing at the retail and wholesale levels to ensure that products comply with all required health and quality standards. Nevertheless, many products reach their final destinations without an inspection due to lack of human resources and appropriate infrastructure to control illegal distribution channels. This is most common in open-air markets.

The trend in food safety in El Salvador is toward adopting improved control measures, more efficient regulations, and using Codex Alimentarius norms. In the meantime, Central American norms will be used until the Codex norms are fully revised and adopted.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements:**

Based on the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) 67.01.02:10 (<http://www.sieca.int/index.php> (Spanish), referenced link in Spanish), SRS requires the following labeling information for all pre-packaged food products sold in El Salvador:

1. The label should express the nature of the product, composition, quality, origin, and general processing method.
2. Name of the product: Must be the specific name.
3. Net Content: Must be expressed in decimal metric system units.
4. Ingredients: They must be listed with their proper names, in decreasing order, according to their importance in the product's composition. It is not necessary to identify the percentage of each ingredient.
5. Additives: Must be mentioned by the group it belongs to (for example, antioxidant), followed by its specific name and its concentration in the final product.
6. Lot identification and manufacturing date: A code can be used to identify the lot, which must be provided and clarified to the health authorities. Six digits must be used in DD/MM/YY format to determine the manufacturing date.
7. Product storage instructions.
8. Manufacturer's name: The label must include the manufacturer, importer, dealer, distributor, or legal representative of the product and their respective addresses.
9. Sanitary Registry: The label must indicate the sanitary registration number (Reg. No. D.G.S. El Salvador) issued by SRS. The registration number is provided to the importer by SRS during the product registration process.
10. Country of Origin.
11. The product must contain the name and address of the supplier in El Salvador on a sticker, which is usually provided by the supplier or distributor.

The Salvadoran Body for Technical Regulations (OSARTEC) is working on labeling regulations based on Codex. Food products with U.S. labels continue to be seen throughout the distribution

chain. However, GOES requires a sticker in Spanish that includes a list of ingredients, manufacturing method, and expiration date until the use of Spanish-English labels is fully implemented.

SRS and the Consumer Protection Agency of the Ministry of Economy enforce local labeling regulations. All products should be labeled appropriately before distribution for human consumption.

Sample-size product labeling requirements are identical to those listed above. However, local authorities are lenient with this product type due to the small quantities imported. Bulk-packed or institutional-sized products are required to display the contents and ingredients outside the container or on individual items.

Some locally produced products at the retail level have nutrition facts in English to comply with U.S. regulations due to expectations of exporting to the U.S. market under the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). The current GOES administration continues holding discussions with the private sector to decide on the use of Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) on Front-of-Package labeling. USDA and the Department of Commerce continue providing guidance and assistance so that a technically sound decision does not affect consumer perception.

The only requirement for the shelf life of a product is the expiration and manufacturing date.

A Country-of-Origin certificate is required for all products imported to El Salvador.

Universal Product Code (UPC) and EAN bar codes are acceptable in El Salvador. Barcoding has become an important instrument in the food business. All local supermarket chains require that products sold throughout their stores be coded.

When alcoholic beverages are imported, the label must read: "The excessive consumption of this product is harmful and creates addiction. Sales to consumers under the age of 18 are prohibited". This is based upon Article 26 of the Regulatory Law for the Provision and Commercialization of Alcohol and Beverages. In the case of tequila, the following is also required: production area, alcohol grade, and manufacturing process.

### **Other Specific Labeling requirement(s)**

SRS does not require nutritional labeling in El Salvador and is only guided by the Central American Technical Regulations on Nutritional Labeling ([RTCA 67.01.60:23](#) Spanish). Organic, halal, and kosher labeling is not required in the country, and all health claims must be supported with appropriate documentation. All plant-based meat and dairy alternatives must display these distinctions on their product label.

### **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:**

Currently, there are no special packaging or container size requirements. However, due to purchasing power constraints, consumers prefer smaller packages at the retail level. This is especially true at the open market and small retail stores. Wholesale outlets offer food service-size packaging.

## Packaging Sustainability Measures

Not Applicable

### Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

SRS allows food additives based on Central American Technical Regulations RTCA 67.04.54:18 <https://osartec.gob.sv/servicios/inventario-rtca> (Spanish), Codex Alimentarius, and on certain occasions, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Importers must register at the Ministry of Health online system to be able to register food additives <https://tramites.salud.gob.sv/registro/index> (Spanish). A positive additive list can be found at [sica192368anx.pdf](#) (Spanish).

### Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

The Ministry of Agriculture's (MAG) Input Inspection and Registration Division is responsible for enforcing all regulations regarding pesticides and their use. No pesticide can be manufactured, formulated, imported, or distributed by law in El Salvador if it hasn't been properly registered at MAG's Input Inspection and Registration Division <https://www.mag.gob.sv/servicios/registro-y-fiscalizacion/> (Spanish).

Currently, there is no list of maximum residue levels. Maximum tolerances for most pesticides based on Codex tolerances are considered only for registration purposes. GOES has created a commission for Codex Alimentarius matters.

In El Salvador, pesticides are regulated by:

- Law for pesticide, fertilizer, and agricultural products control. Legislative Decree # 315, 04/28/73: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/fr/c/LEX-FAOC105134> (Spanish)
- Regulation for the application of pesticide control law. Executive Decree # 28, 05/21/80: <https://leap.unep.org/countries/sv/national-legislation/decreto-no-28-reglamento-de-la-ley-sobre-control-de-pesticidas> (Spanish)

In addition, the following accords, norms, and international agreements are taken into consideration for pesticide registration and control:

- International Code of Conduct for the distribution and use of pesticides of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [Annotated\\_Guidelines2013.pdf](#) (Spanish).
- Regional agreements for harmonizing pesticide labeling and required procedures for registration and taxes [i5008e.pdf](#) (Spanish).
- FAO specifications for pesticide quality control. Tolerance (MRLs) specified in the Codex Alimentarius <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/thematic-areas/pesticides/en/> (Spanish).

To register a pesticide, the following information must be specified:

- Scientific and commercial name of the product, quantitative and qualitative formula, structural chemistry, and other necessary information for its complete identification.
- Name and address of the person or company that manufactures, imports, or distributes the product.
- Certificate of origin and confirmation of free sale in the country of origin.

## **Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures:**

Most products are subject to lab tests when undergoing routine controls and when the product is registered. GOES requires importers to be registered with SRS. Importers must also register each product to be imported with SRS to ensure the product is fit for human consumption. A registered product undergoes physical, chemical, microbiological, and other related tests to determine that it meets minimum health and sanitary standards. Registration of a product, once granted, is valid for five years. SRS has an online import permit mechanism linked to customs to expedite food import procedures <https://portalenlinea.srs.gob.sv> (Spanish).

SRS enforces product registration and only allows imported food products into the country when doing so. Product registration costs US\$35 per product, plus a microbiological analysis that ranges from US\$50 to US\$100 per product. Sample products must also be registered through a single-window import/export mechanism (CIEX). Once registered, importers must request a sample importation permit from SRS, for which they must present a no-value invoice. It is also recommended that importers present an FDA sanitary certificate. For solids, the maximum quantity that can be imported as samples is 25 kilograms, and for liquids, 25 liters. The local postal system is not used to send product samples to El Salvador; courier services are used instead. Product registration takes approximately two to three weeks.

According to health authorities in El Salvador, the following information is required for an exporter to register a product:

- Access the SRS registration website at <https://portalenlinea.srs.gob.sv/register> (Spanish), and once registered include the following information:
  1. Petitioner's name and address.
  2. Description of the product.
  3. Name, address, and telephone number of the establishment or factory where the product is manufactured.
  4. Product use.
  5. Name, address, and telephone of the supplier in El Salvador.
  6. Type of packaging material.
  7. Net content.
  8. Commercial brand name.

This application must be filed with the following documents:

- Power of attorney granted in favor of the Salvadoran attorney or the company representative in the country, duly notarized at the nearest Consulate of El Salvador in the United States or by Apostille.
- An original Certificate of Free Sale issued by the official Health Authorities of the country of origin and apostille. If the Certificate is in English, it must be translated into Spanish by the importer and duly notarized by a Salvadoran lawyer. If the Certificate is used for a list of various products, the original will be attached to one of the product files, and the others will use a photocopy. A functioning license of the local warehouse where the product will be stored is required. Usually, the local distributor obtains this license.
- Label of the product, which shall specify the product's name, list of ingredients, name of manufacturer, importer or distributor, and the expiration date. If necessary, usage instructions are required. A label for each presentation is required if the same product is commercialized in various sizes.
- Product samples: SRS requires three samples weighing 200 grams each for solid products, three samples weighing 200 milliliters for liquid products, and two samples weighing 200 milliliters each for alcoholic beverages. For bottled water, 3.785 liters (one gallon) for physical-chemical analysis and 1 sample of 500 milliliters for microbiological analysis are required.

Certificates of Free Sale are required for imported products. A Certificate of Free Sale, ideally, is a certificate from an official public health agency stating that the product to be imported meets all health and sanitary requirements of that agency and is freely sold and consumed in the country of origin. The certificate can include multiple products and is valid for one year. The certificate must be in Spanish or be accompanied by a copy of an official translation that the importer can provide. For U.S. products, SRS will accept the Certificate of Free Sale issued by an official U.S. government institution, including local and state government agencies, and the FDA's Certificate to a Foreign Government. In addition, FAS/USDA has negotiated with GOES the acceptance of the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) 9060-5 certificate for meat and meat products in place of the Certificate of Free Sale. USDA continues to work with GOES to accept official U.S. export certificates and end the Certificate of Free Sale requirement for U.S. food and beverage products. These discussions also include reducing the number and quantity of samples required for product registration and using private labs for product analysis. The GOES has accepted private labs during local holidays and accepts official U.S. export certificates for low-risk processed products to expedite product registration.

Food groups such as baby food, diet foods, and health foods undergo the same required regulations as other food products. In the case of meat (beef, pork, poultry, lamb, veal), sanitary regulations are required. These regulations are enforced by MAG's Livestock Division (DGG) through the Law for Sanitary Inspection of Meat Executive Decree # 39, 07/13/71 (Legal framework Public Health Council - <http://cssp.gob.sv/marco-legal>, referenced link in Spanish). Meat and meat products can be imported from any country whose meat inspection system is equivalent to the one established and maintained in El Salvador. MAG officials determine the equivalence through official inspection system audits. Each shipment that contains meat and meat products from a foreign country must include an official certificate of meat inspection from the country of origin in Spanish.



In addition, to obtain the import permit, meat-processing plants must be inspected and certified by a DGG inspector, and the importer must present a lab analysis for pesticide residue and heavy metals. Under CAFTA-DR, El Salvador granted equivalence to the U.S. inspection system for beef, pork, poultry, and dairy products and no longer requires plant-by-plant inspections. In recent negotiations among FAS and MAG, El Salvador has also expanded equivalence to include U.S. lamb and veal. In addition, MAG has also accepted the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) certificate for food products containing small amounts of eggs. FAS and AMS have also agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture on a protocol for U.S. table eggs.

FAS/San Salvador and APHIS negotiated with the Ministry of Agriculture a new protocol for pet foods that reflects the current U.S. status as a negligible risk country for these products granted by the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). Beef import regulations, including bone-in beef, align with OIE specifications for U.S. negligible risk status. Dairy products must contain a microbiological lab analysis. There are no special packaging or container size requirements in El Salvador.

### **Updates to the Central American Technical Regulation for Food Products – [RTCA 67.01.31:20](#)** (Spanish)

The updated food product registration for the Central American Technical Regulation entered into force on August 5, 2024, after resolution 483-2023 of the Central American Ministries of Economy Committee (COMIECO). The most significant updates to the regulation include the following:

- Post-registry modifications and amendments to the registration are approved during the 5-year registration period without the need to submit a new registration.
- Registration renovation follows the original registration procedure.
- Semi-processed or processed food that will undergo further transformation, but not necessarily cooking, may require registration to expedite import authorization. Ministries of Health are creating a list of those products that must be registered if intended for final consumption as part of other end-products (for example, cheese in ready-to-eat pizza).
- Creation of the “authorized importer” legal figure. In the previous regulation, a registration was subject to a “sanitary enrollment,” under which the interested distributor had to request an extension of the registry number to the owner of the original registration for commercialization interests. Under the new regulation, the registry owner can include a list of authorized importers in the registration form, which allows other distributors to import the product directly under the existing registration. New distributors not included in the original registration form may be included as part of the post-modification form.
- In addition to a company's legal representative, the " requester " figure has been added to the registration form. The requester needs to have a letter from the legal representative, allowing the appointed requester to manage any further documentation and processes with the Ministry of Health or Sanitary Regulatory Institution (SRS in the case of El Salvador), eliminating the need to have the legal representative signing and submitting all forms.
- In some Central American countries, freezing is considered a technological process that demands the registration of frozen, unprocessed food, but this is not the case in El Salvador. Frozen,

unprocessed food does not need to be registered in El Salvador unless it has been subject to additional processing, such as ingredient or additive addition.

- Although the new regulation allows for manufacturing by third parties, El Salvador does not consider “maquila” an ownership figure; therefore, the brand owner continues to be the sole requester for registration purposes.

## Section VII. Other Specific Standards/Laws:

For GOES requirements on biotech products, please see Agricultural Biotechnology report ES2023-0008 in the FAS reports website [GAIN \(usda.gov\)](https://gains.usda.gov/).

The following table provides the names of the law/legislation and regulatory agencies that affect certain regulations for the importation of food products to the local market:

Regulations	Regulatory Agency	Law/Legislation
Weight & Measures	Ministry of Economy	Consumer Protection Law <a href="#">Ley de Proteccion al Consumidor - L-776 (2).pdf</a> (Spanish)
Food Sanitation	SRS	Health Code <a href="#">codigo de salud.pdf</a> (Spanish)
Animal Quarantine	DGG	Law for Agricultural Sanitation
Marine Products	SRS	Health Code <a href="#">codigo de salud.pdf</a> (Spanish)
Meat & Meat Products	SRS	Law for Inspection of Meat Sanitation <a href="#">ley-sanitaria-carne.pdf</a> (Spanish)
Wine & Alcoholic Beverages	SRS/Ministry of Economy	Health Code <a href="#">codigo de salud.pdf</a> (Spanish)
Organic Foods & Health Foods	SRS	Health Code <a href="#">codigo de salud.pdf</a> (Spanish)

## Vitamin-enrichment requirements; Dietetic or Special Use Foods; Halal / Kosher; Food Sanitation Laws/Guidelines; Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives; Biotechnology

El Salvador requires that all sugar sold in the local market be enriched with Vitamin A. Wheat flour must also be enriched with iron, niacin, vitamin B-1, vitamin B-2, and folic acid. Table salt must also include iodine.

## **Section VIII. Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights:**

The Law of Trademarks and Other Distinctive Signs, approved in 2002, brings El Salvador closer to compliance with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The law reinforces established regulations for acquiring, registering, and protecting trademarks, logos, statements, distinctive advertising signs, and geographical indications. The law also makes it more difficult to register a trademark already in use outside El Salvador—particularly well-known marks—by requiring the person attempting to register the trademark to show that s/he is authorized. El Salvador has also joined the Paris and Berne conventions; both became effective in February 1994. Additionally, El Salvador is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a signatory to the agreement on TRIPS.

To comply with CAFTA-DR obligations, El Salvador approved a series of reforms to intellectual property laws. The concept of trademarks was expanded to include trademarks of goods and services, collective and certification trademarks, and geographical indications that are eligible for protection as trademarks. The law now provides rules on domain name management that require a dispute resolution procedure to prevent trademark cyber-piracy. The law provides broad protection of copyright and related rights. For instance, each party must provide copyright protection for the author's life plus 70 years, or 70 years, for corporate works. It clarifies that the right to reproduce literary and artistic works, recordings, and performances encompasses temporary copies, an important principle in the digital realm. It also calls for each party to provide a right of communication to the public, which will further ensure that copyright holders have the exclusivity to make their works available online and specifically protect the rights of performers and producers of phonograms.

Individuals can acquire exclusive trademark rights by registering a branded product with the National Registry Center (CNR). Trademark registrations are granted for ten years and can be renewed indefinitely for similar periods. It is mandatory to record assignments, change the name and address of the registrant, and use licenses affecting trademarks registered in El Salvador.

El Salvador's legal system provides a series of effective actions to combat any illegal procedures regarding trademarks. CAFTA-DR provides that law enforcement agencies must be able to seize suspected pirated and counterfeit goods, the equipment used to make or transmit them, and documentary evidence. The courts also have authority to order such items' forfeiture and destruction. Enforcement actions could also be taken without waiting for a formal complaint. Besides determining damages, the parties should consider the value of the legitimate goods and the infringer's profits. El Salvador now applies criminal penalties against counterfeiting and piracy, including end-user piracy.

The following information is required to register a trademark or brand name  
[https://www.wipo.int/directory/es/contact.jsp?country\\_code=SV&type=ADMIN](https://www.wipo.int/directory/es/contact.jsp?country_code=SV&type=ADMIN) (Spanish):

- Name of product manufacturer.
- Address.
- List of products that are manufactured under each specific brand.

- Brand logo.
- Power of attorney legally notarized by the nearest Salvadoran Consulate.
- Registration certificate from the country of origin legally notarized by the nearest Salvadoran Consulate.
- Once a power of attorney has been duly registered at the Salvadoran Product Registration Office, a sworn declaration of adoption for each registered brand is also requested.

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama have a Customs Union Treaty. Under this treaty, any local food or beverage product having sanitary registration in any one of the signatory countries will be valid in the rest. This does not apply to U.S. products.

El Salvador has been a signatory country of the 1996 WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty since 2002. Under CAFTA-DR obligations, El Salvador joined the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganism for Patent Procedure.

Geographical Indications (GI) are protected under Legislative Decree 868 [Ley de Marcas y Otros Signos Distintivos.pdf \(Eregulations.Org\)](#), (Spanish). GIs must be registered at the National Registration Center (CNR) at [eCNR - Servicios en Línea](#) (Spanish).

### **Section IX. Import Procedures:**

Usually, when clearing a product through customs, a customs inspector, a customs officer, and an SRS inspector are involved in the process. English is the commercial language used for importing documents. It takes three to five days to clear a product through customs. Most importers use a customs agent to expedite the clearance procedures. Currently, there is no appeals system in place for disputed product rejections.

The steps in custom clearance for prepackaged foodstuff are:

- Request Import Permit from SRS.
- Once SRS has granted the import permit, the importer must take the sanitary registration, packing list, bill of lading, insurance policy, airway bill, shipping information, and product invoices to the Revenue Department at the Ministry of Finance to retrieve the policy for payment of the import tariff.
- Customs and the Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA-Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria) must clear the import policy.
- The Customs officer conducts a product inspection.
- Once the customs officer has cleared the product, the importer can withdraw it.

MAG has an online system called the Agricultural Food Safety Information System (SISA) to process import permits for dairy, meat (beef, pork, poultry, lamb, veal), and fresh produce. Importers can access this system with an authorized PIN and no longer must visit MAG offices to request import permits. With assistance from the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Fomilenio II program, MAG has

updated and streamlined import procedures for agricultural products. This system can be accessed at MAG's website, [www.mag.gob.sv](http://www.mag.gob.sv) (Spanish).

SRS also has an online system for requesting import permits for food products. This system can be accessed at <https://sisam.srs.gob.sv/admin/login> (the link is in Spanish). This website also provides information about costs for different services, such as import permits and product registrations.

The GOES has a one-stop mechanism called "CIEX" (Import/Export Process Center) located at the Central Bank. This single window mechanism was developed to expedite the import/export procedure. To use the mechanism, the first step is for the importer to register at the Imports System (SIMP) at [www.ciexelsalvador.com](http://www.ciexelsalvador.com) (Spanish). Step two is for the importer to make a monetary deposit at the CIEX window located in the Salvadoran Central Bank, which will be deducted from every time an import authorization is approved for each import made. Authorization time at the CIEX window is approximately 30 minutes.

## **Section X. Trade Facilitation:**

El Salvador accepted the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on July 4, 2016, by adhering to the WTO's requested proposal to adopt the Amendment Protocol to insert the agreement into Annex 1 of the WTO Agreement. However, the contract was not enforced until February 22, 2017.

In July 2019, the public and private sectors re-launched the National Trade Facilitation Committee which had been inactive since mid-2017. This committee provides a forum for dialogue for both sectors to promote initiatives to streamline the movement of merchandise in El Salvador. The private sector is represented at the Committee by a multi-sectoral Commission called CIFACIL, representing most trade associations in the country, including the American Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the major areas that this Committee is focusing on are a proposal for a new General Customs Law, import permit duplication, improvement to technological platforms throughout government agencies dealing with trade, and reduction of bureaucracy.

Advance rulings are not allowed currently. However, as part of a modernization plan, customs is working on early alerts, strengthening risk management, and upgrading its technological platform. Additionally, there are no pre-clearance programs in place.

SRS accepts the FDA's new "Certificate to a Foreign Government" instead of the CFS. The FDA certificates are valid for two years from date of issuance. Please visit [Online Applications for Export Certificates for Food to apply for FDA export certificates.](#)

El Salvador does not use the Global e-Phyto Hub. However, USDA's project Agricultural Trade and Climate Smart Innovations (ATraCSI) assists GOES in creating a certification platform to utilize this trade facilitation system.

Port fees vary according to the product; however, this cost is usually absorbed by the importer and paid by officially approved customs agents. Product release times depend on the selection process (stop light: green, yellow, and red) at Customs. Typically, delays occur due to duplicate inspections, excessive

paperwork, the focus on tax collection, which slows the import process, and discretionary behavior on the part of Customs officials.

#### **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts:**

- Agency: Superintendencia de Regulación Sanitaria (Superintendence for Sanitary Regulation)  
Contact: Sulay Mejia, Head of Cooperation and Strategic Alliances Division  
Address: Boulevard Merliot y Avenida Jayaque, Urbanización Jardines del Volcán, Santa Tecla  
Phone: (503) 2507-0129  
e-mail: [sulay.mejia@srs.gob.sv](mailto:sulay.mejia@srs.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: Processed foods, dairy, seafood
- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)  
Dirección de Ganadería (Livestock Division)  
Contact: Marlon Reyes, director  
Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador  
Phone: (503) 2210-1764/63  
e-mail: [marlon.reyes@mag.gob.sv](mailto:marlon.reyes@mag.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats
- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)  
Division de Inocuidad de Alimentos (Food Safety Division)  
Contact: Roberto Perdomo  
Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador  
Phone: (503) 2210-1941  
e-mail: [roberto.perdomo@mag.gob.sv](mailto:roberto.perdomo@mag.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats
- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)  
Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal (Plant Health Division)  
Contact: Luis Fernando Perez  
Address: Final 1 Avenida Norte, Santa Tecla,  
La Libertad, El Salvador.  
Phone: (503) 2210-1700  
e-mail: [luis.perez@mag.gob.sv](mailto:luis.perez@mag.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: Fresh produce and ornamental plants
- Agency: Ministerio de Economía (Ministry of Economy)  
Defensoría del Consumidor (DDC-Consumer Protection Agency)  
Contact: Ricardo Salazar  
Address: Calle Circunvalación # 20, Plan de la Laguna, Antiguo Cuscatlán  
Phone: (503) 2526-9000  
e-mail: [atencionalconsumidor@defensoria.gob.sv](mailto:atencionalconsumidor@defensoria.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: All food and beverage products

- Agency: OIRSA-Organismo Internacional Regional para Sanidad Agropecuaria (Regional Organization for Agricultural Health)  
Contact: Alex Hasbun  
Address: Final 1a. Avenida Norte y Avenida Manuel Gallardo, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador  
Phone: (503) 2510-3500  
e-mail: [oirsa.sv@oirsa.org](mailto:oirsa.sv@oirsa.org)  
Product regulated: Does not apply
- Agency: Salvadoran Body for Technical Regulations (OSARTEC- Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica)  
Contact: Raquel Martínez  
Address: 1ra Calle Poniente, Final 41 Avenida Norte, # 18, Colonia Flor Blanca, San Salvador, El Salvador.  
Phone: (503) 2590-5313  
e-mail: [rmartinez@osartec.gob.sv](mailto:rmartinez@osartec.gob.sv)  
Product regulated: All food and beverage products, infant formula

#### **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:**

- Company: MUDISA  
Contact: Vilma Galvez  
Address: Calle Chaparrastique #34, Zona Industrial Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad.  
Phone: (503) 2210-3200  
e-mail: [mudisa@mudisa.com.sv](mailto:mudisa@mudisa.com.sv)

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments