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### **Report Highlights:**

In 2023, Taiwan was the seventh largest export market for U.S. agricultural and related products, valued at over \$3.7 billion. Imported food and agricultural products must comply with a range of laws designed to protect human health and prevent the introduction of animal and plant pests or diseases. This report gives an overview of Taiwan's import requirements for food and agricultural products. While this report strives to be as comprehensive as possible, regulations and requirements can frequently change. U.S. exporters are therefore encouraged to work closely with their Taiwan importers to ensure they are aware of and complying with all current Taiwan regulations and requirements.

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## Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Agricultural Section of the American Institute in Taiwan 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

In 2024, Taiwan implemented several new rules and terminated a temporary measure related to the importation of agricultural products.

The [Guideline for Determining False, Exaggerated or Misleading Claims in Labels, Promotion Activities and Advertisement for Pet Food](#) (in Chinese) took effect on July 1, 2024. It puts out examples of generally accepted and unaccepted phrases, the latter often associates with indications of medical effect, or physiological or functional changes on appearance, body structure, organs and/or tissues. The pet food industry is encouraged to examine the labels and marketing activities to ensure compliance.

Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) published two batches of updates on maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides on March 29, 2024, and November 18, 2024. The March update added 101 values for 22 pesticides on various plant products, the November update added 135 values for 21 pesticides on various plant products, and 51 values for 11 pesticides in animal products. Pesticide residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Foods](#) and [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#).

The revision of the [Sanitary Standards of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) took effect on July 1, 2024, to tighten the control over lead and cadmium contamination in selective food categories. This regulation puts out the standards for agricultural commodities, foods, and beverages based on international standards and comments from local industry and experts, and TFDA amends these standards from time to time.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency (APHIA) terminated the temporary measure for eggs and egg products on July 1, 2024. APHIA revised its quarantine requirement to curtail disease-zone restrictions for imported eggs and egg products on March 14, 2023, U.S. eggs and egg products that were sourced from a farm with no outbreak of poultry diseases for at least 28 days before export were permitted to ship until June 30, 2024. After termination, the regular quarantine requirement applies.

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## Section I. Food Laws

In February 2014, Taiwan's Food Sanitation Act was renamed the [Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#), or the Food Safety and Sanitation Act (FSSA). The FSSA designates the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) as the central competent authority responsible for food safety. All major laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances concerning food safety and quality are based on the FSSA.

Taiwan's Legislative Yuan reviews and revises the FSSA in response to regulatory needs or public food safety concerns. The most recent revisions on the articles were made in April and June 2019. Key amendments include adding the definition of processing aids and a penalty for spreading untruthful information about food safety. The general implementation rule for the FSSA is the [Enforcement Rules for the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#) and the importation rule under the FSSA is the [Regulations of Inspection of Imported Foods and Related Products](#). Some of the FSSA rules and regulations are implemented in stages. TFDA of MOHW plans and announces the effective date depending on the preparation time they deem needed to adopt the new rule.

Another central authority involved in food safety management is the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). On August 1, 2023, MOA was upgraded from the previous Council of Agriculture (COA). MOA is responsible for animal product production, crop and plant production, animal feed and feed additives, pet food, animal and plant health inspection and quarantine etc. These functions are performed by MOA's headquarters and subordinate agencies, the one most associated with import regulations and standards is APHIA, formerly known as the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) during the COA era. APHIA oversees animal and plant health aspects and slaughter activities for animal products, playing a role equivalent to a combination of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). Another MOA subordinate agency, Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA), oversees production activities for crops and plant products, and programs for rice procurement and organic certification.

Taiwan conducts independent evaluation and assessment so many of Taiwan's sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards are different from U.S. standards or those established by international standards-setting bodies, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), or Codex Alimentarius (Codex). Since its World Trade Organization (WTO) accession in 2002, Taiwan has taken steps to implement the terms of the WTO SPS Agreement. However, some of Taiwan's standards, laws, regulations, and practices are still not consistent with international standards or practices, and the detailed requirements may change from time to time. U.S. exporters are therefore encouraged to work closely with their Taiwan importers to ensure they are aware of and complying with all current Taiwan regulations and requirements.

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## Section II. Labeling Requirements

TFDA oversees food and beverage labeling requirements. All packaged food products must carry a general label and most of them also require a nutritional label. Both labels should use traditional Chinese characters; English labeling is optional. Taiwan's Customs Administration permits the Chinese

labels to be affixed to imported products in government-approved logistics centers or government-approved self-managed bonded warehouses prior to customs clearance.

### **General Food Labels**

All processed food products or food additives for retail sale must have a general label in Chinese containing information such as product name, ingredients, net weight or volume, names of all food additives, country of origin, expiration date, company name, address, and phone number. Detailed labeling requirements can be found in Chapter V “Management for Food Labeling and Advertisement” of the [Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#), and in the [Enforcement Rules for the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#).

Imported foods used for further processing or repacking rather than sold directly to local customers are exempted from Chinese labeling requirements. An example of such an imported food would be soybeans sold to a crushing plant or chicken sold into the catering market. However, when the product is not loose bulk, it must still have the original labels or tags describing its content. The labeling guidance for packaged bulk foods is described in Taiwan’s [Labeling Guidance for Packaged Bulk Foods and Food Ingredients](#) (in Chinese).

### **Nutritional Labels**

All packaged food products must have a nutritional label. Relevant regulations and sample nutritional tables are provided in the [Regulations on Nutrition Labeling for Prepackaged Food Products](#) ( in Chinese) [Or [previous full English version +amendment](#)] Also, nutrition claims should follow the [Regulations on Nutrition Claim for Prepackaged Food Products](#).

Nutrition labeling is not required for the following categories of prepackaged products without nutrition claims: 1) drinking water, mineral water, and ice cubes; 2) fresh produce of fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry meat, and seafood; 3) tea, coffee, and herbs for brewing purposes without adding other ingredients or food additives; 4) seasoning spices or spice packs for cooking; 5) salt and salt substitutes; 6) other food items whose nutritional tables show zero in value for all the required fields. In addition, food or food ingredients not directly sold to consumers are also exempted. More information can be found in the [Regulations on Prepackaged Food Products Exempted from the Nutrition Labeling](#).

### **Food Additives**

Food additives should be labelled in accordance with the food additive items prescribed in the [Standards for Scope, Application and Limitation of Food additives](#) of the [Appendix 1 of the Standards for Specifications, Scope, Application and Limitation of Food Additives](#) or the [names commonly](#) known by society. Sweeteners, preservatives, and antioxidants must indicate the names of their respective functions. Combinations of food additives must list the name of each component.

Labeling of food additives is not required when the food additives in the products are derived from legalized materials, are clearly below the normal amounts typically added to foods, and do not serve any functions. Where flavoring ingredients is added to or used in a food additive product, it may be declared as ‘flavoring’ or ‘flavor’; and natural flavor may be ‘natural flavoring’ or ‘natural flavor’.

### **Dairy Products**

Labels for liquid dairy products must indicate the product's shelf life and appropriate storage requirements. Taiwan has detailed regulations governing the labeling of [liquid milk products and milk powder](#), and [milk fat content for butter and cream](#). Milk fortified with nutrients not inherent in raw milk itself cannot be labeled as "fresh milk." Milk drink or modified milk powder should contain at least 50 percent of milk ingredients. Packaged modified milk powder product should label the percentage of milk powder. Additional national definition of dairy products can be found in Chinese at [Chinese National Standards](#). All food grade dairy powder products in packages exceeding 10 kilograms in size must be clearly labeled as "food grade" or "for human consumption."

### **Packaged Fruit and Vegetable Juice Labels**

All packaged fruit and vegetable juices that contain more than ten percent of natural juice should label the actual percentage on the front side of the package. If the natural juice content is less than ten percent, the product is not allowed to be labeled as natural juice or other equivalent terms. In addition, these products are required to carry the statement "less than 10% natural juice" or label the actual percentage on the front side of the package. More information can be found in TFDA's announcement for [Labeling Rules for Packaged Drinks Containing Fruit and Vegetable Juice](#) (in Chinese).

### **Vegetarian Food Labels**

All packaged foods claiming to be vegetarian should label the type of vegetarian diet: vegan (*Su* vegetarian), lacto-vegetarian, ovo-vegetarian, ovo-lacto-vegetarian, and vegan (five pungent spices vegetarian). The definition of each type of vegetarian diet and other labeling information can be found in the [Labeling Rules for Packaged Vegetarian Food](#).

### **Caffeine Labels for Packaged Drinks**

All packaged drinks that have caffeine content over 20 milligram (mg) in 100 milliliters (ml) should label the actual content of caffeine. If the caffeine content is between 2-20 mg/100ml, the products can be labeled as 'below 20mg/100ml'. For coffee, tea, and cocoa drinks, if the caffeine content is below 2mg/100ml, the products can be labeled as 'low caffeine'. More information can be found in the [Labeling Rules for Packaged Drinks Containing Caffeine](#) (in Chinese).

### **Food Allergen Labels**

All prepackaged food containing substances which can cause an allergic reaction in susceptible individuals, or other products that can cause an allergic reaction, must be labeled with warning information. The warning should be clearly and separately indicated on the label.

Prepackaged food products shall be labeled with warning information if containing following substance: crustaceans, mango, peanuts, milk, eggs, nuts, sesame, cereals containing gluten, soybeans, fish, and sulphites. Kiwi, cephalopods, conch, and seeds are allergens allowed for voluntary labeling. More information can be found in the revised [Labeling Rules for Food Allergens](#).

### **Frozen Food Labels**

In addition to the labeling requirements stipulated in FSSA, imported frozen foods must also abide by the [Regulations Governing the Labeling of Frozen Foods](#), including the following information in Chinese on the label: type of frozen food, preservation method and storage conditions, and cooking instructions if the products are not ready-to-eat.

### **Health Food Labels**

The [Health Food Control Act](#) and the [Enforcement Rules of Health Food Control Act](#) regulate the use of health claims on food products. Products with health food claims must prove that the product has the capacity to contribute to health and/or decreases disease risk. However, no health food may claim to prevent illness. Any product with health food claims must be approved by TFDA before being marketed. Once approved, the import permit is valid for five years.

[Regulations governing the labeling of health food](#) specifies the labeling requirements for health food. Capsule and tablet products must include warning “This product is not a drug, for health care only. Patients still need medical treatment.” and “Please eat according to recommended intake, excessive intake does not benefit health.” Other health product must include warning.” This product is for health care only, without therapeutic efficacy.” To prevent misunderstanding, only approved health foods can use “health” within the product name. Additionally, it regulates the labeling of health foods containing refined sugar, fish oil or red yeast rice.

### **Alcohol Labels**

Alcohol products are regulated by Ministry of Finance. Alcohol labels must include: 1) the brand name; 2) product type; 3) alcohol content; 4) origin of imported alcohol products; 5) names and addresses of manufacturers and importers; 6) lot number; 7) volume; 8) expiration date for products with alcohol content of seven percent or less, or which are packaged in plastic or paper containers; 9) health warnings (examples include “excessive drinking endangers health,” “don’t drink and drive,” etc.); 10) other labeling as required by the competent authority. The brand name must be printed in large, broad, or bold typeface that is bigger than other fonts on the label. Importers may also include on the label the year, age, and/or geographical origin. Labels need to be in Chinese except brand names, names, and addresses of foreign manufacturers, and geographical indicators. Volume should be stated in liters, centiliters, or milliliters. Additional information can be found in the [Tobacco and Alcohol Administration Act](#), the [Hygiene Standards for Alcohol Products](#), and the [Labeling Rules for the Alcohol Products](#).

### **Chocolate Labels**

On January 1, 2022, the amendment to the [Regulations Governing the Product Name and Labeling of Chocolate](#) came into effect. Chocolate products including dark/white/milk chocolate, filled chocolate, chocolate spread, and chocolate syrup are subject to regulation. The standards of cocoa contents for various chocolate products and additional information can be found in the regulation.

### **Prepackaged Honey and Honey Syrup**

[Regulation Governing the Labeling of Prepackaged Honey and its Syrup Products](#) requires labeling of Prepackaged honey and its syrup products. Product with a honey content of less than 60 percent shall be labeled with “Honey Flavor”. Products with a honey content at 60 percent or higher shall be labeled with “pure honey” (100 percent honey only), “blended honey”, or “sugar-added honey” based on product’s properties.

### **Genetically Engineered (GE) Product Labels**

Raw materials and primary products which are directly made from GE product inputs (such as soybean oil, corn starch and syrup, soy sauce, etc.) are required to be labeled as GE. Secondary products made with GE primary products (such as beverages containing corn syrup, etc. without DNA residues or proteins) are exempted from GE labeling requirements. The labeling regulations state that the length and

width of the font must not be less than two millimeters and must be differentiated through use of a separate color, font, and/or background. Fines for violating these regulations can range from NTD \$30,000 up to NTD \$3 million. Business licenses can be revoked for serious violations. More information is available on [TFDA's website](#) for GE Food Labeling and the Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report (GAIN [TW2024-0044](#)).

### **Non-GE Labels**

A product can only be labeled as non-GE if there is a commercially available GE-version in Taiwan. For example, papaya is not eligible for non-GE labeling as Taiwan has not approved any varieties of GE-papaya (domestic or imported). TFDA conducts annual retail label inspections to evaluate compliance with GE-labeling rules.

### **Liquid Egg Labels**

As of January 1, 2021, liquid egg products are required to add “sterile” or “unsterile” on the labels. For unsterile products, the label will also need to carry the statement that the products should be used in the type of foods which will undergo full heating or other methods sufficient for effective sterilization. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Liquid Egg Products](#).

### **Labels for Restructured Meat/Fishery Products and Artificially Marbled Meat Products**

Restructured meat/fishery products and artificially marbled meat products are required to carry the label “restructured” or “artificially marbled” and add a remark of “serve when cooked” when they are in packaged form, sold by registered food vendors in bulk form, or served in catering operations. Wordings with an equivalent meaning are allowed, and the labeling can be in the form of a placard, tag, sign board, or other applicable methods. The rule was revised on May 30, 2022, and took effect on July 1, 2022. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Restructured Meat/Fishery Products and Artificially Marbled Meat Products](#).

### **Country of Origin Labels**

#### ***Bulk foods***

For registered food companies, all food products or ingredients sold at retail markets need to indicate the product name and country of origin either on a placard, label, sign board, or other applicable method. Country of origin for meat products should be the country of slaughter. Small food vendors without company registration are exempted from this requirement for most foods. However, they are still required to label the country of origin for 20 food items in fresh, chilled, frozen, dehydrated, dry, crushed, ground, or simple-cutting forms. The 20 food items are peanuts, red beans, mung beans, black beans, soybeans, buckwheat, barley, quinoa, sesame, millet, garlic, mushrooms, tea leaves, red dates, wolfberry shrub, chrysanthemum, poultry, pork, lamb, and beef. The requirement to label the country of origin for the above food items took effect on January 1, 2021, except beef products, which took effect in 2012. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Bulk Foods](#).

#### ***Packaged foods***

Packaged foods containing beef or pork for retail purpose should label the country of origin for the beef or pork ingredients used. Country of origin for the beef or pork ingredients should be the country of slaughter. The requirement took effect in 2013 for packaged beef products and in January 2021 for packaged pork products. Detailed information can be found in the [Rule for Country of Origin Labeling](#)



[on Packaged Foods Containing Beef or Edible Parts of Cattle](#), and the [Rule for Country of Origin Labeling on Packaged Foods Containing Pork or Edible Parts of Pigs](#).

### ***Foods served in catering establishments***

All foods served in restaurants, food vendors, and food stalls should be labeled with the country of origin for any beef or pork ingredient used. Country of origin for the beef or pork ingredient should be the country of slaughter. The requirement took effect in 2012 for foods containing beef, and in January 2021 for foods containing pork. Detailed information can be found in the [Rule of Country of Origin Labeling on Foods Containing Beef or Edible Parts of Cattle Served in Catering Places](#) (in Chinese), and the [Rule of Country of Origin Labeling on Foods Containing Pork or Edible Parts of Pigs Served in Catering Places](#).

### **Labels for Dog and Cat Food**

Dog and cat food must have a general label in Chinese containing information such as product name, net weight or volume, main ingredients and additives, nutritional content, company name, address, and phone number, valid or manufacturing date, shelf life, storage condition etc. Detailed labeling requirements can be found in Article 22-5 of the [Animal Protection Act](#).

The [Guideline for Determining False, Exaggerated or Misleading Claims in Labels, Promotion Activities and Advertisement for Pet Food](#) (in Chinese) took effect on July 1, 2024. It puts out examples of generally accepted and unaccepted phrases, the latter often associates with indications of medical effect, or physiological or functional changes on appearance, body structure, organs and/or tissues. The information provided should be sufficient and truthful, and supported with evidence where appropriate. The pet food industry is encouraged to examine the labels and marketing activities to ensure compliance.

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

### **Package Recycling**

The Taiwan Ministry of Environment (MOENV) is the statutory body responsible for waste removal, disposal, or recycling, including food product packaging or containers. According to Article 15 of the [Waste Disposal Act](#), manufacturers or importers are responsible for the recycling, disposal and removal of an article, or its package/container. All recyclable materials are required to bear the standard recycling symbol, illustrated as symbol “A” below. Symbol “B” below is also required for all plastic materials, but the name of the resin corresponding to the number inside the logo (PVC, etc.) is not required except for bioplastics.

Symbol A: Standard Recycling Symbol



Symbol B. Society of Plastics Industry Resin Identification Code (numbering from 1 to 7)



Codes: 1 = PET; 2 = HDPE; 3 = PVC; 4 = LDPE; 5 = PP; 6 = PS; 7 = other materials, including bioplastic. If the material is bioplastic, the English acronym of the bioplastic (PLA, PHA, PHB, PHV, PHBV, etc.) must be indicated below the SPI code No. 7 as shown above. The recycling symbols can be imprinted or labeled on containers or packages.

[Restrictions on the Production, Importation, and Sales of Plate Packaging Materials containing Polyvinylchloride \(PVC\), Designated Recyclable Containers, and non-Plate Disposable Tableware Containers](#) prohibited food, feed, dairy products, seasoning, edible oil, beverages, and other products filled in PVC containers.

### **Wood Packaging Materials**

APHIA regulates the use of wood packing materials in imported products. Its rules are loosely based on the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 guidelines. Specific requirements are laid out in the [Quarantine Requirements for Wood Packaging Material Used in Imported Commodity](#).

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## **Section IV. Food Additive Regulations**

Processed food products that contain artificial food additives are subject to strict tolerance levels and acceptable use requirements as prescribed by TFDA. The [Standards for Scope, Application, and Limitation of Food Additives](#) covers over eight hundred food additive standards and regulations. Additives that are not identified on the permitted list are prohibited for use in foodstuffs in Taiwan.

MOHW will only consider adding new food additives to the Standards for Scope, Application, and Limitation of Food Additives after receipt of a [formal application](#) from the manufacturer or a designated representative. MOHW requires: 1) animal safety test data; 2) international acceptability of the proposed food ingredients; 3) an evaluation report stating that the ingredients are necessary to manufacture the product; 4) a description of the analysis method; and 5) product specifications. MOHW will then evaluate the acceptability of these additives and make a formal determination within one to two years.

The label should indicate the respective function of sweeteners, preservatives, and antioxidants. Food additive combinations should list the name of each individual material. See Section II. Labeling Requirements for additional information.

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## **Section V. Pesticides and Contaminants**

Imports of fruit, vegetables, meat, and other food products are subject to inspection and testing for pesticides, animal drugs, and other contaminants such as toxins and heavy metals, conducted by TFDA

inspectors at the port of entry. TFDA is responsible for establishing and promulgating MRLs for pesticides and animal drugs in Taiwan, as well as the sanitary standards for toxins, contaminants, microbes, and other substances of concern.

Taiwan authorities are required by law to establish MRLs for both imported products and local produce. They do not automatically adopt MRLs established by Codex as default standards. Imports are subject to border inspection upon arrival, while local produce is subject to market surveillance and monitoring, although usually at a much lower inspection frequency.

Taiwan does not have MRLs for some pesticides or animal drugs commonly used in the United States or other countries. In such cases Taiwan applies a de facto zero tolerance policy for these agrochemicals without a set MRL. Nevertheless, where Taiwan has set an MRL, they are sometimes lower than those set by Codex or the United States. The competent authorities develop testing methodology and utilize very sensitive and advanced equipment for analysis. Products containing even minute levels of agrochemical residues without an MRL, toxins, contaminants, or other substances of concern are vulnerable to rejection.

TFDA published two batches of updates on maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides on March 29, 2024, and November 18, 2024. The March update added 101 values for 22 pesticides on various plant products, the November update added 135 values for 21 pesticides on various plant products, and 51 values for 11 pesticides in animal products. Pesticide residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Foods](#) and [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#). Veterinary drug residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Veterinary Drug Residue Limits in Foods](#).

The [Sanitary Standards of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) officially came into effect on January 1, 2019. This regulation combined several existing regulations and standards for agricultural commodities, foods, and beverages, and revised the levels of some substances based on international standards and comments from local industry and experts. However, no change was made on microbial standards. TFDA announced the tightened control over lead and cadmium contamination in selective food categories in March 2024, and the revision took effect on July 1, 2024.

### **Inspection Regime**

The [Regulations of Inspection of Imported Food and Related Products](#) lays out the rules for food import inspection, the latest revision was made in June 2019. The regulation sets three different inspection schemes:

1. Regular random-selected batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 2-10% sampling rate.
2. Enhanced random-selected batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 20-50% sampling rate.
3. Batch-by-batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 100% sampling rate.

The competent authority decides the initial frequency of testing. After a single violation, the testing frequency of the same commodity imported by the same importer will be elevated to next scheme (e.g. from 2-10 percent regular sampling rate to a 20-50 percent enhanced sampling rate). Following two violations in a short period, inspection may increase to a 100 percent batch-by-batch sampling rate.

TFDA can place specific products from a specific country on a [watch list](#) (in Chinese) if there are repeated violations. When this happens, all designated products from a specific country are subject to heightened inspections regardless of the importer. TFDA may also require the competent authority or producers in the exporting country to provide an improvement plan or preventive measures.

### **Fruits and Vegetables**

The [Pesticide Residue Limits in Food](#) lists allowable residue tolerances in fruit and vegetables. As a positive list system, pesticides not on the list must be undetectable. When perishable fresh produce is selected for testing, an importer may apply to TFDA for a dispensation to have the cargo temporarily released to their warehouse. The cargo cannot enter commerce until the cargo passes all required tests. Non-compliance with Taiwan's pesticide standards will result in the rejection at the port of entry.

### **Corn and Soybeans**

Taiwan separates corn and soybean import tariff codes (HTS or CCC) between usage for feed or human consumption and GE or non-GE. The maximum level of total aflatoxins in corn is 50 parts per billion (ppb) for feed use and 10 ppb for food use; soybeans have the same 15 ppb standard regardless of utilization. MOA is the competent authority for grain shipments for feed use, while TFDA is responsible for grain shipments for food use. Official export documentation for GE corn and soybeans must include a statement by the exporter on letterhead listing all GE traits contained in the shipped product. The statement reads, "This shipment of [Soybeans or Corn or Maize, insert other commodity name] may contain genetically modified events as the following unique identifiers, event names, or other similar description." Non-GE products are required to have an Identity Preservation document, organic certificate, other non-GE certificate, or a laboratory test report (protein testing, qualitative or quantitative DNA testing) for GE content in the shipment. Products are only allowed to be imported as non-GE if they contain less than three percent of GE content from adventitious mixing.

### **Rice**

Imported rice is subject to batch-by-batch testing for pesticide residues, heavy metals, aflatoxin, and mycotoxins. The tests are supposed to be completed in three to five working days. If the test takes longer than five days, imported rice may be released into approved warehouses with an importer affidavit awaiting the test outcome. During this time the product may not be sold in the market. Rice imports are subject to a tariff-rate quota system. For arsenic level in rice, if the total arsenic concentration is below the allowable maximum level for inorganic arsenic, no further inorganic arsenic testing is required.

### **Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products**

The [Sanitary Standards of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) went into effect on January 1, 2019. It consolidates the sanitary standards in the previous regulations such as the Sanitary Standards for Fresh Meats, the Standards for the Tolerance of Heavy Metals in Edible Offal of Cattle, Sheep, Pig and Poultry, and the Sanitation Standard for Eggs and Egg Products, etc.

In 2024, TFDA published an update on MRLs to add 51 values for 11 pesticides in animal products. Pesticide residue limits in animal products are listed in the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#), and veterinary drug residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Veterinary Drug Residue Limits in Foods](#).

General sanitary requirements can be found in the [Sanitary Standard for General Foods](#). Microbial standards were revised on October 6, 2020, and the revised [Sanitary Standards for Microorganisms in Foods](#) took effect on July 1, 2021, covering ready-to-eat foods, frozen foods and liquid eggs, etc. It prohibits liquid egg products to contain detectable Salmonella strains.

### **Seafood**

The [Sanitary Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) took effect on January 1, 2019, which incorporates the standards from the old Sanitary Standards for Aquatic Animals. The amended allowable limits for arsenic level took effect on January 1, 2021.

Microbial standards for seafood products are listed in the [Sanitary Standards for Microorganisms in Foods](#), and general sanitary requirements are listed in the [Sanitary Standards for General Foods](#).

Taiwan maintains a position of no detection for pathogenic microorganisms, such as *Norovirus* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in shellfish. The testing methods are available on the TFDA website at [Methods of Test for Food Microorganisms - Test of \*Norovirus\*](#) and [Test of \*Vibrio Parahaemolyticus\*](#) (in Chinese).

### **Dairy**

Dairy products should follow the [general food regulations](#), the [microorganism standard](#), and the [food additives regulation](#). Milk and milk products should also follow the [pesticide residue limits in animal products](#) and the [veterinary drug residue limits](#). Taiwan requires that imports of U.S.-origin fresh milk and milk products be accompanied by a Veterinary Services (VS) 16-4 export certificate for quarantine inspection of animal products.

### **Pet Food**

MOA regulates pet food and implements a set of safety standards for pet food in the [Standards for Types and Tolerance Levels of Pathogenic Microorganisms and Health-hazard Materials in Pet Food](#). The regulation includes standards for aflatoxins, pathogens, heavy metals, pesticide residues, preservatives, antioxidant, harmful chemicals, and radiation level.

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

### **Phytosanitary Certificates**

Taiwan authorities only accept certificates issued by the exporting country's competent government authority. State and private industry issued certificates are not accepted. U.S. origin fruit and vegetable, plant, and plant product exports shipped to Taiwan must be accompanied by an APHIS phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577) issued by APHIS or APHIS-Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) at county, state, or federal levels. Other certificate forms are not accepted.

In addition, Taiwan only accepts a SHIPPER'S ORIGINAL phytosanitary certificate with either a digital signature or a wet signature on regular paper. SHIPPER'S ORIGINAL format only appears on the first printout, which Taiwan recognizes and accepts as the original certificate. It is the exporter's

responsibility to send out this original document to Taiwan importers as soon as possible to clear shipments at port of entry. PDF scanned copy of a “SHIPPER’S ORIGINAL” document or “Certified Copy” of a phytosanitary certificate will not be accepted.

Information regarding the export to Taiwan of live animals and animal products, including aquaculture, can be found at the APHIS webpages of [Export Live Animals to Taiwan](#) and [Export Animal Products to Taiwan](#).

### **Meat and Poultry Certificates**

Detailed certification requirements are available in [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#). Imports of meat and poultry products must be accompanied by a Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060-5), a Certificate for Export to Taiwan (FSIS Form 9285-1), and an FSIS Letterhead Certificate (FSIS Form 2630-9, only for beef and poultry products). FSIS Form 9285-1 requires information on shipping port, vessel name, shipping date, container number, and container seal number, etc. The shipping date listed shall not precede the FSIS inspector’s signature date. Animal health attestations are listed in FSIS Form 2630-9.

Effective October 1, 2022, TFDA implemented additional certification requirements for imported meat products. The current U.S. certificates for meat products continue to be used, with additional information required to be inserted in specific sections. The second phase of the new certification requirement took effect on July 1, 2023. Importers need to provide the FSIS Forms 9060-5, 9285-1, and/or 2630-9 for canned meat products under harmonized system (HS) code 1602. Detailed instructions can be found at the [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#) (see also [GAIN TW2023-0034](#)).

Effective April 18, 2022, Taiwan temporarily modified its restrictions on imports of poultry and poultry products from the United States impacted by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The modification allows imports of poultry and poultry products from the banned U.S. states if the date of slaughter is 14 days or more before the applicable HPAI ban began. Detailed information can be found in [GAIN TW2022-0024](#).

To facilitate the customs clearance process, U.S. exporters are advised to work closely with their Taiwan importers to ensure that certificates have the appropriate language meeting the most-current requirements.

Upon WTO accession, Taiwan removed virtually all requirements for import permits issued by Taiwan’s International Trade Administration (TITA). In 2010, Taiwan established a new TITA import permit regime that imposed stringent import inspection requirements on beef tongue, testicle, diaphragm, and certain variety meat products produced in countries with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) cases. While these products are listed as eligible under TITA’s import permit regime, the strict requirements such as defrosting certain number of boxes for inspection and the prolonged application process for permits continue to discourage importers bringing in these products.

### **Export Eligibility for Meat Products**

After Taiwan’s 2002 WTO accession, Taiwan recognized the U.S. meat and poultry inspection system as equivalent. However, since 2010 Taiwan has added additional BSE-related restrictions and requirements on beef and beef products from the United States and other BSE-infected countries. On

January 1, 2021, Taiwan removed the less-than-30-month age restriction on U.S. beef products, but the other BSE-related restrictions remain. Please refer to USDA's [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#) for U.S. beef and beef products eligible to export to Taiwan.

Taiwan maintains a systems equivalence approach and does not have additional facility registration requirements for pork, lamb/goat, and poultry products. All meat and poultry facilities approved by USDA are eligible for export to Taiwan, except those producing beef products. U.S. beef products shall only come from the list of eligible facilities approved under the [USDA Export Verification \(EV\) Program](#). The requirements for beef and beef products exporting to Taiwan are outlined in the EV Program and inspected for compliance.

### **Eggs and Egg Product Certificates**

From August 2019, TFDA implemented a new certification requirement for eggs and egg products consumed as human food under HS codes 0407, 0408, 350211, and 350219 (refer to GAIN [TW19020](#)). The existing certification requirements imposed by APHIA prior to August 1, 2019, remain unchanged. However, U.S. exporters need to obtain additional certificates for TFDA as described in the report.

On March 14, 2023, APHIA temporarily revised its quarantine requirement to curtail disease-zone restrictions for imported eggs and egg products. U.S. eggs and egg products that are sourced from a farm with no outbreak of poultry diseases for at least 28 days before export are permitted to ship until June 30, 2024, if they also meet the other requirements in the temporary special project and food safety rules. After July 1, 2024, U.S. eggs and egg products must comply with the regular quarantine requirements (refer to [GAIN TW2023-0037](#)).

### **Gelatin and Gelatin Derivative Certificates**

Starting August 1, 2019, TFDA implemented a new certification requirement for gelatin and its derivatives consumed as human food under HS codes 3503.00.10.00-4, 3503.00.20.00-2, and 3503.00.90.90-8 (refer to [GAIN TW19020](#)). TFDA requires a health certificate issued by U.S. FDA and the certificate must include information on the parts or tissues of the raw materials used, for example 'derived from bovine skin'.

### **Shellfish Certificates**

Imported shellfish under HS code 0307 for human consumption must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or a state government. The certificate needs to state 'fit for human consumption' or other text with equivalent meaning, in addition, the information on harvest area is required.

The TFDA announcement can be found in [Official Certificates for Shellfish Products from the Exporting Countries](#) (in Chinese).

Information regarding the export of live animals to Taiwan, including live aquatic animals, can be found at the APHIS webpage of [Export Live Animals to Taiwan](#).

### **Bulk Edible Oil Certificates**

TFDA requires a health certificate for imported bulk edible oil over 150 liters. For bulk oil intended for general food use, U.S. exporters must apply for the Certificate to a Foreign Government from U.S. FDA. For all bulk oil intended for dietary supplements, U.S. exporters must apply for a Certificate of Free Sale from U.S. FDA.

The announcement can be found on the [TFDA website](#) (in Chinese).

### **GE Product Approval and Registration**

TFDA and MOA oversee premarket approvals for food and feed use, respectively. Products such as corn and soybeans that are used for both food and feed require approval by both agencies. As of this report's date, TFDA has granted registration approvals for 167 GE products. The list of current TFDA approvals can be found on its [website](#). MOA has granted approvals for 172 products including five GE alfalfa events that are not listed in TFDA approval as these are for feed use only. In general, MOA grants approvals after TFDA does to avoid market disruption. MOA's approval list is available on its [website](#). For more information, please see the most recent Biotechnology Annual report (GAIN [TW2024-0044](#)).

### **Special Dietary Foods**

All special dietary foods must be registered with TFDA. Special dietary foods are defined as foods which are formulated for specific dietary management of diseases or conditions. The requirements have been revised and included in the [Regulations Governing the Management of the Review, Registration and Issuance of Permit Documents for Food and Related Products](#) implemented on November 30, 2023. Starting January 1, 2025, the wording "Formula for Certain Disease" shall appear prominently on the principal display panel of the container or external packaging. ([Amendment link](#).) Additional information can be found on the [TFDA website](#) in Chinese.

### **Pet Food**

In October 2018, Taiwan authorities opened the market for dog and cat food from the United States by formally recognizing the U.S. system for approving pet food facilities. Facilities no longer must be inspected by Taiwan regulatory authorities as a condition for export. APHIS is now allowed to inspect and approve any facilities. Companies interested in exporting pet food to Taiwan should contact their local [APHIS Veterinary Services](#) center to seek export approval.

### **Wood Products**

Wooden boards, including plywood and all types of engineered wood products, are subject to formaldehyde emission tests before they can enter Taiwan. The Bureau of Standards, Metrology, and Inspection (BSMI) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs is responsible for wood product standards and inspections. Requirements can be found on BSMI's [Chinese National Standard](#) website by searching the product name (e.g., plywood).

Imported engineered wood products are subject to batch-by-batch inspections. Wood importers can avoid batch-by-batch inspections by applying for Registration of Product Certification or Type Approved Batch Inspections. Application instructions are available in the [Directions Governing Type-approved Batch Inspection of Wooden Board Commodities](#).



Taiwan's National Land and Management Agency of the Ministry of the Interior (NLMAMI) officially recognizes the PS-2 standard for U.S. Oriented Strand Board (OSB) and plywood span rated structural panel sheathing, and ANSI 190.1 Product Standard for Structural Glued Laminated Timber. PS-2 is a performance-based standard which defines the end use application of a wood-based panel, such as plywood, OSB or composite panels. It defines the requirements for the use of wood-based panels as structural components which are recognized throughout North America. The ANSI A190.1 Standard:

1. Establishes U.S. domestically recognized requirements for the production, inspection, testing and certification of structural glued laminated timber, and
2. Provides material suppliers, producers, distributors and users with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of this product.

Taiwan designers and end-users who apply U.S. glulam products, and U.S. OSB and plywood products for structural use will no longer need to only follow Taiwan wood building codes.

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## **Section VII. Other Specific Standards/Laws**

### **Alcohol**

Importers are required to comply with the [Hygiene Standards for Alcohol Products](#). Standards vary across different types of alcohol products and permitted levels of methanol, additive and heavy metal are stipulated in the standards. Failure to comply may result in penalties of at least NTD \$300,000 (USD \$9500). Importers may submit documentation for sanitary inspections, or safety assurances from officials or recognized associations in the exporting country as an alternative to product inspection during customs clearance. Additional information can be found in the [Administrative Regulations Governing the Inspection of Imported Alcohol](#).

### **Chinese Medicines/Herbs**

The Department of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy under MOHW is responsible for the management of Chinese medicine/herbs. Imports of herbs or raw Chinese medicine require a Chinese raw medicine dealer's business license, or a pharmaceutical manufacturing license issued by MOHW. The [Standard Consolidated Table of Limits of Abnormal Substances in Chinese Medicinal Materials](#) (in Chinese) issued by the Department of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy sets out standards for imported Chinese medicine and herbs. Some Chinese raw medicine or herbs may be imported without a dealer license and sold in ordinary markets as food, but the products must then comply with all relevant food safety requirements.

### **Organic Products**

Under [Organic Agriculture Promotion Act](#), Taiwan requests countries sign a bilateral organic equivalency agreement with Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan have an organic equivalence arrangement that allows organic products certified in the United States or Taiwan to be sold as organic in either market. (See [GAIN TW2020-0034](#).) The arrangement applies to products certified to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) organic standards or Taiwan organic regulations grown or produced in

the United States or Taiwan, or which have their final processing or packaging in the United States or Taiwan.

Under current regulations, only products with 95 percent or greater organic content can be labeled as organic. Regulations for imported organic products are laid out in the [Regulations for Managing and Reviewing Imported Organic Agricultural Products](#). Additional information can be found from [AFA's website](#).

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

Registered geographical indicators, trademarks and brand names are protected under the [Trademark Act](#) and other relevant domestic laws and generally well enforced. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) is responsible for enforcement of copyright and trademark laws. IPO's website has detailed [English information](#) on laws and regulations regarding trademarks, copyrights, and patents. MOA's [Plant Variety and Plant Seed Act](#) provides rules on plant variety protections. U.S. companies are encouraged to register their brands and trademarks in Taiwan to protect their intellectual property.

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## **Section IX. Import Procedures**

### **Tariffs and Import Controls**

The official website of Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance has detailed information on [customs laws and regulations](#). Article 71 of the [Taiwan Customs Act](#) allows authorities to raise or lower commodity tariffs up or down within a range of 50 percent of the established tariff rate for a period not to exceed one year as a way to cope with special domestic or international economic situations or to adjust local supply. The duty on imports classified as a "staple commodity" may be adjusted up to 100 percent if the commodity experiences significant price fluctuations. Taiwan's Customs Administration maintains a searchable [tariff database](#) for Taiwan's tariff schedule, including import duties.

A brief outline for general customs clearance process and a flow chart can be found at Customs Administration's [webpage](#).

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## **Section X. Trade Facilitation**

### **Temporary Certificate Requirement Measure Due to COVID**

In response to the disruption in airfreight and courier services caused by the COVID pandemic, APHIA and TFDA have implemented a temporary measure to accept electronic files or paper copies of the original certificates at the time of import. Importers need to state the reasons for delay of receiving the original certificates and request to use the copies for customs clearance. Importers must submit the

original certificate when they receive it later. This temporary measure took effect on April 1, 2020, and TFDA terminated it after December 31, 2022. APHIA currently keeps the measure in place with an indefinite deadline.

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

### **Food Safety**

Dr. Shin-Hun Juang  
Director General  
Food and Drug Administration  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
No.109, Ln. 130, Sec. 1, Academia Rd., Nangang Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2787-8000  
Fax: (886-2) 2653-1062

Dr. Shu-Jean Tsai  
Director  
Division of Food Safety  
Food and Drug Administration  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
No.109, Ln. 130, Sec. 1, Academia Rd., Nangang Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2787-8000  
Fax: (886-2) 2653-1062

### **Animal and Plant Quarantine**

Dr. Chwei-Jang Chiou  
Director General  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture  
9F., No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2343-1401  
Fax: (886-2) 2332-2200

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

### **Reporting and Market Access/Trade Policy Issues Related to Food and Agricultural Products**

Erich Kuss, Chief  
Steve Burgoon, Deputy Chief  
Agricultural Affairs Office  
Agricultural Section  
American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)  
100, Jinhua Road, Neihu Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2000 Ext 2316  
Fax: (886-2) 2162-2238  
E-mail: [AgTaipei@usda.gov](mailto:AgTaipei@usda.gov)

### **Market Promotion and Trade Services Related to Food and Agricultural Products**

Kathy Yao, Director  
Agricultural Trade Office  
American Institute in Taiwan  
100, Jinhua Road, Neihu Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2000 Ext 2682  
Fax: (886-2) 2305-7073  
E-mail: [ATOTaipei@usda.gov](mailto:ATOTaipei@usda.gov)

### **Certification Issues for Trade in Animals, Animal Products, Plants and Plant Products**

Apryl Pagliaro, Area Director  
APHIS Office  
American Institute in Taiwan  
100, Jinhua Road, Neihu Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2216  
Fax: (886-2) 2162-2215  
E-mail: [IS.Taipei.Taiwan.Office@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:IS.Taipei.Taiwan.Office@aphis.usda.gov)

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments