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**Report Highlights:**

This report discusses regulatory requirements and standards that must be fulfilled to export food and agricultural products to Ethiopia. Pertinent information on applicable laws, regulations, directives, guidelines, procedures, and key regulatory contact details is included. It is recommended that this report be read with the FAIRS Export Certificate Report for a comprehensive understanding of the import regulatory requirements and standards.

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**Disclaimer:**

This report is prepared by the USDA/ Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural commodities. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies/regulations/directives have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information was not available. Post highly recommends 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:**

Ethiopia is one of the largest untapped markets in the world. Data from the World Bank indicates that the country is [Sub-Saharan Africa's](#) fifth largest economy and [second most populous](#) nation in Africa (est. 112 million). Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, Ethiopia had exhibited steady economic growth. However, this growth moment could slow down due to the combined effects of COVID-19, desert locust invasion, and flooding. The IMF slashed Ethiopia's real GDP growth rate and projected the economy to grow at 3.2% by the end of 2020.

Official Ethiopian [trade statistics](#) indicate that Ethiopia imports nearly \$2 billion worth of food and agricultural products per annum. According to Trade Data Monitor (TDM), U.S. total exports of agricultural and related products to Ethiopia totaled \$109 million in 2019. This figure comprises both of food assistance and commercial exports. The annual commercial export sales approximate \$20 million. Major U.S. agricultural exports to Ethiopia include wheat, pulses, vegetable oils, dairy products, and coarse grains. Future imports of agro-food products are expected to increase as Ethiopia's economy and population continue to grow. Meanwhile, total U.S. imports of agricultural products from Ethiopia totaled \$146 million in 2019. Leading categories included coffee (unroasted), oilseeds, fresh cut flowers and flower buds, spices, planting seeds, wine, and beer.

There has been an increased emphasis to enhance the country's food safety, animal and plant health regulatory regimes. The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) recently re-organized with a statutory authority to enforce and implement food safety and quality regulations. In addition to food products, the new Proclamation No. 1112/2019 mandated that EFDA regulate medicine, tobacco, cosmetics, and medical devices. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) regulates import-export of plant and plant materials as well as livestock and livestock products. The Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA) establishes national standards and hosts the Ethiopian CODEX Contact Point and WTO Inquiry Point. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) regulates the import and export of goods that do not comply with the Ethiopian mandatory standards.

Under the current administration, the GOE is taking various economic reforms and initiatives that could influence the future of Ethiopia's food and agricultural trade regime. In this regard, Ethiopia has signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and reinstated negotiations to WTO accession. The country is also preparing a 10-year economic development plan to spur economic growth, enhance productivity and competitiveness. In general, these ongoing reforms and initiatives are expected to pave the way for a transparent and predictable trade laws, policies and regulatory regimes that would facilitate increased international trade.

## **Section I: General Food Laws**

The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) is undergoing various reforms and economic liberalizations. Over the past years, the GOE has been in the process of updating and modernizing the country's food safety, animal and plant health regulatory systems. This ongoing and evolving modernization process is in part attributed to the nation's fast-paced, export-oriented economic growth, which has spurred a rising number of retail and wholesale food outlets, restaurants, and food manufacturers, especially in and

around the capital city, Addis Ababa. The GOE has subsequently taken steps to regulate these establishments to ensure the food they produce, distribute or sell comply with food safety and quality requirements.

Another key driver underpinning this modernization effort, is the GOE's interest in boosting agricultural exports, like coffee, sesame, and livestock products, in order to grow the economy and generate much needed foreign exchange. In particular, the GOE recognizes that to export these products abroad that the country needs a reliable food safety system in place to meet the demands of foreign buyers in Europe, Asia, and North America. At the same time, the country's economic growth has resulted in increased demand for imported food and agricultural products. The GOE is regulating these imports to ensure their safety and quality.

Despite this modernization, there are still major capacity-related gaps, including a shortage of qualified technical staff and insufficient laboratory capacity, which in turn limits the country's ability to enforce food safety regulations. The GOE is trying to tackle these issues through awareness creation programs, both inside and outside the government, on the importance of food safety.

Broadly speaking, the country's food safety regulatory system is authorized and mandated in Parliamentary Proclamation – [Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority Proclamation No. 661/2009](#). This legislation provided the legal authorities for the government to consolidate the pre-existing food regulatory system with the aim of better 'protect[ing] the public from health risks emerging out of unsafe and poor quality food.' In particular, the Proclamation authorizes the setting of standards and regulations for locally produced and imported foods, in areas such as production, promotion, storage, packaging and labeling, distribution, and laboratory testing.

In a subsequent Parliamentary Proclamation – [Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority Regulation No. 189/2010](#) – the Food, Medicine, Healthcare and Control Authority (FMHACA) was established, under the purview of the Ministry of Health, as the competent authority responsible for setting and enforcing food safety standards and regulations. Under this proclamation, food is defined as “any raw, semi-processed or processed substance for commercial purpose or to be served for the public in any way intended for human consumption that includes water and other drinks, chewing gum, supplementary food and any substance, which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of food.”

FMHACA was given further statutory authority to enforce and implement food safety and quality regulations as defined in the [Food Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Councils of Ministers Regulation No 299/2013](#). This legislation states that food must be wholesome and produced in accordance with the relevant safety and quality requirements. Imported products failing to meet these standards will be returned to the country of origin or destroyed at the point of entry. For example, products that are expired or have deteriorated in quality may be seized and returned or destroyed. In a case where the offending product was detected in post-market surveillance, FMHACA has the authority to pull it from stores' shelves and destroy it. This regulation also provides broadly-

defined requirements dealing with food storage, handling, and transportation, and prohibits counterfeiting and adulteration.

Recently, the Ethiopian Food Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority (FMHACA) carried out organizational restructuring with a new institutional name and a revised mandate. FMHACA is now renamed as the [Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority \(EFDA\)](#). In February 2019, the GOE Council of Ministries approved a new [proclamation \(No.1112/2019\)](#) billing a revised mandate of the EFDA. The EFDA is mandated to regulate only products related to food, medicine, tobacco, cosmetics and medical devices. The new mandate of EFDA has similarities to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Plant Health Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) regulates the safety of imported plant and plant products, as authorized in the [Plant Quarantine Regulation, Council of Ministers Regulation No. 4/1992](#). The definition of ‘plants’ includes living plants, plant products and seeds. Plants and other related articles must be accompanied by an import permit, a phytosanitary certificate from the competent authority from the country of origin, and are subject to quarantine inspection. Shipping containers carrying plants or plant articles must be marked with the following information: contents, origin, address of shipper, supplier, or freight forwarder; name of consignee; and entry point in Ethiopia. In cases where pests are detected in an incoming shipment, MoA may allow the cargo to undergo treatment to destroy or inactivate the pest.

The Livestock Resources branch of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for quarantine and livestock disease issues. Imports of livestock, meat and by-products, and genetics require an import permit along with a health certificate from the country of origin. When applying for an import permit, the importer must identify the type of product, country of origin, means of transport, date of arrival, countries transited, and port of entry. Upon arrival, livestock, meat and by-products, as well as genetic materials will be subject to inspection. The [Guidelines](#) for Import and Export of Animal Genetic Material spell out the recommended procedures and requirements in greater detail.

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) has a [Directive](#) to Food Exporters, Importers and Wholesalers to remind traders of the requirements that must be met to sell and distribute food and beverage products in the local marketplace.

In coordination with EFDA and MoA, the [Ethiopian Standards Agency \(ESA\)](#) develops the national food safety standards, some of which are mandatory while others are voluntary. EFDA and these Ministries enforce the national standards that correspond to their respective jurisdictions.

As part of its standards development process, ESA consults with industry and public stakeholders to take their comments and concerns into account. In fact, ESA publishes the draft national standards online along with an open solicitation for [public comments](#). Given this high degree of transparency, the ESA, from Post’s perspective, is a model for the broader GOE in the area of open and inclusive rulemaking.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) is responsible for the establishment and enforcement of the legal metrological system. In coordination with EFDA and MoA, the ministry has the authority to

control the quality of imports and to restrict entry of products that do not comply with Ethiopian standards. MoTI has a standing [notice](#) to remind importers that incoming products, including certain food items, must comply, where applicable, with ESA Mandatory Standards.

Third-party inspection bodies, which have been approved by MoTI, can certify the subjected products meet the national standard. Pre-certified products will clear arrival inspection without delay, though MoTI reserves the right to conduct random sampling and testing. Uncertified products will be subject to normal inspection procedures at the point of entry.

<b>Summary of Food Control/Regulatory Agencies, Quality Infrastructure Institutes and their Responsibilities</b>		
<b>Gov't Ministry</b>	<b>Regulatory Authority/Agency/Directorate</b>	<b>Key Responsibilities</b>
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA)	<p>EFDA is responsible to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety and quality;</li> <li>• Safety, efficacy, quality and proper use of medicines; and</li> <li>• Safety, quality and performance of medical devices.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI)	Import and Export Goods Quality Control Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control quality of export and import goods</li> <li>• Regulatory oversight on the importation and exportation of goods that do not comply with the Ethiopian mandatory standards.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Plant Health Regulatory Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection of consignments of plants/other regulated articles including import and export of plants and plant products and provide import and export permits</li> <li>• Inspection of required phytosanitary documents and issuance of phytosanitary certificates.</li> <li>• Disinfestations/disinfections of consignments to meet phytosanitary requirements</li> <li>• Supervise quarantine treatments including fumigation and weed cleaning processes.</li> <li>• Advise and supervise disposal of plant and plant products</li> <li>• Crop surveillance for pests- mainly cereals, fruits and vegetables</li> <li>• Protection of endangered areas –maintenance and surveillance of pest-free areas/areas with low pest prevalence</li> <li>• Inspection, approval and registration of pesticides</li> <li>• Food safety risk assessment in different crop</li> </ul>

		products including pests and pesticide application.
	Animal Health Regulatory Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a system that ensures access to quality veterinary services to improve the prevention and timely control of animal diseases.</li> <li>• Quarantine on import and export of livestock, fish and their byproducts; prevent communicable livestock diseases and the outbreak of migratory parasites.</li> <li>• Ensure the proper administration and quality control of veterinary drugs and feeds as well as veterinary services.</li> </ul>
	Veterinary Drug and Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for registration and certification of feeds and veterinary drugs that are produced, imported and in use in the country.</li> <li>• Setting standards for quality control activities,</li> <li>• Marketing surveillance, banning, revoking and suspension of registrations, packaging and labeling, trade and licensing of veterinary drugs and animal feed</li> </ul>
Ministry of Innovation and Technology	Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of national standards.</li> </ul>
	Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise (ECAE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides certification, inspection and laboratory testing services.</li> </ul>
	Ethiopian National Accreditation Office (ENAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide accreditation services, by formal third-party recognition, the competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to perform specific activities, such as tests, calibrations, certifications or inspections.</li> </ul>
	National Metrology Institute (NMI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for the maintenance of Ethiopian National Measurement Standards and Certified Reference Materials (CRM) and also provides calibration, training and consultancy services in the areas of metrology and scientific equipment.</li> </ul>
	National Radiation Prevention Authority (NRPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and control of radiation levels in food, water, etc.</li> </ul>
Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission	Biosafety Regulatory Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental contamination prevention and control</li> </ul>

## Section II: Labeling Requirements

The following information below must be clearly and indelibly marked on the labels of pre-packaged foods in either English or Amharic. (Note: packaged foods with a surface area less than 10cm<sup>2</sup> may be exempt from having to display some of these labeling elements). Labels found on U.S. food products are commonly accepted.

### Required Labeling Elements for Pre-packaged Foods:

- Trade name of the food product.
- Common name of the food.
- Nutritional content.
- List of ingredients (except for single ingredient foods) in descending order of weight.
- Description of micronutrients used to enrich foods produced with fortification.
- Labeling, description, or ads of any food supplement must not represent to be used in disease prevention, treatment, or cure, or in any way characterize as a medicine.
- If the food product contains milk and milk products, fish and shellfish, wheat, barley, peanuts, soybeans, and other food allergenic, its labeling must clearly describe its content.
- Net weight or volume of contents.
- Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor.
- Country of origin.
- Production and expiration dates (Note: Food products must have at least 50 percent of their shelf life remaining when they arrive at customs. Expired food cannot enter the country not can it be sold in the marketplace. Certain foods are exempt from carrying expiry dates, including fresh fruits and vegetables, wines, beverages with 10 percent alcoholic content by volume, vinegar, sugar, and candies and chewing gums having sugar contents above 35%).
- Product identification number/code identifying producing factory and lot.
- Instructions for use (if needed).
- For beverages containing more than 1.2 percent alcohol, the alcohol proof is required on the label.
- Alcoholic beverages are required to contain labels showing alcoholic volume and warning that alcohol consumption may cause health problems. The label should also contain a warning that women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risks of birth defects.
- GM foods must carry the label with the following statement: 'genetically modified', 'genetically modified organism' or other comparable description.
- Irradiated food must contain the phrase "irradiated" or the internationally accepted Radura symbol indicating a food product has been irradiated with ionizing radiation may be placed besides the labeling.



### **Required Labeling Elements for Raw Foods:**

- Name
- Ingredient list
- Net content
- Name and address of the producer and/or importer
- Country of origin
- Lot identification
- Expiry date or minimum useful life
- Conditions for product storage

### **Required Labeling for Animal Genetic Materials:**

GOE's Animal and Animal Genetics Materials Import-Export guideline stipulates that importation of AAGM that includes live animal, semen, embryo, fertile egg, ova, and tissues. Importation of AAGM is allowed for specific purposes such as for commercial breeding and production, research and extension. For importation of livestock and livestock genetic materials, GOE regulatory authority requires that OIE guidelines be strictly adhered to. This includes from labeling, production and processing, health, manpower, transportation and facility requirements.

### **Required Standards for Animal Genetic Materials**

- Importations must fulfill the needs of the importer within the national interest
- Must be certified free of GMOs or living modified organisms (LMOs)
- Labeling and contents of transit package/letters.

Ethiopia's labeling requirement for importation of animal genetic materials such as semen, ova and embryo must contain the information below:

- Breed name
- Donor number
- Date of production and batch number
- Additionally, transit package and/or letter must include country of origin, species, producer company, volume per package, storage temperature and means of transportation.

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

In accordance with the [Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority Proclamation No. 661/2009](#), "packaging material shall be made out of substances, which are safe and suitable for their intended use, and the product shall be packed in container which will safeguard its hygienic, safety, quality and food grade." Further, the Proclamation states "no packaging material shall be put into use unless it complies with the international and national safety and quality standards."

Individual product standards may also contain additional guidance and/or requirements as it relates to packaging and container requirements. As an example, the standard for canned peaches indicates packing requirements, including lacquer usage inside the can as well as can thickness.

#### **Section IV: Food Additives Regulations**

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) regulates the use of additives, which must comply with both international and national food safety standards. The revised EFDA Proclamation No.1112/2019 defines “food additive” as any substance prepared in accordance with applicable requirements and added to food in order to give flavor, impart color, preserve, and enhance its appearance or other related functional purposes. Furthermore, Article 11 of the proclamation states that use of maximum level of a food additive shall be in accordance with the Ethiopian standard issued by the appropriate body.

As stated earlier, the packing-label of food-additives shall contain at least the following particulars: 1) the term “food additive” expressed or printed on the label, and 2) instruction about usage, handling and precaution of the food. Any food additive to be imported shall be permitted by CODEX Alimentarius or the country’s standard concerning its use as an input for food processing with its due level.

Individual food and beverage standards, where applicable, reference both permitted and prohibited additives. For example, in the case of wine, tannic acid can be used for clarification purposes, but coloring substances are prohibited except for oenocyanine or caramel. In addition, there is a specific national standard for food additives.

#### **Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

The revised EFDA Proclamation No.1112/2019, Article 5 stipulates that any food product may not have chemical residue including pesticide, fertilizer, animal medicine, food additive chemical, cleaning chemical, a radioactive substance and other contaminants above the maximum level issued or adopted by the appropriate organ.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) regulates and requires all pesticides to be registered prior to use. The registration process requires the applicant to provide efficacy, safety and quality data. Once registered, the pesticide can be used for up to five years at which time the registration may be renewed. The list of registered pesticides can be found at the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) page.

In addition to registration, MoA also is responsible for establishing maximum residue limits (MRLs) and conducting pesticide residue analysis on primary agricultural products. Applicable MRLs as well as limits for other contaminants are listed in the individual product standards. For example, in the case of apples, there are 41 different MRLs, as well as limits for heavy metals (e.g. lead) and microbiological contaminants (e.g. coliform). Imported apples, as well as domestically produced apples, are expected

to comply with these requirements. In the event where a national standard does not exist, the GOE will likely defer to the Codex recommendation.

The MoA's [Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority](#) is responsible for setting standards related to animal feed and veterinary drugs, including maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs and other related compounds. Like pesticides, veterinary drugs must be tested for safety, efficacy and quality and registered prior to use. The registration lasts for five years after which time the registration may be renewed. At present, Ethiopia is using Codex as its basis for veterinary drug MRLs.

There is a general standard for contaminants and toxins in foods. This standard, which draws upon the corresponding Codex standard (193-1995) lays out the 'principles and procedures' to manage and set acceptable tolerances for contaminants and toxins in food and feed. This standard, however, does not identify or list out contaminants and toxins of concern and their corresponding maximum levels. Instead, these are found in standards for individual commodities, where they exist.

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

**Facility Registration:** The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) requires pre-licensing formalities to issue a competency certificate to food manufacturers. According to the revised Food Manufacturing Factories Pre-Licensing Directive, the facility registration requirement applies to local food manufactures in order to ensure food safety and quality. EFDA classifies local food manufacturers into three different entities. This classification is based on expiry nature of the product, manufacturing processing of the product, and end users of the product.

### **I. Manufacturers of Special Nutritional Purpose Foods:**

- 1) Food supplement/dietary supplement/infant formula
- 2) Follow up formula
- 3) Complimentary foods for infants and young children
- 4) Ready to use supplementary foods (such as Plumpy Nut, Plumpy Sup, F-100 and F-75) for acute and moderate malnourished people.
- 5) Special nutritional purpose foods and
- 6) Other manufacturers producing foods of similar nature as above.

### **II. Manufacturers of High Risk Food Products for General Purpose:**

- 1) Processed animal product
- 2) Processed sea foods
- 3) Processed fruit and vegetable
- 4) Processed nuts
- 5) Therapeutic foods
- 6) Complementary foods (for children three years and older)
- 7) Fortified foods (iodized salt, edible oil, flour, etc.)

### III. Manufacturers of Low Risk Food Products:

- 1) Crackers, snack food and confectionery products
- 2) Edible oils and fats
- 3) Packed water
- 4) Soft drinks
- 5) Beers
- 6) Extruded products and noodles

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) also categorizes the following food products as *Notified food products*:

- 1) Hot sauce
- 2) Legume products
- 3) Packed rice products
- 4) Processed seed (corn, wheat, sorghum, barley, oat, etc.) products
- 5) Packed sugar
- 6) Bakery raw materials
- 7) Processed coffee and tea
- 8) Processed spices
- 9) Alcohol (more than 10%) and liquor products
- 10) Vinegars
- 11) Other related food products not mentioned in category I and II above
- 12) Imported food aid products donated by governmental or non-governmental organizations.
- 13) Raw materials used for food production.

**Product Registration:** EFDA has a mandatory list of food products that must be registered and approved prior to importation for the first time. Infant formula (milk) and food supplements are strictly prohibited from entering the market without prior registration and approval. Details are available in the [Infant and Follow-up Formula Exporters Importers and Wholesalers Directive \(2014\)](#) and [Food Supplement Directive \(2016\)](#).

In addition to infant formula and food supplements, EFDA requires registration for milk and milk products, meat and meat products, poultry products, sea foods, processed vegetables, sliced fruits, nuts and their products, therapeutic foods, cereal based complementary foods, confectioneries, fats and oils, processed fruits, packed water, soft drinks, beer, iodized salt, and noodles.

The required documentations for new registration of imported food products include:

- Application form for registration
- Agency agreement between manufacturer/exporter and local importer
- Certificate of Free Sale (or FDA's '[Certificate to a Foreign Government](#)' for FDA-regulated products)

- Food manufacturing or products registration certificate or approval
- Authenticated copy of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), or ISO 22000:2005 certificates. In appropriate circumstances, internationally accepted certification or certificate of quality management system may be accepted in lieu of GMP and HACCP.
- Certificate of lab analysis of sample product for registration from accredited lab
- Documents showing quality and safety of raw materials and food additives used in manufacturing.
- Study evidences for determining shelf life of the product.
- Veterinary certificate attesting free of diseases that can be transmitted from animals to human.
- Product sample
- Technical documents such as:
  - Formulation, and manufacturing and packaging procedure
  - Data on method of analysis and specification of the finished product
  - Stability study reports and shelf life assignment
  - Packaging and labeling requirements for finished product
  - Quality analysis result
- Other details of the product:
  - Trade name of the food product.
  - Common name of the food.
  - Nutrition content.
  - List of ingredients (except for single ingredient foods) in descending order of weight.
  - Made-in country, name and address of the manufacturer or importer
  - Production and expiration dates
  - Product identification number
  - Net weight or volume of contents
  - Description of micronutrients used to enrich foods produced with fortification
  - If the food product contains milk and milk products, fish and shellfish, wheat, barley, peanuts, soybeans, and other food allergenic, its labeling must clearly describe its content.
  - If the food is made of GM ingredients, a supporting information must be provided.
  - Irradiated foods must contain clear information showing that the food is irradiated.
  - Instructions for use (if needed).

## **Section VII: Other Specific Standards**

The Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA) [2020 Standards Catalogue](#) contains a list of voluntary standards, ranging from food microbiology to food labeling and from beans to bananas. It is important to note that health, safety aspects, such as maximum residue limits for pesticides or other contaminants that are found in voluntary standards are, in fact, mandatory, and shipments must comply with these

requirements. The voluntary aspect of these standards only refers to quality-related issues, such as the grade of the product.

ESA's [mandatory standards](#) 'have the force of law' and are 'enforced by laws and administrative regulations.' Food products subject to specific compulsory requirements are fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, coffee (export), alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, edible oil, oilseeds, food additives, as well as pre-packaged foods, including baby foods.

ESA has the goal to make the national standards available online. Presently, if you want a copy of a particular standard, you must go to the ESA library, submit a request, and pay a nominal fee to obtain the copy. Alternatively, importers should be able to provide U.S. suppliers with a copy of both the voluntary and compulsory standards. Post can assist U.S. companies in obtaining copies of standards on a case-by-case basis.

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

The [Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office \(EIPO\)](#) oversees intellectual property rights (IPR) issues. Ethiopia is not yet a signatory to a number of major IPR treaties, such as the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, the Berne Convention for Literary and Artistic Works, the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, or the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Please refer to recent publication of [Country Investment Climate Statement](#) section five on protection of property rights for a complete understanding of IPR situation in Ethiopia. In addition, Ethiopia's property rights laws, rules, regulations and treaties are available at [WIPO](#).

## **Section IX: Import Procedures**

The following are the general steps for importing a product into the country. Specific steps for a product that is subject to ESA compulsory standards are found in the earlier-referenced Ministry of Trade and Industry [notice](#).

- An importer must apply for an import permit and obtain a letter of credit from an Ethiopian bank for the total value of the imports before an order can be placed.
- Bank approves letter of credit and authorizes release of foreign exchange. (Note: Because of foreign exchange shortages, it can take several months for an importer to receive the requested L/C.)
- Importer pays foreign supplier for goods.
- Customs clearance and inspection by relevant government authority at Port of Djibouti or dry port in Ethiopia. (Note: Customs clearance and inspection can take several weeks.)

The certificates and documents listed below are generally required when shipping food and beverage products to Ethiopia.

- Registration certificate
- Agency agreement
- Original and copy of health certificate, for food items excluding alcoholic drinks,
- Certificate of conformity, including laboratory analysis, for products with compulsory standards
- Certificate of Origin
- Free sale certificate (or FDA's '[Certificate to a Foreign Government](#)' for FDA-regulated products)
- Packing list
- Customs declaration
- Bill of lading, airway bill or track bill
- Commercial invoice
- Certificate of irradiation, evidencing the amount of remaining in it is not harmful to human consumption, if the food is irradiated.
- Veterinary Certificate, if the food is unprocessed animal and animal product
- Phytosanitary Certificate, if the food item is an unprocessed vegetable, fruit and cereal.

Shipment of grains, oilseeds, fresh fruits and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate issued by a competent government authority. Similarly, livestock and livestock products require a veterinary certificate.

As noted in Section I, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has issued a standing notice to importers, informing them that all products must comply with national compulsory standards. Third-party certifiers can provide a written attestation that the shipment in question complies with the relevant Ethiopian standard(s), which will allow the cargo to enter the country without inspection at the point of entry. Uncertified cargoes will be subject to normal inspection procedures. Please refer to recent edition of [Country Commercial Guide](#) for further details of Ethiopia's import procedures, regulations, and other relevant information.

**Import of Compound Feed, Feed Ingredients and Additives:** Ethiopia's Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA) has a directive to control import of animal feed and related products. This directive is titled as "Feed Processor, Importer, Distributor and Exporter Registration and Certification Directive No. 03/2015." The directive is not available online. The directive requires the following documents in order to import compound feed, feed ingredients and additives:

- Registration Certificate
- Import Permit
- Sanitary or phytosanitary certificate
- Ingredient composition in order of largest to smallest
- Certificate of Batch Analysis
- Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)
- Certificate indicating that it is free from GMO
- Certificate of freedom from Protein of Ruminant origin

## Section X: Trade Facilitation

The Government of Ethiopia with support from the World Bank recently launched an [electronic single window](#) platform that will help facilitate trade. This new initiative is part of the government's commitment to improve international trade and ease of doing business in the country. The new electronic single window (eSW) automates trade procedures and replaces the need for physical, manual and duplicate processes. It also plays a key role in enhancing transparency for trade. The eSW system connects 16 major cross-border regulatory agencies. It enables traders to submit documentation and receive electronic permits relating to import and export through a single window submission, significantly reducing the time and cost to trade. The automated platform will create a paperless environment and eliminate multiple physical inspections and repetitive document submissions, it will reduce clearance time from 44 days to 13 days and eventually to 3 days.

Before launching the electronic single window service, Ethiopia had been using manual procedures that required frequent face-to-face interaction with regulatory agencies. This resulted in high trading costs and delays due to extensive documentary requirements, high levels of physical inspection of imports, and lack of coordination among border agencies.

The electronic single window platform has two major portals:

1. *Trader Portal*: The trader submits the trade documents required for customs and border clearance electronically, views the processing procedures and various statistical information, and provides the function to pay the taxes and fees electronically.
2. *CBRA Portal*: It provides the function that the person in charge of the authorities to process electronically the verification, inspection and approval of the documents received through the trader portal.

Please visit the [Ethiopian customs trade portal](#) for detailed information on taxes, tariffs, and other documentations related to import trade.



<b>Summary of Key Proclamations, Regulations, Directives, Guidelines for Agro-Food Products</b>	
<b>EFDA Food Control Proclamations and Regulation</b>	<b>Download Link</b>
Revised Proclamation of Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority, Proclamation No. 1112/2019.	<a href="#">Download</a>
Regulation No. 299/2013 of Council of Ministers: Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority.	<a href="#">Download</a>
Ethiopian Food, Medicines and Health care Administration and Control Authority establishment council of Ministers Regulation No. 189/2010.	<a href="#">Download</a>
Proclamation No. 661/2009: Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority.	<a href="#">Download</a>
Pre-Shipment Inspection Scheme Establishment Proclamation (No. 173/1999)	<a href="#">Download</a>
<b>EFDA Directives and Guidelines</b>	
Baby Food Control Directive, July 2018	<a href="#">Download</a>
Infant and Follow up Formula Importers, Wholesalers and Exporters Directive, 2016	<a href="#">Download</a>
Food Supplement Directive, March 2016	<a href="#">Download</a>
Food Manufacturing Factories Pre-Licensing Directive <sup>1</sup> (Revised), June 2011	<a href="#">Download</a>
Food Advertisement Control Directive, December 2017	<a href="#">Download</a>
Administrative Measures and Compliant Handling Directive, October 2012	<a href="#">Download</a>
EFDA Service Fees and Charges	<a href="#">Download</a>
<b>Animal Health and Import-Export Related Regulations and Guidelines</b>	
IGAD Regional Animal Health Certification Guidelines (ICPALD)	<a href="#">Download</a>
Guidelines for Import and Export of Animal Genetic Material	<a href="#">Download</a>
Regulation No. 341/2015: Regulation to Provide For Live Animals Marketing	<a href="#">Download</a>
Regulation No. 272/2012: Provide for the establishment of Veterinary Drug and Feed Administration Control Authority (VDFACA)	<a href="#">Download</a>
Proclamation No. 267/2002: Animal Diseases Prevention and Control	<a href="#">Download</a>
<b>Plant Health and Related Regulations</b>	
The Plant Quarantine Regulation No. 04/1992	<a href="#">Download</a>
Proclamation 674/2010 for the Administration and Control of Pesticides	<a href="#">Download</a>

<sup>1</sup> The directive is published in Amharic language.

## **APPENDIX I: Government Regulatory Agency Contacts**

### [The Ethiopian Customs Commission \(ECC\)](#)

Director General Office

Email: [eccweb@revenue.gov.et](mailto:eccweb@revenue.gov.et)

Tel: +251-118 505 251

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### [Ministry of Agriculture \(MoA\)](#)

Plant Health Regulatory Directorate

Director General

Email: [hapru.assefa2@gmail.com](mailto:hapru.assefa2@gmail.com)

Tel: +251-116 46 2311

Livestock Import-Export Quarantine Directorate

Disease Prevention and Control Director

Email: [alemalemayehu22@gmail.com](mailto:alemalemayehu22@gmail.com)

Tel: +251-116 462 301

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### [Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority \(EFDA\)](#)

Director General

Email: [regulatory@EFDA.gov.et](mailto:regulatory@EFDA.gov.et)

Tel: +251-115 524 120

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### [Ethiopian Standards Agency \(ESA\)](#)

Director General

Email: [info@ethiostandards.org](mailto:info@ethiostandards.org)

Tel: +251-116 460 881

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### [Codex Contact Point for Ethiopia](#)

Ethiopian Standard Agency (ESA)

E-mail: [codexeth@ethiostandards.org](mailto:codexeth@ethiostandards.org)

Tel: + 251-116 460 525

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise \(ECAE\)](#)

Director General

Email: [info-dg@eca-e.com](mailto:info-dg@eca-e.com); [info-cs@eca-e.com](mailto:info-cs@eca-e.com)

Tel: +251-116 460 569; +251-11 896 2002

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office \(EIPO\)](#)

Office of the Director General

E-mail: [eipo@ethionet.et](mailto:eipo@ethionet.et)

Tel: +251-115 586 393

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## **APENDIX II: Other Import Specialist Contacts**

Third party inspection companies for food and agricultural products falling under the list of Mandatory Ethiopian Standards:

### **SGS** – Ethiopia POC

Bole Sub City, Kebele 03,  
Gulf Aziz Bld, 4th Floor,  
Room no 402-403,  
Addis Ababa 1000,  
Ethiopia

### **Intertek** – managed out of Nairobi office:

4F House of Vanguard  
Chiromo Road Consolata Church  
Westlands, Kenya  
Delivery Address  
Village Market  
PO Box 696, 00621  
Nairobi, Kenya

info.nairobi.gs@intertek.com

+254 20 444 9132-33 or 36

+254 20 815 5274 - 75

+254 714 900 397

Victor Mbithi

+254 722 554 438

Rose Gaya

+254 701 580 088

### **Cotecna Ethiopia VoC Program Office**

Mr. Yacob Kahsai

Email: yacob.kahsai@sgs.com

pca.enquiries@sgs.com

Tel: +251-116 670 477

Fax: +251-116 670 778

### **Bureau Veritas Services PLC**

Gollagul Tower, Bole Subcity, Woreda 04y  
10th Floor, RNo. 1002, Addis Ababa

**Attachments:**

No Attachments