

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: February 11,2020

Report Number: BG2019-0010

Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Country Report

Country: Bangladesh

Post: Dhaka

Report Category: FAIRS Annual Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural products imported to Bangladesh. All foods sold in Bangladesh must comply with a range of laws designed to protect consumer, plant, and animal health. These laws apply equally to imported and locally produced foods. All imported plants, plant products, and food must comply with quarantine, imported food standard requirements, and food safety requirements. All FAS reports through USDA's Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) can be found here. This update report of 2019 added the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority's 2019 Food Safety (Food Tactile) Regulations.

Executive Summary

In 2018, Bangladesh was the 27th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products (by value), reaching nearly US\$1.1 billion in calendar year (CY) 2018. Approximately 89 percent of U.S. agricultural exports to Bangladesh are bulk products (e.g., wheat, soybeans, cotton). Intermediate products (e.g., soymeal, distillers grains, feed and fodder) represent approximately 10 percent. Consumer oriented products, as well as agricultural related products (e.g. fish and forest products), are minimal.

The population of Bangladesh is estimated to be 160 million with an annual growth rate of 1 percent. Bangladesh's economy has grown roughly 6% per year since 2005. Nearly half of the Bangladeshi workforce is employed in the agriculture sector, with rice as the single-most-important product. The garment sector, which utilizes U.S. cotton, accounts for more than 80 percent of Bangladesh's total exports. The significant growth of the livestock and fisheries sectors present a major opportunity for U.S. grains and oilseeds. An increasing per capita income, and expanding urban population, will also present opportunities for U.S. consumer-oriented food products.

Despite a rapidly growing population and economy, Bangladesh lacks a well-functioning regulatory system to support a modern food and agricultural system, which has impacted agricultural trade. USDA has been working with Bangladesh to increase its ability to comply with international trade standards and to develop into a productive trading partner for the U.S. and other countries.

Bangladesh's food safety policies and regulations are relatively new. The implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of the food safety regulations continues to be an area of concern for consumers, as well as businesses involved in agricultural trade, production, and processing. In terms of legislation, the Food Safety Act of 2013 is the key over-arching legislation for food safety in Bangladesh. There are over 20 government ministries and departments involved in food, feed, and veterinary drug safety, including the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

Bangladesh has been a World Trade Organization (WTO) member since January 1, 1995 and a member of GATT since December 12, 1972. Bangladesh has undertaken major reforms of the Customs Administration to facilitate trade and reduce its dependency on customs duty. Chattogram (Chittagong) Seaport, the major seaport in Bangladesh, handles 92 percent of the country's total ocean containers. At present, the annual trade growth through Chattogram Seaport is 14 percent.

DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Dhaka, Bangladesh 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 unavailable. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their Bangladeshi partners, 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 BANGLADESH'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Please contact this office if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions about the material contained in this report.

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Section I: General Food Laws

Food security, food safety, and public health are the major challenges for a third world countries like Bangladesh. From the last couple of decades, the country has fought to ensure food security to feed 160 million people through very little diversity in crops and with limited land available for cultivation. With significant economic development, the country achieved great success in ensuring food security through supply of staple foods like rice, vegetables, fruits, and fish to consumers. Within the last ten years, the issue of food safety has been raised as adulterated and low-quality foods spread to markets, raising public health issues to a critical level. Previously, the Ministry of Food was fully engaged in rice and wheat procurement, storing these commodities in government facilities and supplying them to consumers through various feeding programs. Realizing the importance of a secure and safe food supply to consumers, the Ministry of Food established the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) in October 2013.

To improve food safety and protect public health, the Bangladesh National Parliament passed the Food Safety Act, 2013 on October 10, 2013, which came into effect on February 1, 2015. The Food Safety Act establishes basic definitions, goals, and principles for food safety. It also defines procedural rules and coordination mechanisms between different public administrations responsible for food regulation. It sets out general food safety and health protection rules, regulates inspections, detention, and seizure rules of suspect food and classifies breaches.

The Food Safety Act, 2013 gives BFSA regulatory control over food safety and food quality. The statute is designed to protect consumers. To protect human health through the new food law, pertinent regulations are being revised, updated, and drafted. BFSA monitors food products to safeguard public health and welfare. It also oversees the entire production chain, from raw materials to processed products to consumption. BFSA is an independent agency in the Ministry of Food. The three main tasks of the authority are: supervision, risk management, and risk communication. As per the Food Safety Act, "It is to make provisions for the establishment of an efficient and effective authority and for regulating, through coordination, the activities relating to food production, import, processing, stock, supply, marketing and sales, so as to ensure the rights toward access to safe food through appropriate application of scientific process, upon repealing and reenacting the existing laws connected thereto." The BFSA organization is relatively new and is currently in the process of hiring personnel to implement, monitor, and enforce the regulations under its authority.

The food and food safety legal and regulatory regime of Bangladesh is governed by several enactments and government administrations. The legal framework of the Bangladesh's food safety authority? covers food regulations for domestic, imported, and exported.

Food and agricultural product related act and rules in Bangladesh

Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1964 (revised in 1985) (English)
Animal Disease Act, 2005 (Act No. 5 of 2005) (Bengali)
Animal Disease Rules, 2008 (Bengali)
Animal Feed Rules, 2013 (Bengali)
Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Act, 2011 (Act No. 6 of 2011) (Bengali)
Animals Slaughter (Restriction) and Meat Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 1983
Bangladesh Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005 (Bengali)
Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Act, 2014 (Act No. 15 of 2014) (Bengali)

Bangladesh Pure Food Ordinance (amendment) Act, 2005 (Partly Repealed) (Partly English)
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (Amendment) Act, 2003 (English)
Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985 (English) (Repealed)
Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packing and Commodities) Rules, 2007 (Bengali)
Biosafety Rules, 2012 (Bengali)
Breast-Milk Substitutes (Regulation of Marketing) Ordinance, 1984 (English)
Breast-Milk Substitutes, Baby Foods, Commercially Manufactured Supplementary Baby Foods and Its Equipment (Regulation of Marketing) Act, 2013 (Act No. 35, 2013) (Bengali)
Essential Commodity Act 1957, 58, 64; (English)
Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Control) Ordinance, 1983 (Part 1 and Part 2)
Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 of 2010) (English)
Fish Feed Rules, 2011 (English)
Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules, 1997 (English)
Fish Protection and Conservation Act, 1950 (latest amendment in 1995) (English)
Food (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017 (Bengali)
Food Grain Supply (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Ordinance, 1956 (English)
Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018 (Bengali)
Food Safety (Food Tactile) Regulations, 2019 (Bengali)
Food Safety (Food Processing and Administration System) Rules, 2014 (Bengali)
Food Safety Act, 2013 (Act No. 43 of 2013) (English and Bangla)
Food Sample Collection, Testing and Analysis Regulations, 2017 (Bengali)
Formalin Control Act, 2015 (Act No. 5 of 2015) (Bengali)
Import Policy Order, 2015-18 (English, Bengali)
Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Act, 1989
Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 and Rules, 1983
Mobile Court Ain, 2009 [Mobile Court Act, 2009] (Act No. of 2009) (Bengali)
Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205 (English)
Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 (Bengali) [author's translation]
Pant Quarantine Act, 2011 (Act No. 5 of 2011) (Bengali and English)
Pesticide Act, 2018 (Bengali)
Pesticide Ordinance, 2007 (Bengali)
Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) and 2010 (Bengali)
Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018 (Bengali, partially English)
Special Powers Act, 1974: Substitute Act, 2013 (English)
Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1982 (Ordinance No. XII of 1982) (English)
Stanio Sarkar (City Corporation) Ain, 2009 [Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009] [author's translation]
Stanio Sarkar (Paurashava) Ain, 2009 [Local Government (Paurashava) Act, 2009] (Bengali)
The Food (Special Courts) Act, 1956 (English)
Use of Food Additives Regulations, 2017 (Bengali)
Vitamin A Fortification in Edible Oil Act, 2013 (Act No. 65 of 2013)
Vokta Odhikar Songrokkhon Ain, 2009 (Act No. 26 of 2009) (Bengali) [Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009] (Act No. 26 of 2009) (English)

There are several laws and orders in Bangladesh pertaining to the safety and standards of imported food, including the Food Safety Act, 2013; Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017; Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017; Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution Amendment Act, 2003; Import Policy Order, 2015-18; Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018; and Bangladesh Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock are involved in plant and animal health risk management, mainly through animal and plant health protection via sanitary and phytosanitary quarantine laws. Some of the phytosanitary rules have had negative impacts on imported bulk agricultural commodities when appended clauses to the rules did not conform with internationally accepted standards. The Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018 is an amendment of rules set in place in 1989 and 1966. Therefore, some clauses are not updated and follow old methodologies or scientific practices, which adds time and cost to importers. Bangladesh, although an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), currently does not fulfil its WTO responsibility to notify the international trading community of changes to existing regulations or the development of new regulations that impact trade.

Enforcement of food safety laws and regulations in the country are very weak due to several drawbacks in the legal and regulatory system. A high number of acts, laws, and regulations of various categories of food products create redundancy and complexity in application and enforcement. Overlapping of regulatory bodies and lack of coordination among ministries covering various categories of food and agricultural products creates a haphazard and confusing maze, diminishing the goal of food safety. The food quality and standardization control system in Bangladesh involves multiple ministries and agencies. Over 20 ministries are involved in food safety and quality control, while ten ministries are directly involved in food inspection and enforcement. Despite having various shortfalls in the food safety framework, the act and regulations that cover imported products, especially bulk imports, are strictly enforced and sometimes excessively.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

A. General Requirements

The current labeling regulation for food products in Bangladesh is mandated by the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 issued by BFSA and The Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged commodities) Rules, 2007 regulated by BSTI.

The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 establishes technical standards for labeling of domestic and imported packaged food products, raw materials such as additives, flavoring and coloring substance, allergenic food, baby food, genetically engineered food, and milk products for human consumption.

The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 state that, “For imported products to sell in the local market a label or sub-label in Bengali should be added.” While BFSA is not currently enforcing this requirement, USDA encourages all U.S. exporters to comply with official Bangladeshi regulations and laws.

BSTI will grant approval to the imported product as part of customs clearance. During that process, BSTI checks the standardization of imported product approved in Import Policy Order, 2015-18; Food Safety Act, 2013; and Bangladesh Standard Catalog, 2018.

There are no special shelf-life requirements for imported products. The country of origin certificate is compulsory for imported food and agricultural products. There are no specific rules for granting an exception to the regulation.

There is no special labeling requirement for sample products or institutional packaged product supplied for the food service sector.

Information should be printed on the package label as stated in the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017:

1. Name of the producer, supplier
2. Type of food (natural and processed)
3. Batch, code or lot number
4. Net weight, size or number and total weight
5. Date of manufacture
6. Date of packing
7. Date of expiry
8. Use best before on date
9. Nutritional information
10. Food additive info
11. Instruction of use

B. Requirements of other specific labeling

As per the Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017, nutritional labeling is mandatory. The standard U.S. nutritional fact panel is acceptable. The nutritional components that must be in the label are energy value, fat, saturates, glucose, sugar, protein, and salt. The other optional nutritional components that can be added are monounsaturates, polyunsaturates, transfat, cholesterol, polyol, fiber, related vitamins and minerals. The 2017 labeling regulation does not include any clause related to implied claims. The government does not have any provision of health claims. The law includes mandatory labeling of GE with the statement “GMO food”. The labeling of country of origin is mandatory and details of name and contacts of the producers, importers, re-packer, and re-bottler, distributors, and agents are to be printed on the label.

Section III: Packaging and Container Requirements

The Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packing and Commodities) Rules, 2007 (Bengali) and Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 (Bengali) are the two main regulatory tools for packaging of food and non-food products. Neither of these rules have incorporated any conditions on the types of materials that can be used for packaging. Both rules extensively cover labeling conditions of packaging.

There are different national policies and laws in Bangladesh directed toward various types of waste management. These laws include the Factory Act, 1965; the Environmental Control Ordinance (ECA), 1977; the ECA, 2002, and Dhaka Municipal Ordinance, 1983. There is no specific waste disposal law or product recycling regulations which can regulate imported product packaging and recycling. Rules, restrictions, or limitations on the use of any packaging materials are not found in any of the ordinances.

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

The Use of Food Additives Regulation, 2017, is overseen by two agencies (i.e., BFSA, Ministry of Food and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), Ministry of Industry).

The regulations include a list of the positive additives that are permitted for use in food. The authorized use of additives are listed in English according to the category of additives such as color, preservatives, flavor enhancer, antioxidant, stabilizer, non-nutritive agent, sweetener, acid or acidity regulator, antifoaming agent, foaming agent, firming agent, thickener, anti-caking agent, sequestrant, gelling agent, emulsifier, bulking agent, flour treatment agent, glazing agent, humectant, raising agent, and propellant. The level or amount of additive to be used in food produced locally is approved by BSTI and they follow the Standards Catalogue, 2018 of BSTI, CODEX standard, and ISO standards. If new additives that are used are not available in the Bangladesh Standards (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985, Section 2(1)(b)) or any other rules, then the permissible level should be followed based on Codex Alimentarius standards for Food Additive 1992-1995 or other intentionally approved standards.

Section V: Pesticide and Other Contaminants

National standards of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides are listed in the BFSA issued Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017. The long list of admitted insecticides, fungicides and herbicides can be found in the regulation, which follows the Codex Alimentarius standards. The MRL level of positive pesticides are also listed in the regulations.

Pesticide registration, licensing, production, use, and quality control are regulated by the Plant Protection Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture follows the Pesticide Act, 2018; the Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) 2010, and the Pesticide Ordinance, 2007 to regulate their mandates. The pesticide must be registered under the administration of the Plant Protection Wing. One should submit two separate applications for registration and licensing to the Plant Protection Wing. Usually, it takes two years to get approval for marketing. U.S. exporters can get an approved pesticides list from the Bangladesh Crop Protection Association and allowable MRLs can be obtained in the Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

An inspection and certification process prior to shipment is required for various products. Per the Import Policy Order, 2015-18, inspection and disease-free certification is necessary in most cases when importing live animal and animal products. An example of necessary documents for importing cotton, Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), and tree nuts can be seen on Table 3, under Appendix II.

Pre-shipment testing and certification are necessary for all processed food and agricultural products. In general, radioactivity (CS 137) testing and certification are required for food and agricultural products. Sampling, testing and certification at port of arrival are also obligatory for processed food and agricultural products outlined in the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute policy orders.

Several regulatory agencies oversee food standards, food quality, and sanitation for food safety in the retail, wholesale, and processing industries. The anti-adulteration and safety audits are conducted by the Ministry of

Commerce, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Officer of Dhaka City Corporation (North and South), Chief Health Officer of Dhaka District Commissioner, and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute visit, with prior notice, markets and industries with the 'Mobile Court,' a special type of court including executive magistrates and team of Rapid Action Battalion (Unit of Bangladesh Police,) to adjudicate laws for the purpose of ensuring justice. The laws that cover market inspection are the Mobile Court Act, 2009; Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009; and Safe Food Act, 2013. For imported products, the mobile court checks the labels for importers contact information, expiration date, mislabeled or fake product, and to ensure that imported products are included in the BSTI approved product list.

Importers do not have to register imported products, nor is facility registration required.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Weight and Measures

Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packing and Commodities) Rules, 2007 include rules for packaged product selling in the retail market, wholesale market, import and export. In the case of imported product, name and contacts of importers must be labeled on the packet. Standard units of the product must be mentioned, and if the unit is not standard, the importer will convert that to a standard unit and add an extra sticker on the packet. The manufacturing date must be printed on the packet. All the additional information, including retail price, must be added with a sticker on the packet. There are no different rules for imported processed food, indicating that the exporting country will follow their packaging weight and measure rules for production and export to Bangladesh.

Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations 2018

The Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018 regulates and guides various sanitation and hygiene issues like cleanliness of food processing establishment, health guidance for health workers, rules of cleaning drainage system, equipment used for food processing, and storage. The regulation helps BFSI to raise awareness about waste management at home and processing industry, water supply to the food processing industry, food and food material transportation, use of food wrapping and packing, controlling temperature in food preservation, and conditions applicable for selling street food.

Novel Foods (Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs))

Genetically Modified Organisms (i.e. "GMO", genetically engineered [GE] products) are to follow Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012. The resolution that entered into force on August 29, 2012, states that a person or agency cannot produce, export, import, sale or purchase and use GE products for any commercial purpose without the permission of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. At present, the Biosafety Rules, 2012 is followed for imports of GE plant sample materials for government approved crop research project purposes. The Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 also states that labeling "Genetically Modified Food" must be added on the packaging of GE foods. Bangladesh importers usually do not import products with GMO labelling because most do not know the clearance procedure of GMO-labeled processed food products. The importers also fear that the product may not be cleared by customs as the approval process of processed food prepared with GMO ingredients is not functional in Bangladesh.

Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages

Importing requirements for wine, beer and other alcoholic beverages are included in the Import Policy Order, 2015-18 which is overseen by the Director General of the Narcotics Control Department, Ministry of Home Affairs. As per the Import Policy Order, 2015-18, beer and wine of all categories (H.S. Heading No. 22.03 to 22.06 and all H.S. Codes classifiable under this heading) should be imported only by international hotels. In special cases, such goods can be imported with approval from the Ministry of Commerce with prior permission from the Chief Controller, subject to specified condition. However, in all cases, to import beer and alcoholic drinks, the importer should first obtain a license or permission from the Director General of the Narcotics Control Department.

Animal Quarantine

Bangladesh's Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005 and Import Policy Order, 2015-18 covers animal quarantine issues under the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The conditions for importing live animal, meat, day old chicks, live poultry, and eggs are included in the Import Policy Order, 2015-18. Importers must obtain Import Permit (IP) from the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) by submitting a proforma invoice and registration of the DLS. For importing meat, it is compulsory to have production and date of expiration and storing methods information on the package of imported meat. Day old chicks are importable under three conditions, a) a certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country, to the effect that the imported chicks are free from contagious diseases; (b) a certificate issued by the World Organization of Animal Health to the effect that the exporting country is free from Avian Influenza; and (c) at the time the Letter of Credit (L/C) is opened, the importer must submit the certificate from the director or an authorized officer of the Livestock Directorate that the importer has either a hatchery or breeding farm.

Eggs of poultry and birds (HS Code No. 0407.00 under HS Heading No. 04.07) are imported with prior permission from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock subject to the following conditions: (a) eggs are imported in limited quantity from a country free from Avian Influenza; and (b) for every consignment of imported eggs, there must be a certificate to the effect that the goods are free from Avian Influenza virus and harmful bacteria; this should be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture competent authority of the exporting country.

Deep frozen semen and embryos (H.S. Code No. 0511.10 classifiable under H.S. Heading 05.11), except of Friesian; Friesian Cross; Sahiwal; Sahiwal Cross, Friesian-Sahiwal Cross, Australian-Friesian Sahiwal (A.F.S.), A.F.S. Cross, Brahman, Murrah, Nili-Ravi, and Mediterranean varieties are imported. For the import of semen, a certificate shall be obtained from the competent authority of the exporting country regarding the variety of semen to the effect that it is free from any contagious and venereal diseases, and the exporting country is also free from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Halal Foods

Bangladesh authorities stipulate that all meat products must be halal, and the live animal was slaughtered with proper Islamic custom as defined by the Bangladesh government. The halal requirements for food products include that the product is free of pork products and free from alcohol. This is also applicable to non-meat products.

Section VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights

Bangladesh is a signatory of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT), Ministry of Commerce is the regulatory body that applies intellectual property laws and regulations in Bangladesh. The laws and regulations of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) covers, Patents and Designs Act, 1911 (Act No. II of 1911), Patents and Designs Act (Amended), 2003 to regulate inventions by patents, distinctive shapes by designs; Copyright Act, 2000; Trademarks Act, 2009 (Act No. XIX of 2009) and Trademark (Amended) Act, 2015, and Trademark Rules, 2015 to protect business names and trademark logos and Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 2013 to protect different goods renowned for their mass production and extraordinary qualities.

Section IX: Import Procedures

Table 1. Bangladesh: Agencies involved in the customs clearing process for importing product through Chittagong Seaport, Bangladesh.

Agencies	Activities
Chittagong Port Authority	Manages and operates the port in which the shipment is off-loaded and stored
Clearing and Forwarding Agent	Supports importers through collecting all the necessary documents, does all necessary customs clearances and releases products from port and transports to private container depot
Chittagong Customs House, Bangladesh Customs	Receives import tariff payments, verifies all certificates, inspects product, and gives release orders
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Chittagong Office	Tests radiation level and gives release order if cleared
Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, Chittagong Office	Checks the standards of processed food and gives release order if no objections found.
Plant Quarantine Office, Department of Agricultural Extension	Checks the presence of insect, pest and disease of agricultural products, checks the exporter's phyto-certificate (when needed) and gives release order.
Commercial Bank	Provides services to open and settle Letter of Credit, and endorse all the documents submitted to the customs for clearance and the paying import tariff

English is widely used in every trade office. Most of the documents are prepared in English and provided by local government offices, banks, and customs offices. Therefore, it is not necessary to translate documents into Bengali but it could be helpful. In general, imported processed food product requires 3-4 weeks to clear customs and release the container from port.

Customs Clearance Procedures for Import

Example Import procedure (customs and seaport clearance) in Bangladesh for processed food and other agricultural products including livestock and fisheries products

1. Importer and exporter confirm the transaction by exchanging price quotation(s) and terms of the contract.
2. Importer applies for an import permit from the appropriate ministry (Agriculture or Fisheries and Livestock). (e.g., the import permit for plant-based agricultural product is issued by the Plant Quarantine Wing, Dhaka Office; the import permit for fisheries or livestock product is issued by the Department of Fisheries and Department of Livestock)
3. Exporter sends Pro-forma Invoice/Commercial invoice to the importer
4. Importer opens Letter of Credit (L/C) in a local bank. For opening the L/C, the importer provides the following documents to the bank (varies based on agreement with exporter and financial institution):
 - a) Pro-forma Invoice (PI)/Buyer and Seller Agreement
 - b) Import Registration Certificate
 - c) Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate
 - d) Membership certificate of recognized chamber of commerce and industries or registered trade association
 - e) Insurance cover note with money receipt
 - f) Value added tax (VAT) registration certificate
5. Importer's bank sends L/C to exporter's bank
6. Exporter's bank sends confirmation letter of L/C to the importer's bank
7. Exporter sends the shipment of documents to the importer's bank
8. Exporter's bank sends a package of documents to the importer's bank as per listed in L/C (depending on product type and agreement)
 - a) Bill of exchange (invoice of the product)
 - b) Certificate of analysis (description of product)
 - c) Country of Origin Certificate issued by any trade association of the exporting country
 - d) Health Certificate i.e. (Fit for Human Consumption) for any kind of food
 - e) Radiation Certificate issued by competent laboratory of exporting country
 - f) Phyto-Certificate issued by agricultural department of the exporting country
 - g) Animal Health Certificate for live animals
 - h) Certificate of weight and quality condition
 - i) Packing list/container list
 - j) Insurance Certificate
 - k) Others may be needed also depending on the product type, such as Fumigation certificate, Technical datasheet of Description of product
9. The bank releases the document package to the importer after receiving full payment of exporter's bills.
10. After the arrival of the shipment at seaport, the importer authorizes clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent to complete all activities required for customs clearance and seaport release.

11. The shipping agent submits the Import General Manifest (IGM) (containing description of imported goods by ship) online.
12. Customs checks the manifest online and approves the manifest, and enters information into the ASYCUDA World system.
13. The C&F agent completes 'noting', which is entering all the required information to the ASYCUDA World system to submit Bill of Entry (BE).

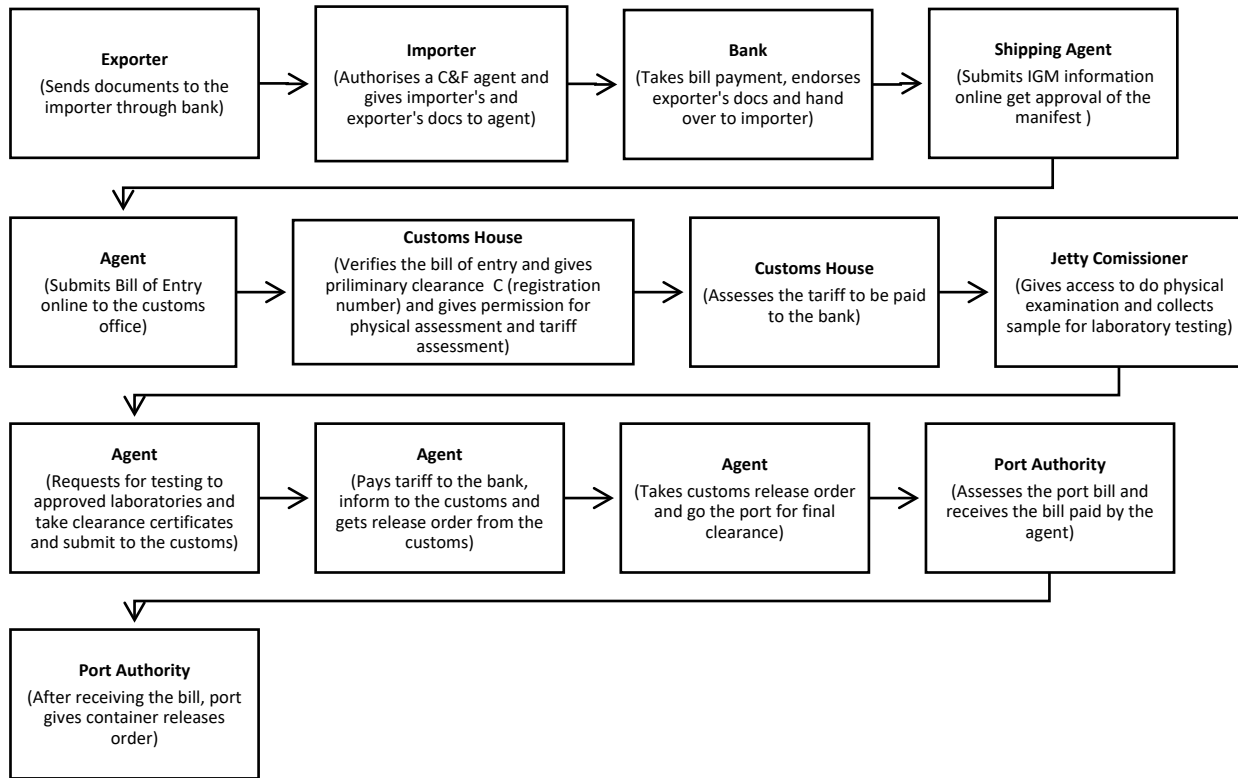
Documents submitted to the customs house:

- a) Letter of power of attorney of the C&F agent issued by the importer
- b) IMP form
- c) Import permit
- d) Bank endorsed Letter of Credit Authorization for customs copy
- e) Bank endorsed Letter of Credit for customs copy
- f) Bank endorsed invoice/PCI invoice
- g) Bank endorsed packing list
- h) Bank endorsed copy of CRF certificate of bank
- i) Bank endorsed original copy of Bill of Lading
- j) Insurance cover note and insurance policy document
- k) Bill of exchange (invoice of the product)
- l) Certificate of analysis (description of product)
- m) Country of origin certificate issued by any trade association of the exporting country
- n) Certificate of weight and quality condition
- o) Packing list/container list
- p) Others may be needed also depending on the product type:
Other types of special documents are submitted as per the product type
 - 1) Data sheet duly signed by the C&F agent
 - 2) Health certificate (Fit for Human Consumption) for any kind of food
 - 3) Radiation certificate issued by competent laboratory of exporting country
 - 4) Phyto certificate issued by agricultural department of the exporting country
 - 5) Animal health certificate for live animal
 - 6) Fumigation certificate
 - 7) Conformity certification

14. The customs house reviews and approves the Bill of Entry (BE) and put a C number (Registration number/noting) into the system.
15. The agent submits the printed copy of the BE to the product wise customs group or section Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO), Customs House, Chattogram (CHC) for preliminary assessment.
16. The ARO section of the customs house assesses all the information, as per the BE and supporting documents. The ARO takes the official approval of physical examinations, informs the customs officer for tariff assessment.
17. The customs officer assesses the tariff of the product as per the BE and approves the tariff assessment notice online. The officer sends the section and gives the tariff assessment report to the C&F agent.
18. The C&F agent manages the containers to be ready for physical assessment at the port.

19. With the help of the C&F agent, the examining inspector conducts physical examination, and the C&F agent collects samples for in country testing and certification.
20. The C&F agent submits a sample to the respective laboratories of government agencies for conducting laboratory testing and gives certificates to the agent and customs house.
The following certificates are generated in country (based on product type).
 - a) Radiation certificate from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.
 - b) Quarantine certificate, fumigation certificate from plant quarantine office (for cotton and where necessary).
 - c) Formalin test certificate from BSTI.
 - d) Bangladesh standard certificate from BSTI.
21. After assessing all the supporting certificates, the examining officer gives the approved physical assessment notice/report.
22. The C&F agent pays the tariff to the authorized bank as per the tariff assessment notice.
23. The bank gives a red mark in the ASYCUDA World system after receiving the tariff payment and sends release order to the Treasury Speed Section.
24. After confirmation of tariff payment through the ASYCUDA World System, the treasury section gets the receive number and writes on the bill of entry. With the taxed bill of entry and assessment notice, the C&F agent gives deliver order to the One Stop Service section of Seaport authority.
25. The One Stop Section of seaport assesses IGM, prepares bill payable to the port authority, receives bill payment, endorses bill and gives delivery order. Usually, it takes two days to deliver in a full container load and one day for less than a container load.

Figure 1: Bangladesh: Flowchart of customs clearance procedure



Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
Secretary Ministry of Commerce Building#3, Bangladesh secretariat, Dhaka E-mail: secy@mincom.gov.bd Phone (Office): +88-02-9545006 Phone (Res): +88-02-9137475 Fax: +88-02-9545741 Website: https://mincom.gov.bd/	Publishing import and export policy order Import Policy Order, 2015-18 (English) is available here
Mr. Md. Munir Chowdhury Director General WTO Cell Ministry of Commerce E-mail: dg.wto@mincom.gov.bd Phone (Office): +88 02 9545383 Fax: +88 02 9540213	WTO Enquiry Point / Notification Authority SPS-TBT Enquiry Points, click here
Director, Plant Quarantine Wing (PQW),	Issuing Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
<p>Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh; Tel: +88-02-9131296; Email: dpqw@dae.gov.bd Website: https://goo.gl/3PQJct</p>	<p>Plant Quarantine Rules, 2018 (Bengali, Partly English) Available here.</p> <p>Import permit and E-phyto issue and check link.</p> <p>SPS-TBT Enquiry Points, click here</p> <p>Note: There is no National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)</p>
<p>Director, Plant Protection Wing Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-9131295 Mail: dppw@dae.gov.bd</p>	<p>Approving pesticide registration</p> <p>The Pesticide Rules, 1985 (Amendment) 2010 (Bengali) The Pesticide Act, 2018 (Bengali) The Pesticide Ordinance, 2007 (Bengali) The Pesticide Rules 2019 (Draft) Available here.</p>
<p>Animal Quarantine Director General and Chief Veterinary Officer Department of Livestock Services (DLS) Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh Mail: dgdls16@gmail.com, Office: +88-02-9101932 Fax: +88-02-9110326</p> <p>Assistant Director (Training) Department of Livestock and Services Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh Office: +88 02 9115936</p> <p>Website: http://www.dls.gov.bd/</p>	<p>Issuing import permit of live animal and animal feed related products</p> <p>Animal Feed Act, 2010 (Bengali) Animal Disease Rules, 2008 (Bengali) Animal Disease Act, 2005 (Bengali) Bangladesh Animal and Animal Product Quarantine Act, 2005 (Bengali) Available here</p>
<p>Syeda Sarwar Jahan Chairman and Additional Secretary Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) Police Convention Center, Ramanar Thana, Probasi Kollan Bhaban, 71-72, Iskaton Garden, Dhaka, Bangladesh Phone: +88-02-55138000 (Office Desk), +88-02-55138603 Mail: chairman@bfsa.gov.bd Website: http://www.bfsa.gov.bd/</p>	<p>Coordinating issues of food safety and quality with all government agencies</p> <p>The Food Safety Act, 2013 (Bengali) The Food Safety Act, 2013 (English) Food Safety (Food processing and administration system) Rules, 2014 (Bengali) Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2017 (Bengali) Packaged Food Labeling Regulations, 2017 (Bengali) Use of Food Additives Regulations, 2017 (Bengali) Food Sample collection, testing and analysis Regulations,</p>

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
	2017 (Bengali) Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2018 (Bengali) Food Safety (Food Tactile) Regulations, 2019 (Bengali) Available here .
Director General Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute Ministry of Industry Maan Bhaban, 116-A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh Phone: +880-2-8870275 E-Mail: bsti@bangla.net FAX: +880-2-9131581 Website: http://www.bsti.gov.bd/	Certifying of standard and quality, Inspection, and Standardization and represent local Codex office List of mandatory products under import policy, click here The Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1982 Ordinance No. xii of 1982-English Version, click here The Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaging & Commodities) Rules, 2007 (Bengali) Vitamin A Fortification in Edible Oils Act, (2013)
Mr. Mahbulul Hoq Chairman Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Ministry of Science and Technology E-12/A, Agargaon, Shere-e-bvangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Phone: +88-02-8181806, Mail: chairman@baec.gov.bd Website: http://baec.gov.bd/	Testing and certifying the present radiation level in food and agricultural products Import Policy Order, 2015-18 Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205 (English)
Director Atomic Energy Centre, Chittagong and Principal Scientific Officer Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Office: 1018/A Bayezid Bostami Road, East Nasirabad Chittagong-4209, Bangladesh Tel: +880-31-25 84 895, Website: http://baecbd.org/baec/rtml/rtml.php	Testing and certifying the present radiation level in food and agricultural product Import Policy Order, 2015-18 Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Rules 1997, SRO No. 205 (English)
Director General Department of Environment Ministry of Environment and Forests E/16, Paribesh Bhavan, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh Tel: +88028181800 Mail: dg@doe.gov.bd	Approving GMO for research, production, import and export Biosafety Rules, 2012 (see Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) Report Link)

Agency	Major Activities and Related Rules/Regulation/Act
http://www.doe.gov.bd/	Biosafety Guideline, 2007 (See GAIN Report Link)
Commissioner Customs House, Chittagong National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance Phone: +88-031-723100-02, 723106 Fax: +88-031-713988, 725331 Port Colony rd. Chittagong Mail: Customshousechittagong@gmail.com Website: http://chc.gov.bd/ All about trading and customs clearance http://www.bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd/	Giving customs clearance Customs Act, 2014 is available here . Customs rules are available here . Customs statutory regulatory order (SROs) are available here and here . Import and Export policy orders are available here .
Directorate General Drug Administration (DGDA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) Mail: dgda.gov@gmail.com Website: http://dgda.gov.bd/	Approving drug for human and animal The Drug Act, 1940 Drugs (Control) Ordinance, 1982 Drugs (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2006 Available here .
Director General Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection (DNCRP), Ministry of Commerce (MoC) Mail: dg@dncrp.gov.bd Phone: +88-02-8189426	Raising consumer awareness and protect consumer rights Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009, is available here .
Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts of Bangladesh. Contact with: Public Relation Officer Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) Mail: prosec@mopa.gov.bd	Controlling formalin use in food Formalin Control Act, 2015 is available here

Note: Accessibility of the links may vary depending on the security firewall.

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Contacts

Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent Association

<http://cnfctg.net/>

Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

<https://www.baffa-bd.org/>

Bangladesh Fresh Fruits Importers Association

<http://bffia.com.bd/>

The American Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.amchambd.org/>

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries,

<http://www.fbcci-bd.org/contactnew.php>

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries

<http://www.dhakachamber.com/>

Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

<https://iccbangladesh.org.bd/>

Government Trade Logistics Agency

Government Trade related website

Bangladesh Trade Portal

<https://www.bangladeshtradeportal.gov.bd/>

Chittagong Port Authority

<http://www.cpa.gov.bd/>

Berthing Schedule

<http://www.cpa.gov.bd/site/view/commondoc/Berthing%20Schedule/>

Mongla Port Authority

<http://www.mpa.gov.bd/>

Bangladesh Customs

<http://www.bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd/>

National Board of Revenue

<http://nbr.gov.bd/>

Customs House Dhaka, National Board of Revenue

<http://www.dch.gov.bd/>

Customs House, Chattogram, National Board of Revenue

<https://www.chc.gov.bd/>

Chittagong Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association

<http://cnfctg.net/>

Table 2: Bangladesh: Food & agricultural products standards brought under mandatory certification before customs clearance

Food product	Standard No.
Biscuit	BDS 383:2001
Black Tea Definition & Basic requirements	BDS ISO 3720:2008
Carbonated Beverages	BDS 1123:2013
Chips/Crackers	BDS 1556:1997, Amend1:2004
Edible Sunflower Oil	BDS CAC 23: 2002
Fruit and Vegetable Juices	BDS 513:2013,
Fruit Cordial	BDS 508:2006
Fruit Cordial	BDS 508:2006
Honey	BDS CAC 12:2007
Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for Infants	BDS CAC-72: 2008
Instant Noodles	BDS 1552:2007
Jams (Fruit Preserves) and Jelly	BDS CAC 79:2008
Lozenges	BDS 490:2001, Amend 1:2007
Milk Powders and Cream Powder	BDS CAC 207: 2008, Amend 1: 2009
Processed cereal based foods for infants and young children	BDS CAC 074: 2007
Sauce (Fruit & Vegetable)	BDS 512:2007
Soft Drink Powder	BDS 1586:2007
Soybean Oil	BDS 909:1979, Amend 1:2000
Sugar	BDS CAC 212:2006
Toffees	BDS 1000:2001
Tomato Ketchup	BDS 530:2002

Source: Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, Ministry of Industry,

Weblink: [Here](#)

Note: Bangladesh Standard Catalog 2018, Click [link](#)

Table 3. EXAMPLE: Required documents for importing cotton, dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) and nuts

Cotton	Dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS)
- Proforma Invoice: issued by the exporter before opening the LC	Phyto-Certificate (Exporter)
- LC copy	Radiation certificate (Exporter)
- Import Permit issued by Department of Livestock Service, Bangladesh	Chemical analysis certificate (Importer)
- LCAF (Letter of Credit Authorization Form): issued by bank	Country of origin (Exporter)
- Commercial Invoice: issued by the exporter	Fumigation certificate (Exporter)
- Packing List: issued by the exporter	Health Certificate (Exporter) (Optional)
- Bill of Lading: issued by Shipping company	Chemical analysis conducted by local laboratory
- Bill of Exchange: issued by Exporter	Commercial invoice
- Country of Origin: issued by any trade association of the exporting country	Packing list
- Phyto-Certificate: issued by agricultural department of the exporting country	Bill of exchange
Release order after fumigation of US cotton issued by Plant Quarantine Office, Bangladesh	Bill of lading
Tree nuts	
Phyto-Certificate (Exporter)	
Country of origin certificate (Exporter)	
Fumigation certificate (Exporter)	
Health certificate (Exporter)	
USDA Quality inspection certificate (Exporter)	
Weighmaster container certificate (Exporter)	
Shipping line certificate (Exporter)	
GMO certificate (Exporter)	
Ocean bill certificate (Exporter)	

Attachments:

No Attachments