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Report Highlights:

Germany is a member of the European Union (EU) and generally follows EU directives and regulations, including those relating to the importation of food products. This report provides an overview of food laws in force in Germany that cover areas, which are not yet harmonized. Food laws currently in force in the EU-28 are summarized in the EU 28 FAIRS report.

Last updated November 2019

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Berlin, Germany, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was 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 PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Germany as a member of the European Union (EU) follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations. This report focuses on food laws in force in Germany that cover areas which are not yet EU-harmonized. EU Regulations are explained in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, and referenced throughout this report as EU 28 FAIRS Report. It is available at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Contents

Section I. General Food Laws	4
Section II. Labeling Requirements	5
General Requirements.....	5
Language Requirements.....	5
Stick-on labels.....	6
Minimum Durability	6
Other Specific Labeling Requirements	7
Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).....	7
Beef	7
Seafood.....	8
Pork, Sheep, Goats and Poultry.....	9
GMO-free labeling.....	9
Dietetic Foods Ordinance.....	9
Section III. Packaging and Container Requirements.....	10
Packaging Waste Recycling - Green Dot System.....	10
Mandatory Deposit System for One-way Beverage Packages.....	12
Section IV. Food Additive Regulations.....	12
Section V. Pesticides and other Contaminants	13
Pesticides.....	13
Contaminants	14
Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures	15
Facility registration	15
Product Registration.....	15
Section VII. Other Specific Standards.....	16
Genetically-Engineered Food and Feeds	16
Private Certification for Fresh Food	16
Organic Foods	17
Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights	17
Section IX. Import Procedures	18
Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts	19
List of Major Regulatory Agencies.....	19
List of Border Inspection Posts.....	20
World Trade Organization (WTO) Inquiry Post.....	20
Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts	21
List of German Food Laboratories.....	21
Appendix III: List of Abbreviations and Links	23

Section I. General Food Laws

In Germany, the Food, Commodities, and Feed Code (*Lebensmittel-, Bedarfsgegenstände- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch* or LFGB¹) contains most German food and feed laws. These laws are based on, and generally fully harmonized with, EU regulations and directives. The LFGB states the goals of the German food law and provides definitions, procedural rules and product-specific rules. It defines general food safety and health protection rules, addresses labeling requirements, regulates inspection, detention, and seizure rules for suspect food. These rules apply to domestic and imported food products alike.

Liability for the legal and proper marketing of any imported products into Germany lies solely with the product's German importer. German law enforcement agencies hold the importer responsible for any violations of the LFGB because practically they cannot take action against foreign producers, including those in other EU countries.

The authority for enforcement rests with the 16 federal states (German *Länder*). This implies that a minor infraction to the LFGB may be tolerated in one state but not in another. However, major violations are prosecuted in all federal states. Domestic and foreign goods are checked through random sampling by government laboratories at the point of sale, at any other point in the trade chain, or at the processing location. German government laboratories, in addition to looking for prohibited ingredients and improper labeling, evaluate products generally, assessing the credibility of the company's trade practices and whether the product as presented will fulfil consumer expectations. An administrative food safety rule requires German authorities to take five samples per thousand inhabitants annually, translating into roughly 400,000 samples in total. If a product is determined to pose a risk to public health in violation of the LFGB (regardless of whether the product is domestic or foreign), the risk will be reported to the press, which will announce the brand name of the product, its importer, and, often, its producer.

The agency responsible for monitoring compliance with German food regulations is the *Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit* (BVL). It is under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)

(Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety)

Bundesallee 50

38116 Braunschweig

Tel.: +49 531 21497 0

Fax: +49 531 21497 299

E-mail: [poststelle\(at\)bvl.bund.de](mailto:poststelle(at)bvl.bund.de)

Website: www.bvl.bund.de

¹ <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/lfgb/LFGB.pdf> (German language only)

The BVL was established as one of two independent administrative agencies in the wake of the “mad cow disease” crisis in 2002. BVL is responsible for risk management, while risk assessments are carried out by its sister agency the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). BVL exercises authority over substances and products that harbor potential risks and that are directly or indirectly related to food safety (such as plant protection products and veterinary drugs).

The BVL formulates general administrative rules to implement laws regarding consumer health protection and food safety, as well as in the preparation and monitoring of surveillance systems and plans by the *Länder*. In addition, the BVL coordinates inspections carried out in Germany by the European Food and Veterinary Office, and is responsible for implementing the European rapid alert system for consumer health protection and food safety issues in Germany.

The national reference laboratory for the detection of residues and the Community reference laboratory for the detection of residues are also part of the BVL.

Section II. Labeling Requirements

General Requirements

Germany applies EU-harmonized legislation on labeling. The standard, domestic U.S. label does not comply with EU labeling requirements. On December 13, 2014, the EU’s “[Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\)](#)” regulation 1169/2011 became applicable to all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU, including those imported from non-EU countries. The mandatory nutrition declaration requirement introduced by the new FIC regulation became applicable on December 13, 2016.

Detailed information on food labeling requirements set out in the FIC regulation is available in GAIN report “New EU Food Labeling Rules Published,” supplemented by GAIN report “How to Comply with the EU’s New Food Labeling Rules.” You can access these reports as well as updates on EU labeling rules on the FAS USEU’s website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/>

Language Requirements

All foods marketed in Germany must be labeled in German. Multi-language labels are allowed. Labeling may also include illustrations. However, it is prohibited to show ingredients on the label that are not contained in the product, e.g. illustrations of fruits if only artificial flavors are used and a multi-fruit juice may only show pictures of those fruits contained in the product. Since many other requirements of the FIC are applicable, U.S. food manufacturers and exporters should contact their potential German importer before making changes in labels on products labeled for distribution in Germany.

Stick-on labels

Some importers may agree to affix computer generated, adhesive labels in Germany for smaller quantities during a test-marketing phase.

Minimum Durability

Annex X to the FIC sets out rules for the indication of the date of minimum durability, use-by date and date of freezing. The use-by date must be indicated on individual pre-packed portions. The durability date AND the date of (first) freezing preceded by the words “frozen on” is required on labels of frozen meat, frozen meat preparations and frozen unprocessed fishery products:

English	German term
Best before [date]	Mindestens haltbar bis [...]
Best before end [date]	Mindestens haltbar bis Ende [...]
Use by [date]	Zu verbrauchen bis [...]
Frozen on [date]	Eingefroren am [...]

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

Beef

In the EU, a compulsory beef labeling scheme has been in place since 2000. For more information please refer to <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/beef-labeling/>. The label must include:

- A reference number ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or animals,
- A traceability code linking the meat to the animal or a group of animals representing the production of maximum one day,
- And the following information:

English	German term
Born in [name of third country]	geboren in [...]
Reared in : [name of third country or third countries]	gemästet in [...]
For beef derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered in the same third country, the above indications may be combined as: Origin [name of third country]	Ursprung: [...]
Slaughtered in: [third country / approval number of slaughterhouse]"	Geschlachtet in: [...]
cut in: [third country / approval number of cutting plant]"	zerlegt in: [...]"

[EU Regulation 653/2014](#) as well as the FIC regulation changed the requirements for voluntary beef labeling. Both regulations went into effect in 2014. Any potentially affected beef exporter should consult their potential importer for more detailed information.

In addition to the compulsory beef labeling program, the German food industry initiated a ‘Quality and Safety’ (QS) program to assure the consumer that the production of such labeled products is fully controlled and recorded based on legal requirements and additional industry-determined production process criteria. The quality and safety program is certified by an approved certification organization. The objective of the QS system is to render food production processes transparent to consumers from the field and stable to the sales counter, thus increasing consumer confidence in the production, processing, and marketing of food. The system is open for domestic and imported products.

QS Qualitaet und Sicherheit GmbH
Schedestr. 1-3
53113 Bonn
Phone +49 228 35068-0
Fax +49 228 35068-10
Contact: [info\(at\)q-s.de](mailto:info(at)q-s.de)
Website: <https://www.q-s.de/en/?lang=gb>

Seafood

EU laws require that on retail level fishery products have to be labeled with origin indication and production method. The German terms are:

English t	German term
caught in [catch region]	gefangen in [...]
caught in freshwater in [country]	aus Binnenfischerei in [...]
farmed in [country]	aus Aquakultur in [...]
cultivated in [country]	gezüchtet in [...]

Detailed information on shipping seafood and fishery products to the EU is provided in the [U.S. Commercial Service Guide for How to Export to the EU](#) and on the Department of Commerce – NOAA Fisheries’ website <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/seafood-commerce-certification/export-certification-european-union>

Information on labeling can also be found in the European Commission’s “Pocket Guide to the EU’s new fish and aquaculture consumer labels”, published in December 2014.

Pork, Sheep, Goats and Poultry

Since April 1, 2015, country of origin labeling is required for fresh, chilled, and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation 1337/2013. In general, the label must indicate where the animal was reared and slaughtered. For more information, see the EU 28 FAIRS report.

German term	English translation
Aufgezogen in: []	reared in: [name of EU member state or third country]“
Geschlachtet in	slaughtered in: [name of EU member state or third country]
Aufgezogen in mehreren Nicht-EU-Ländern	reared in several non-EU countries
Aufgezogen in mehreren EU- und Nicht-EU-Ländern	reared in several EU and non-EU countries
Ursprung: []	Origin: [name of EU member state or third country]“
„Aufgezogen außerhalb der EU“ and „Geschlachtet in []“	Reared in: non-EU“ and „Slaughtered in: [Name of the third country where the animal was slaughtered]“

GMO-free labeling

Since July 2008, Germany allows food to be labeled as “without biotech” to indicate they do not derive from biotech plants. The label “without biotech” is voluntary. The German government and NGOs hope that the food industry develops a new third-product market aside from conventional and organic foods where the consumer can choose between biotech-free and biotech food products. In order to better identify products labeled “without biotech,” the BMELV (now BMEL) launched a logo which can be used cost-free by food companies. The administration of this program is largely entrusted to the “*Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V.*” (non-Biotech Foods Association). For more information on the treatment of biotech foods in Germany, please see our Agricultural Biotechnology Annual report available at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Dietetic Foods Ordinance

The German Dietetic Food Ordinance (Verordnung über diätetische Lebensmittel, DiätV) defines the properties foods must have in order for the manufacturer to label them as dietetic. Foods and beverages labeled as dietetic must differ substantially from other regular foods. A simple listing of the nutrient content, bread units, and/or caloric value on the label is not sufficient to allow the use of the term “dietetic.” Health-related statements are strictly limited. Examples for such statements are:

English translation	German term
Dietetic food suited to treat ...	Diätetisches Lebensmittel geeignet zur Behandlung von ...
Dietetic food suitable for treatment of ... only use if under continuous medical supervision	Diätetisches Lebensmittel geeignet zur Behandlung von ... nur unter ständiger ärztlicher Kontrolle verwenden
special diet for ... as part of a diet plan	zur besonderen Ernährung bei ... im Rahmen eines Diätplanes

It is strongly recommended that U.S. exporters consult a German food laboratory before making any dietary claims for products to be marketed in Germany.

Section III. Packaging and Container Requirements

Germany applies EU-harmonized legislation to packaging and containers. For detailed information on the EU's harmonized legislation on packaging and container regulations, please consult the EU 28 FAIRS report.

However, Germany applies additional requirements regarding packaging waste and recycling of packaging material with the aim of reducing packaging waste and increasing recycling. Distributors of packaged consumer goods (including food) are obliged to collect the packaging from the consumer and recycle it. However, distributors may entrust third parties with the fulfilment of their obligations. Many distributors make use of this option by contracting with one of the licensed recycling companies/systems.

Packaging Waste Recycling - Green Dot System

On January 1, 2019, the new Packaging Law (*Verpackungsgesetz* or *VerpackG*) replaced the German Packaging and Waste Avoidance Ordinance (*Verordnung über die Vermeidung und Verwertung von Verpackungsabfällen*, or *VerpackV*). The law requires producers, importers, and distributors of consumer products, including food stuffs, to enter into a contract for recycling of packaging material with one of the licensed recycling companies. In addition, manufacturers are obliged to register with a newly created national authority, the "*Zentrale Stelle*", before placing packaged products on the market. The registered manufacturers will be published on the website of the *Zentrale Stelle* to ensure full transparency for all market participants and reduce free-riding. In addition, all manufacturers will have to report the following packaging-related data to the *Zentrale Stelle*:

- Registration number (provided by the *Zentrale Stelle*)
- Material and volume of the packaging put on market
- Name of the packaging scheme contracted by the manufacturer to fulfil its Extended Producer Responsibility

- Duration of the agreement with the recycling company/system.

Manufacturers are defined as producers, importers, or distributors that place packaged consumer goods on the market. Depending on the distribution channel, U.S. exporters may or may not be required to contract with a packaging disposal company and register with the *Zentrale Stelle*. However, even if a U.S. company is not required to register directly, they may be required to share information about material and volume of its packaging by its customers which then include this information in their own reporting to the *Zentrale Stelle*.

For more information about the new legislation please consult our GAIN report the subject “Changes to Germany’s Packaging Laws – An Exporter’s Guide” available at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).

Traditionally, the German industry has been using the “Green Dot” symbol to assure that packaging material will be recycled in a controlled system. The Green Dot is found on the packaging material of virtually all products retailed in Germany. Since January 1, 2009, the recycling law no longer requires the Green Dot be printed on product packaging to prove that the material will be recycled in a proper manner. However, if the manufacturer or the importer chooses to continue using the Green Dot symbol, it must have a valid licensing contract with the Duales System Deutschland GmbH (DSD) or another of the registered recycling companies below.

For further information on the Green Dot packaging material disposal and recycling program, contact your potential German importer and/or one of the following registered Green Dot recycling enterprises:

- Der Grüne Punkt – Duales System Deutschland GmbH, Koeln - www.gruener-punkt.de/en.html
- BellandVision GmbH, Pegnitz - <https://www.bellandvision.de/simply-clever-licensing.htm>
- EKO-PUNKT GmbH, Luenen - www.eko-punkt.de
- INTERSEROH Dienstleistungs-GmbH, Koeln - <https://www.interseroh.de/en/>
- Landbell AG, Mainz - www.landbell.com/sales-packaging/
- Reclay VFW GmbH & Co. KG, Köln – www.reclay-group.com/de/en/
- Veolia Umweltservice Dual GmbH, Rostock - www.veolia.de/dual
- Zentek GmbH & Co. KG, Köln – <https://www.dualessystemzentek.de/en/>

Mandatory Deposit System for One-way Beverage Packages

Since May 2006, one-way beverage packages with a content volume of 0.1 to 3.0 liter are subject to the German mandatory deposit system. The deposit (*Pfand*) is collected at the retail level. The requirement applies to domestically produced or bottled products as well as to imported beverages.

Excluded from the deposit system are containers holding the following:

- fruit and vegetable juices and nectars;
- milk and milk mix beverages containing minimum 50 percent milk;
- dietetic drinks for babies and infants;
- spirits and wine including mix drinks containing minimum 50 percent wine; and
- multi-layer carton packages (since they are regarded to be the least environmentally disturbing).



The deposit symbol must appear on the product label. Detailed information about the deposit system is available through:

DPG Deutsche Pfandsystem GmbH

Luisenstr. 46

10117 Berlin, Germany

Tel.: +49 30 800 974 0

Fax: +49 30 800 974 111

E-mail: [info\(at\)dpg-pfandsystem.de](mailto:info@dpg-pfandsystem.de) Website: www.dpg-pfandsystem.de/index.php/en/

Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

Germany applies EU-harmonized legislation regarding food additives, including a positive list of allowed substances. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on food additive regulations, please consult the EU 28 FAIRS Report as well as the USEU website, <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/food-additives/>.

Section V. Pesticides and other Contaminants

Pesticides

Tolerance levels for pesticide residues were harmonized within the EU with regulation 396/2005. An EU database on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) is available at

<https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/public/?event=homepage&language=EN>

For detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation on pesticide and contaminant regulations, please consult the EU 28 FAIRS Report as well as the USEU website

<https://www.usda-eu.org/eu-early-alert/pesticides/>

For application of an import tolerance for a not yet regulated substance in Germany contact:

Bundesministerium fuer Ernaehrung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL)

(Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture)

Referat 313 - Rueckstaende u. Kontaminanten in Lebensmitteln

Rochusstr. 1

53123 Bonn, Germany

Tel.: +49 228 529 0

Fax: +49 228 529 4262

E-Mail: 313(at)bmel.bund.de

Website: <http://www.bmel.bund.de/EN>

The responsible agency for scientific evaluation of pesticide residues in Germany is:

Bundesamt fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)

(Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety)

Abteilung 2

Messeweg 11/12

38104 Braunschweig

Tel.: +49 531 299-5

Fax: +49 531 299-3002

E-mail: poststelle(at)bvl.bund.de

Website: <http://www.bvl.bund.de/EN>

Private Industry Standards for Pesticide Tolerance Levels

As a marketing tool, some retail chains in Germany require their suppliers to exceed the EU regulations and adhere to stricter maximum residue levels of 30, 50, or 70 percent of the respective EU-mandated MRL. Reports indicate that suppliers violating the new contract standard are at risk of being removed from the approved supplier list of the particular retail chain.

Contaminants

Tolerance levels for a number of contaminants were harmonized within the EU in regulation 1881/2006. Germany put in place additional maximum tolerance for aflatoxins, ochratoxin A, nitrate, halogenated solvents, and non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (“ndl-PCB) for products not regulated in EU regulation 1881/2006. For details, please see: <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/kmv/BJNR028700010.html>

Official Aflatoxin Controls on U.S. Products

In April 2015, the EU approved the pre-export checks (PEC) program for U.S. almonds. U.S. almonds were included in the Annex to [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/949](#), which lists all EU-approved Pre-export Check programs. The acceptance of the U.S. program reflects the EU’s recognition of aflatoxin controls performed at U.S. origin in line with Article 23 of the EU Regulation on Official Food and Feed Controls ([Regulation \(EC\) No 882/2004](#)). The latter regulation, which provides the general framework for food controls, will be replaced by [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) from Dec 15, 2019 onwards. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service began issuing PEC almond certificates on August 1, 2015. The almond PEC program builds on and replaces the Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan program, which was no longer required after September 2014 when the EU voted to remove California almonds from Special Measures.

Following the publication of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1269](#) on July 14, 2017, the U.S. pre-export program for peanuts is no longer recognized by the EU. There is no **restriction on the export of U.S. peanuts; however, shipments are no longer benefitting from the reduced testing level for aflatoxin** upon entry into the EU.

On April 1, 2015, U.S. pistachios were included in the list of products/origins subject to increased import controls under [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 669/2009](#). Member States must now test 10 percent of all incoming shipments. This regulation does not impose any requirements on exporters.

For additional information on aflatoxin testing and certification performed in the United States prior to export to the EU, see:

- http://www.almonds.com/sites/default/files/pec_program_manual_version_9.0.pdf
- <http://www.peanutsusa.org.uk/eu-food-aflatoxin-legislation>
- <http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/lab-testing/aflatoxin>

Residues in Animals and Animal Product

For details on the monitoring of residues in animals and animal products, please consult the EU FAIRS report and the USEU website:

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/residue-plans/>

For additional information on how to export food of animal origin to the EU, see:

[Imports of food of animal origin from non-EU countries: Provisions of guarantees equivalent to EU requirements on residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants](#)

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

The German Government applies EU-harmonized legislation for other related regulations and requirements including product inspection, registration and certification. For detailed information on certification, please consult the following websites:

- Certificates for Plant Products - www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/plant-health-certification/
- Certificates for Products covered by veterinary certification - www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/products-exempt-from-veterinary-certification/

Facility registration

Exports of U.S. red meat, meat products, farmed and wild game meat, ratites, milk and milk products, seafood, bovine embryos and semen, porcine and equine semen, gelatin, animal casings and animal by-products to the EU from the U.S. may only originate from EU approved U.S. establishments. The EU approves establishments to ship products of animal origin based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. A comprehensive list of U.S. approved establishments can be found at the following link on the USEU webpage <https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/approved-u-s-establishments/>.

Product Registration

Generally, there is no EU requirement to register imported foods except for “novel foods” or those more unique, niche products that have not historically been consumed in significant quantities. Foodstuffs with particular nutritional claims must be notified to the Member States’ competent authorities where the food is introduced in the market. Exporters of milk infant formula or nutritional supplements are mandated to notify competent authorities.

The import of special products like blood, blood products, and material containing epizootic pathogens must be approved by the competent authority of the German Federal State to which the product is shipped.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on other specific standards, please consult EU 28 FAIRS report. Detailed information may also be obtained at the following links:

- [GMOs](#)
- [Novel Foods](#)
- [Nanotechnology](#)
- [Fortified Foods](#)
- [Dietetic or Special Use Foods](#)
- [Food Additives](#)
- [Organic Foods](#)
- [Pet Food](#)

Genetically-Engineered Food and Feeds

The relevant authority for the approval of new biotech events and for monitoring the trade of products derived from biotechnology is the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). For more information specific to Germany, please see our report: [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual.](#)

Private Certification for Fresh Food

The number of food scandals that have occurred in Europe around the turn of the century involving various commodities has prompted the food industry to come up with various programs to ensure the safety of the traded fresh food. While these programs are voluntary, the majority of retail chains in Germany require certification of good agricultural practice. The two most common private certification programs in Germany are *GlobalGap* and *Q+S*. While *Q+S* is a three-tier system that involves everyone, who handles the produce from producers, to wholesalers, and the retail chains, *GlobalGap* mainly focuses on the producer level and is often supplemented by the IFS (International Food Standard) on the wholesalers level. A major component of both systems is the extensive documentation requirement for all stages of the production process. Both systems/standards are open to international producers provided that they comply with the system and obtain a certification. Also, a simultaneous certification for *Q+S* and *GlobalGap* is possible at the producer level. For more information please visit:

www.globalgap.org

www.q-s.de/home_gb.html

Organic Foods

The responsible German authority for organic import rules is:

Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)

Referat 522

Deichmannsaue 29

53179 Bonn, Germany

Tel.: +49 228 6845 - 0

Fax: +49 228 6845-3344

e-mail: oekoverordnung@ble.de

Website: https://www.ble.de/EN/Topics/Agriculture/Organic-Farming/organic-farming_node.html

Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

In Germany, the legal basis for trademarks is the *Markengesetz* (trademark law) and the *Markenverordnung* (trademark ordinance). Trademarks are granted for 10 years. Applications should be directed to the German Patent and Trademark Office:

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt

Zweibrueckenstr. 12

80331 Muenchen

Phone: +49 89 2195-1000

Fax: +49 89 2195-2221

E-mail: info@dpma.de

Website: <http://www.dpma.de/english/index.html>

Companies, which also export to other EU member states, may want to consider obtaining a European Community Trademark. For detailed information please consult the EU 28 FAIRS report.

Germany is also a Member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO/OMPI) and to the Madrid Agreement on International Registration of Trademarks.

Section IX. Import Procedures

As a member of the EU, Germany follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations where available. Since the EU is a customs union, all Member States apply the same import duties on goods imported from outside the EU based on tariff classification of goods and the customs value. For details on the EU legislation and import duties search the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) for the most recent EU FAIRS Report.

Import Derogation for Product Samples

Sample shipments of food products containing meat, poultry or cheese from plants that are not approved for export to the EU require a derogation (special import permit) from the (state) veterinary authority at the first port of entry into the European Union. For shipments to Germany, this is often Frankfurt Airport. Frankfurt Airport is located in the State of Hesse, thus, the veterinary office in the Hessian capital Wiesbaden is responsible for issuing the import permit.

Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz

(Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the State of Hesse)

Mainzer Straße 80

65189 Wiesbaden, Germany

Tel.: +49 611 815 -0 (or -1437)

E-Mail: [veteinfuhr\(at\)umwelt.hessen.de](mailto:veteinfuhr(at)umwelt.hessen.de)

The request for derogation can be made informally by or email stating the quantity, country of origin, production plant, and composition (e.g. raw or cooked meat) of the product as well as the intended purpose (machinery testing, trade show display, product competition, etc.) and the registration number of the recipient company. Based on this information the veterinary office will issue an import permit that specifies the veterinary certificates required in that particular case.

The import permit is in German and the veterinary office charges a small fee. Because of language, and time difference, it is recommended that the German recipient of the product handle the application for the import permit, wherever feasible. If the point of entry is different from Frankfurt, please contact [FAS Berlin](#) for information on the applicable veterinary office.

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

List of Major Regulatory Agencies

Bundesministerium fuer Ernaehrung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL)

(Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture)

Rochusstr. 1

53123 Bonn, Germany

Tel: +49-228 – 99-529-0

Fax: +49-228 - 99-529-4262

Website: <http://www.bmel.bund.de/EN>

Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)

(Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety)

BVL Headquarter

Bundesallee 50

38116 Braunschweig

Tel.: +49 531 21497 0

Fax: +49 531 21497 299

BVL Office Berlin Mittelstraße

Mittelstraße 51-54,

10117 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 18444-000

Fax: +49 30 18444-89999

The biotech division and the novel foods/feeds division of BVL are responsible for registration and approval of biotech products and novel foods. They are located in the office at Berlin Mittelstraße.

BVL Abteilung 2 (Authorization of plant protection products and related issues)

Messeweg 11/12

38104 Braunschweig

Tel.: +49 531 299-5

Fax: +49 531 299-3002

Common e-mail and website for all BVL sites:

E-mail: [poststelle\(at\)bvl.bund.de](mailto:poststelle(at)bvl.bund.de)

Website: https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Home/home_node.html

Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)

(Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food)

Referat 521

Deichmannsaue 29

53179 Bonn, Germany

Tel.: +49 228 6845 - 0

Fax: +49 228 6845-3444

Website: www.ble.de/EN/Home/home_node.html

BLE is the responsible German authority for organic import rules.

List of Border Inspection Posts

The list of German Border Inspection Posts as notified to the EU can be accessed here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/bips_contact_germany.pdf

World Trade Organization (WTO) Inquiry Post

Each EU member government is responsible for the notification procedures associated with the agreement under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Examples here relate to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements. WTO obligations include notifying any trade significant proposals, which are not substantially the same as international standards, providing copies of the proposed regulation upon request, and allowing time for comments. The German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) has mandated the German Institute for Standardization (DIN) to set up and run the German »National Enquiry Point« according to the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V.

Burggrafenstr. 6

10787 Berlin, Germany

Tel: +49 30 – 2601-0

Fax: +49 30 – 2601-1231

E-mail: info@din.de

Website: www.din.de/en

DIN also provides information on all technical rules (including standard, technical regulations and certification systems) valid in the Federal Republic of Germany, irrespective of whether the technical rules have been issued by federal or local authorities or by non-governmental bodies.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Tel: +49-30-2601-2361

E-mail: international@beuth.de

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

List of German Food Laboratories

In alphabetical order:

Analytec Labor für Lebensmitteluntersuchung
Laufener Str. 83
83395 Freilassing, Germany
Tel: +49-8654- 62322 (German line)
E-mail: office(at)analytec.de
Website: www.analytec.de

Arotop Food & Environment GmbH
Dekan-Laist-Str. 9
55129 Mainz, Germany
Tel: +49-6131 – 583800
Fax: +49-6131 – 5838080
E-mail: arotop(at)arotop.de
Website: www.arotop.de

Eurofins Analytik GmbH
Wiertz-Eggert-Joerissen
Neuländer Kamp 1
21079 Hamburg, Germany
Tel: +49-40- 492 94 9000
Fax: +49-40- 492 94 9009
E-mail: service(at)eurofins.de
Website: www.eurofins.de/

GALAB laboratories GmbH
Am Schleusengraben 7
21029 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 36 80 77 0
Fax: +49 40 36 80 77 401
E-Mail: info(at)galab.de
Website: www.galab.de/en/company/contact.php

GBA Gesellschaft fuer Bioanalytik mbH
Goldtschmidtstr. 5
21073 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 79 71 72-0
Fax: +49 40 797172-27
E-Mail: [service\(at\)gba-group.de](mailto:service(at)gba-group.de)
Website: www.gba-group.de/en/contact/

SGS Institut Fresenius GmbH
Im Maisel 14
65232 Taunusstein, Germany
Tel: +49-6128 - 744-0
Fax: +49-6128 - 744-9890
E-mail: [info\(at\)institut-fresenius.de](mailto:info(at)institut-fresenius.de)
Website: www.institut-fresenius.de/en/

Dr. Wessling Gruppe
Oststrasse 6
48341 Altenberge, Germany
Tel. +49 (0)2505 89-0
Fax +49 (0)2505 89-538
E-mail: [info\(at\)wessling.de](mailto:info(at)wessling.de)
Website: de.wessling-group.com/en/

Appendix III: List of Abbreviations and Links

BLE	German Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food www.ble.de
BMEL	German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture www.bmel.de
BVL	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety www.bvl.bund.de
EU	European Union
FAIRS	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards report
FIC	EU Food Information to Consumers regulation
MRLs	Maximum Residue Levels
PEC	Pre-Export Check Program
U.S.	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

FAS report database: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

Attachments:

No Attachments