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Report Highlights:

This is the first Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Country Report for Zimbabwe. The report includes an assessment of laws and import requirements for food and agricultural products. 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 products are shipped.

Table of Contents

Disclaimer	2
Executive Summary	3
SECTION I: FOOD LAWS	4
Regulatory Environment, Authorities and Major Food Laws.....	4
Enforcement of Food Regulations	7
SECTION II: LABELLING REQUIREMENTS:	9
Mandatory Labelling Regulations	9
Voluntary Labelling Regulations	11
SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS	12
Mandatory Packaging and Container Regulations.....	12
Packaging Restrictions, Bans and Sustainability Measures	12
Voluntary Standards	13
SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS	15
SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS	16
SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION MEASURES	17
Facility Registration.....	17
Product Registration	17
Basic Certification and Documentation that Must Accompany Shipments.....	18
SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS	19
Other Specific Standards.....	19
Plant-Based Meat/Dairy Alternatives	20
Organic Food Certification and Regulations	20
Other Voluntary Standards	21
SECTION VIII: TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	22
Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Copyrights and Intellectual Property Regulations and Procedures	22
Protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Zimbabwe	22
SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES	23
Import Procedures and Guidelines	23
Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (Certificate of Conformity).....	23
SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION	25
APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS	26
APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS	28
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	28
Clearing Agents/ Brokers	28
Useful Websites for Downloading Regulations, Acts, Bills and Statutory Instruments:.....	28
APPENDIX III: PDF ATTACHMENTS OF ALL THE RELEVANT FOOD & AGRICULTURAL ACTS, REGULATIONS, AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS IN ZIMBABWE	29

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the USDA - Foreign Agricultural Service in Pretoria, South Africa, 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 products 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.

Executive Summary

Zimbabwe is generally a net exporter of agricultural and related products as shown in **Table 1**. Tobacco is the largest contributor to exports, accounting for 76 percent of the total exports in 2020, followed by cane sugar (5 percent), citrus (4 percent), reptile skins (2 percent) and black tea (1 percent). In 2020, the major agricultural and related products export markets for Zimbabwe were China (48 percent), European Union (19 percent), and South Africa (5 percent). Zimbabwe’s agricultural and related products imports include corn and meal of corn (30 percent), wheat or meslin flour (8 percent), soybean oil and its fractions (4 percent), rice (3 percent), food preparations (3 percent) and animal feed preparations (3 percent). South Africa is the major trading partner for Zimbabwe, accounting for 76 percent of the total imports into Zimbabwe in 2020.

Table 1: Zimbabwe Agricultural and Related Products Global Trade

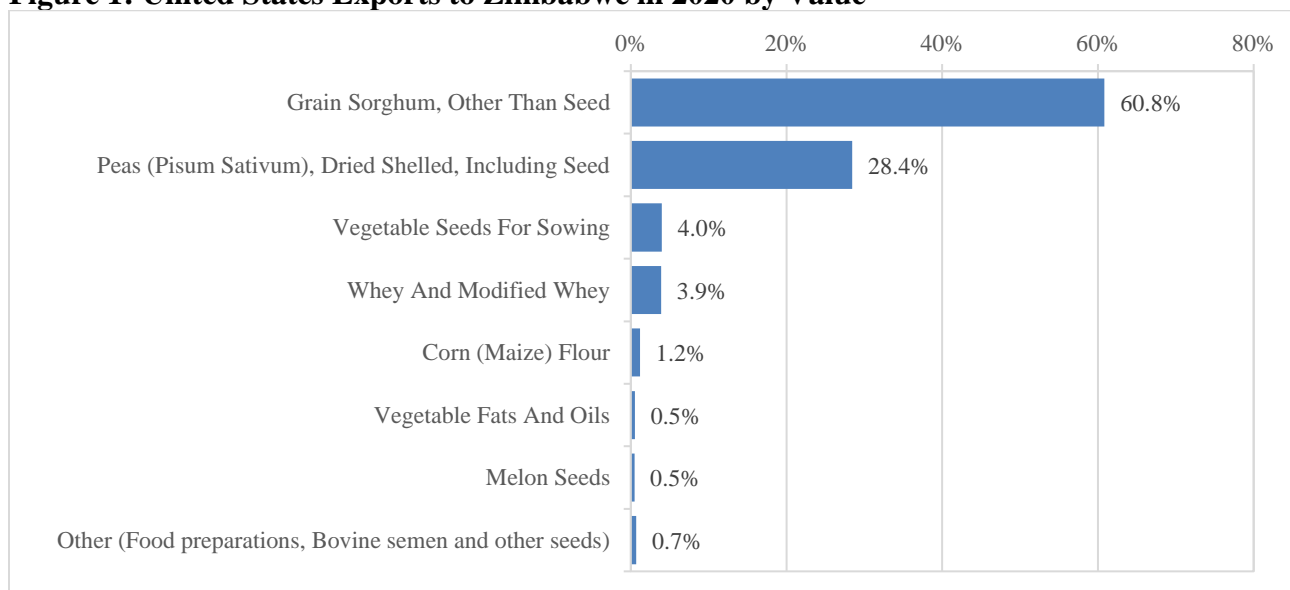
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exports (US\$ Billion)*	1.062	1.087	1.246	1.347	1.281	1.179	1.257	1.207	1.327	1.290
Imports (US\$ Billion)*	0.725	0.749	0.698	0.746	0.750	0.853	0.577	0.461	0.328	0.615
Net Trade (US\$ Billion)	0.337	0.339	0.548	0.601	0.531	0.326	0.681	0.746	0.999	0.675

*Derived Trade Values, as reported by trading partners.

Source: Trade Data Monitor

While the Zimbabwe market is relatively small, it presents favorable opportunities for some United States food and agricultural exports. United States agricultural and related food products exports to Zimbabwe increased to US\$11.7 million in 2020, up from US\$5.8 million in 2019. This growth was driven by a rise in sorghum imports for feed and beer making, demand for vegetable seeds spurred by renewed interest in farming, and growing demand for whey in lifestyle and health products. Other products imported by Zimbabwe from the United States are shown in **Figure 1**. Notably, some U.S. products such as distilled spirits and consumer-oriented products are exported to Zimbabwe indirectly via South Africa. Thus, such products may not be reflected on U.S. exports to Zimbabwe.

Figure 1: United States Exports to Zimbabwe in 2020 by Value



Source: Trade Data Monitor

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

Regulatory Environment, Authorities and Major Food Laws

The Zimbabwe food and agricultural import regulations and standards are developed, administered, and implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate, and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR), Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality (MECTH), and the Ministry of Higher & Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development (MHTESTD). These ministries also appoint independent agencies to undertake specific regulatory, certification and implementation functions. Due to the various ministries and agencies involved in regulating agricultural and food products, some imported products may be subject to multiple regulations under the various ministries. As a result, it is important for U.S. exporters to have a clear understanding of the relevant ministries and all the regulations applicable to their specific product. The responsibilities and related legislations under these ministries and associated agencies are presented in **Tables 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**.

Table 2: Responsibilities, Food Laws, Legislation and Regulations under the MLAWCRR

Division/Agency	Summary
Department of Veterinary Services	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness, prevent, and control animal diseases. • Formulate policy and reduce risks in the import and export of animals and animal products. • Render epidemiological services for early warning and monitoring of animal diseases. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Act [Chapter 19:01]. • Animal Health (Livestock Identification) (Cattle) Regulations 2003.
Plant Quarantine Service Institute/ Plant Protection Unit	<p>Key Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control movement of plant and plant products into and out of Zimbabwe. • Nursery inspections and field inspections for seed (maize & soya) production for export. • Surveillance of pests of quarantine importance (Fruit flies, Larger Grain Borer, <i>Phaeramularea angolensis</i> etc.). • Training of stakeholders on Phytosanitary requirements for import and export commodities. • Training of Plant Inspectors, Plant Health Inspectors and Assistant Plant Health Inspectors responsible for internal agricultural quality inspections. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Pests and Diseases Act [Chapter 19:08]. • Plant Pests and Diseases (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Regulations, 2016 - Statutory Instrument 141 of 2016. • Plant Pests and Diseases (Importation) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (No. 4) - Statutory Instrument 121/2019
Import/ Export Permit Office	<p>Key Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle the application and issuing of plant & animal import permits.

<p>(“One-stop permit processing office”)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought together regulatory agencies including the Plant Quarantine Services, Veterinary Services Department, Seed Services Institute, and the Agricultural Marketing Authority. The National Biosafety Authority is expected to join the office in 2022. • The electronic issuance of permits and certificates is currently unavailable. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Goods (Import and Export) (Agriculture) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 137 of 2007.
<p>Department of Research and Specialist Services - Fertilizer, Farm Feeds and Remedies</p>	<p>Key Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections and analysis of fertilizers and pesticides. • Inspections of the feed producers to monitor quality and enforce feed registrations. • Registration of all pesticide and agricultural chemicals. • Licensing of fertilizer and pesticides companies. • Analysis of various soil samples from farmers. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizer Farm Feeds and Remedies Act • Farm Feeds Regulations - Statutory Instrument 162 of 2014
<p>Seed Services Institute</p>	<p>Key Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed quality control and laboratory proficiency (ISTA samples) testing. • Inspection of field seed crops and seed house premises. • Varietal release and recognition of seed varieties. • Seed licensing and certification. • Registration of Seed growers. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds (Certification Scheme) (Amendment) Notice, 2016 (No. 4) • Plant Breeder’s Rights Act, Chapter 18:16

Source: MLAWCRR

Table 3: Responsibilities, Food Laws, Legislation and Regulations under the MOHCC

Division	Summary
<p>The Government Analyst Laboratory</p>	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate the national food control program and food standards development. • Provide technical advice and information on issues pertaining to food quality, safety, and standardization, and water treatment and industrial processing. • Verify and certify food products and facilities. • Serve as the National Codex Contact Point and Secretariat to Food Standards Advisory Board. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Food Standards Act (Chapter 15:04) • Hazardous Substances Control Act (2000) • Medicine and Allied Substances Control Act - Chapter 15:03 • Dairy Act • Water Act

Source: MOHCC

Table 4: Responsibilities, Food Laws, Legislation and Regulations under the MIC

Division	Summary
Ministry of Industry and Commerce	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, implement, and review Consumer Protection Policy. • Promote the development and implementation of quality policies and strategies. • Facilitate the development and implementation of mandatory standards. • Promote accreditation of Zimbabwe testing, inspection and certification facilities. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Protection Act Chapter 14:14 No. 5/2019 • Merchandise Marks Act 9/1974, 22/2001 (s.4) • Sugar Production Control Act Chapter 18:19
Import/Export Licensing	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing of general import and export permits. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Goods Act Chapter 14:05
Bureau Veritas	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the verification and the assessment of conformity of goods in exporting countries, under the Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) Programme. • Reduce hazardous and substandard imported products and improve Customs duty collection. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Goods (Open General Import License) Standards Assessment – Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) (Amendment) Notice, 2020 (No. 1). • Control of Goods (Open General Import License) (Standards Assessment) Notice, 2015 - Statutory Instrument 132 of 2015 • CBCA Zimbabwe - List of Products

Source: MIC

Table 5: Responsibilities, Major Food Laws, Legislation and Regulations under the MHTESTD

Division	Summary
National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe (NBA)	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing applications for import permits of biotechnology products. • Supervising the importation/exportation of food, feed, additives, and seed. • Registration and audit of biotechnology facilities. • Biosafety policy development. • Supervising the contained use, trial release and general release and commercial release of biotechnology products. • Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) surveillance and testing. • Food inspection and testing (Plant Biosafety). <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe (NBA) Act of 2006 [Chap. 14:31]

Source: NBA

Table 6: Responsibilities, Major Food Laws, Legislation and Regulations under the MECTH

Division	Summary
Environmental Management Agency	<p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous substances importation, exportation, transportation, storage and use licensing. • Hazardous Waste generation, storage, and transportation licensing. • Inland environmental compliance inspections and Border compliance inspections. • Alien invasive species management. <p>Legislation/Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management Act 13 of 2002 • Environmental Management (Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 12 of 2007 • Environmental Management (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 10 of 2007 • Environmental Management (Control of Hazardous Substances) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 268 of 2018

Source: EMA

Enforcement of Food Regulations

The Zimbabwean food and agricultural import regulations and standards are developed, administered and enforced by five ministries, and sometimes their appointed independent agencies. While some coordination mechanisms have been established, such as the National Codex Committee and Technical Committee, the implementation and enforcement of food regulations remains a challenge, especially in the informal sector. Enforcement and implementation of food and agricultural regulations is hampered by limited capacity, resource constraints, and unavailability of some regulations online. As a result, there is inconsistent application and implementation of regulations, affecting both domestic and imported food products. The websites of the key ministries involved in agricultural and food regulations do not work consistently, which makes it difficult to access updated regulations and procedures online. Clearing agents and some commodity associations normally have the knowledge of the applicable regulations and procedures. In addition, some organizations such as [Veritas Zimbabwe](#) and [Zimbabwe Legal Resources Website](#), and [The Sustainable Wildlife Management \(SWM\) Programme](#) have tried to post some of the regulations online but their repository is not comprehensive. All the highlighted regulations in this report are also available as pdf attachments for download under **Appendix III** at the end of the report. Notably, where any food or agricultural product is not specifically covered by any Act, or regulation, provisions of the CODEX relevant to the food concerned may apply.

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country, and most imports are either through land borders or airports. Most of the food and agricultural imports are through the Beitbridge border post. This is the busiest land border in Southern Africa, as it also serves as a regional transit link, connecting South Africa to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Tanzania, and Northern Mozambique. The Beitbridge border post is infamous for delays (on average 3 days to 2 weeks), backlogs, cumbersome clearing processes/requirements, and alleged corrupt practices. Thus, most major importers appoint clearing agents to handle their customs and clearing processes at the ports of entry. It is recommended to use reputable clearing agents who are a member of a recognized association, such as the Shipping and Forwarding Agents Association of Zimbabwe (SFAAZ), Zimbabwe Indigenous

Freight Forwarders Association (ZIFFA), International Freight Forwarders Association of Zimbabwe (IFAZIM), and the Zimbabwe Indigenous Freight Association. The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) normally updates and engages these associations on new or changes to clearing processes, requirements, and regulations

SECTION II: LABELLING REQUIREMENTS:

Mandatory Labelling Regulations

The labelling of food products sold or manufactured in Zimbabwe are governed by the Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations (Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002) under the MOHCC. Food labels also must comply with the Consumer Protection Act. Some labelling requirements are also regulated under commodity specific regulations. **Table 7** shows the list of all the relevant labelling regulations.

Table 7: Existing Labeling Regulations

Name of Regulation	Link
Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations, 2002 - published in Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002	Download
Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (No. 2) - published in Statutory Instrument 236 of 2019	Download
Consumer Protection Act (Chapter 14:44)	Download
Food and Food Standards (Poultry, Poultry Meat and Poultry Products) Regulations, 1990 - Statutory Instrument 103 of 1990	Download
Food and Food Standards (Flour, Bread and Cereals) Regulations, 1972 - Statutory Instrument 1211 of 1972	Download
Food and Food Standards (Pasta Products) Regulations, 1991 – Statutory Instrument 149 of 1991	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Wheat and Barley) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 188 of 2021	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Maize) Regulations, 2019 - Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Cotton) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 96 of 2021	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Soya Beans) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 97 of 2021	Download
Agricultural Marketing Authority (Grain, Oilseed and Products) By-laws - Statutory Instrument 140 of 2013	Download
Food and Food Standards (Fish And Fish Products) Regulations, 1990 – Statutory Instrument 104 of 1990	Download
Food and Food Standards (Peanut and Peanut Products) Regulations, 1990 – Statutory Instrument 99 of 1990	Download

Source: MLAWCRR, MOHCC, & MIC.

All the particulars required to appear on food labels should be in English. In the case of foods sold solely in an area where English is not the predominant language, the predominant language may be used in addition to English. Both local and imported products are required to be registered by the MOHCC. Food labels must be approved by the Government Analyst Lab under the MOHCC prior to the sale or importation of products. This should ideally be done prior to exporting or before the products are delivered for retail sales. Food labels that are intercepted at the ports of entry or that do not meet the requirements may apply for exemptions or permission to stick-on labels meeting local requirements.

Health claims such as sodium and hypertension; fruits and vegetables and cancer; calcium and osteoporosis, need to be substantiated and must be permitted by the Secretary of the MOHCC.

Permission to use health claims should be granted prior to exporting or selling the product. The Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations prohibits the following claims:

- claims stating that any given food will provide an adequate source of all essential nutrients except with permission from the Secretary for Health and Child Welfare;
- claims which cannot be substantiated;
- claims implying that a balanced diet of ordinary foods cannot supply adequate amount of all nutrients;
- claims as to the suitability of a food for use in the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease, disorder or particular physiological condition unless they are permitted by the Secretary for Health and Child Welfare;
- misleading claims such as use of incomplete comparatives and superlatives and claims as to good hygienic practice such as “wholesome”, “healthful”, “sound”.

While claims such as “wholesome” is commonly used in the United States, it is prohibited by the Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations, as indicated above. To prevent challenges at the port of entry, U.S. exporters are advised to seek approval of their claims from the MOHCC in Zimbabwe, prior to exporting. Implied claims should also adhere to the above list of prohibitions. In addition, the Consumer protection Act also stipulates that no person shall use a description that is likely to mislead the consumer. It is further prohibited to alter, deface, cover, remove or obscure a trade description or trademark applied to any goods in a manner designed to mislead consumers.

According to the Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations it is mandatory to declare the energy value; protein content; carbohydrate content (excluding dietary fibre); fat content; and/or the content of nutrient for which a claim has been made. Exemptions may be granted by the Government Analyst Lab, if the package of any pre-packaged food is too small as to make it impossible to comply with the provisions of labelling regulations, or if the food is packaged in bulk for further packaging prior to presentation for sale. While, the standard U.S. nutritional fact panel may be acceptable, it is recommended that approval be sought prior to exporting.

Table 8 provides conditions for the use of nutrient content claims. Claims of micronutrient or nutrient fortification on any packaged food label are prohibited unless written permission has been granted by the Secretary for the MOHCC.

It is mandatory for food products to declare the country of origin and shelf-life on the label, using appropriate words such as ‘best before’ or ‘use by’ or ‘sell by’. According to the Consumer Protection Act, food labels should also disclose the presence of any genetically modified ingredients. Zimbabwe currently does not have official regulations for organic products and halal products. These products must comply with the current labelling regulations under the MOHCC and should not be misleading as per the requirements of the Consumer Protection Act.

By following the product registration and food label approval process prescribed by the MOHCC prior to importing food products into Zimbabwe, potential challenges for U.S food labels should be addressed. In addition, this process allows for the application of exemptions prior to the products being exported. Zimbabwe importers and regulators prefer that correct labeling be applied prior to export. Non-complying products that are not released at the ports of entry may apply for exemptions and release of

products from the MOHCC. It is recommended that U.S. exporters appoint reputable clearing agents who are knowledgeable about the processes, regulations, contacts, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Table 8: Conditions for use of Nutrient Content Claims

Component	Claim	Conditions
Protein	Source	10% of NRV*per 100 g (solids). 5% of NRV*per 100 g (liquids).
	High	2 times the values for source
Vitamins and minerals	Source	15% of NRV per 1,000 (solids). 7.5% of NRV per 100 ml (liquids).
	High	2 times the value for source
Fibre	Source	3g per 100g
	High	6g per 100g
Energy	Low	40Kcal (170kl) per 100 g (solids). 20 Kcal (80 kl) per 100 ml (liquids).
Fat	Low	3 g per 100 g (solids). 1.5 g per 100 ml (liquids).
	Free	0.15 g per 100 g or per 100 ml
Saturated fat	Low	1.5 g per 100 g (solids). 0.75 g per 100 g (liquids) and less than 10% of energy.
Cholesterol	Low	20 mg per 100 g (solids). 10 mg per 100 ml (liquids) and less than 10% energy. 1.5 g saturates per 100 g (solids) 0.75 g saturates per 100 g (liquids) and 10% of energy.
Sugars	Free	0.5 g per 100 g/or per 100 ml
Sodium	Low	120 mg per 100 g
	Very Low	40 mg per 100 g
	Free	5 mg per 100 g

Source: [Food and Food Standards \(Food Labelling\) Regulations \(Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002\)](#)

Voluntary Labelling Regulations

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe sells voluntary standards for products such as tomato sauce/ketchup, dairy products, paprika, canned seafood, onions, curry powder, casseins and casseinates, and fertilizers. While these standards are voluntary, they are used by some independent organizations and are sometimes referenced by official regulations. Voluntary standards produced and sold by the Standards Association of Zimbabwe may be obtained from the following website,

<https://webstore.saz.org.zw/#/store/home>.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Mandatory Packaging and Container Regulations

Packaging regulations are developed and enforced by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), which falls under the MECTH and constituted by the [Environmental Management Act 13 of 2002](#). Packaging and container regulations are presented in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Packaging and Container Regulations

Regulation	Link
Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) Regulations, 2010 – Statutory Instrument 98 of 2010	Download
Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 - Statutory Instrument 82 of 2012	Download
Environmental Management (Importation and Transit of Hazardous Substances and Waste) Regulations, 2009 - Statutory Instrument 77 of 2012	Download
Environmental Management (Effluent and Solid Waste Disposal) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 6 of 2007	Download
Environmental Management (Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 12 of 2007	Download
Environmental Management (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 10 of 2007	Download
Environmental Management (Control of Hazardous Substances) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 268 of 2018	Download
Food and Food Standards (Food Fortification) Regulations, 2016	Download
Farm Feeds Regulations – Statutory Instrument 162 of 2014	Download

Source: [Environmental Management Agency \(EMA\)](#), MLAWCRR & MOHCC

Packaging Restrictions, Bans and Sustainability Measures

According to the Food and Food Standards (Food Fortification) Regulations, 2016, food may be packaged only in suitable materials that protects the food and preserves its composition, quality, purity, hygiene, and safety. Thus, packaging and container regulations require that containers be intact, sealed properly, clean, moisture resistant, suitable, and strong enough for the packing and normal handling of foodstuffs. In addition, containers should not pass any odor, taste, color, or other foreign characteristics to the product during processing or distribution. The Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) Regulations, 2010 – Statutory Instrument 98 of 2010 and Environmental Management (Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 12 of 2007, stipulates that all containers are free from any toxic substance, ingredient, or any other substance liable to contaminate or spoil the food in the container.

The Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012, prohibits the manufacture for use within Zimbabwe, commercial distribution, or importation of plastic packaging whether biodegradable or not, with a wall thickness of not less than 30 micrometers except for plastic barrier packaging. Exceptions only apply for packaging used for bread and biodegradable plastic packaging. In addition, the manufacture or importation of polystyrene and food

containers made from styrofoam, or kaylite for use or commercial distribution within Zimbabwe is prohibited. Notably, enforcement of this ban is inconsistent, and the EMA once temporarily lifted this ban due to the widespread use of such containers and limited substitutions.

While Zimbabwe has Municipal Waste Disposal Laws and product recycling regulations, they are applied equally to domestically and imported products. Waste in Zimbabwe is governed by the Environment Management Agency, as per the regulations listed in **Table 9**.

Voluntary Standards

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe also has voluntary packaging and container regulations, in efforts to promote international best practices. Some of these packaging standards are presented in **Table 10**, and may be purchased online from the following Standards Association of Zimbabwe website, <https://saz.org.zw/>.

Table 10: Standards Association of Zimbabwe Voluntary Packaging Standards.

Name and Code of Standard	Purpose
ZWS S5:1970 - Canned vegetables	Covers the ingredients, manufacture, processing and packaging of eight types of canned vegetables (including spaghetti).
ZWS S14:1968 - London dry gin	Covers quality and alcohol content, flavoring, chemical, physical, and marking requirements.
ZWS S18:1968 - Worcestershire sauce	Covers sauce of one type and grade. Factory, ingredients, containers, packing, labelling and microbiological requirements are given.
ZWS S19:1968 - Cucumber pickles	Covers pickles of five types and one grade. Factory, ingredients, containers, packing, labelling and microbiological requirements are specified.
ZWS S30:1971 - Canned orange juice and canned grapefruit juice	Covers factory, chemical, physical packing and microbiological requirements.
ZWS S33:1971 - Potato crisps	Covers factory, physical, packing and microbiological requirements.
ZWS S35:1971 - Baking powder	Covers factory, chemical, physical and packing requirements.
ZWS S24:1970 - Canned tomato juice, canned tomato juice cocktail and canned tomato cocktail	Covers factory, ingredients, containers, packaging, labelling and microbiological requirements.
ZWS S38:1972 - Gravy powders	Covers factory, ingredients, chemical, physical, packing, and microbiological requirements.
ZWS S40:1972 - Icing sugar	Covers factory, ingredients, chemical, physical, packing and microbiological requirements.
ZWS 224:1978 - The handling, storage and disposal of pesticides and their containers	This code of practice covers the handling, storage and disposal of pesticides and their containers on farms and smallholdings. For other instances, refer to ZWS 250.
ZWS 331:1991 - Storage of cereals and pulses	Gives guidance on the choice of a method of storage of cereals and pulses and on the essential requirements for good storage according

	to the method chosen. Other aspects of the storage of cereals and pulses are dealt with in ZWS 330: Part 1 and 2.
ZWS 394:1993 - Golden syrup, flavored syrup, and treacle	Specifies physical and chemical requirements as well as containers and packaging.

Source: Standards Association of Zimbabwe

SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

Zimbabwe food additives regulations are developed and administered by the Government Analyst Lab under the MOHCC. This Division also serves as the Codex point of contact. Food additive regulations are developed and governed in line with the [Food and Food Standards Act \(Chapter 15:04\)](#). **Table 11** shows the list of applicable additives regulations. Zimbabwe maintains a positive additive list (allowing only permitted additives to be used in foodstuffs), and dictates the foodstuffs in which these additives may be used. These regulations also specify the requirements on the use of additives including how they should be labelled.

Table 11: Existing Food Additives Regulations

Regulation	Link
National Biotechnology Authority (Food, Feed, Food and Feed Additives and Seed) (Import, Export and Transit) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 157 of 2018	Download
Medicines and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, 1991 – Statutory Instrument 150 of 1991	Download
Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 - Statutory Instrument 236 of 2019	Download
Food and Food Standards (Food Additives and Prohibited Substances) Regulations, 2001 - Statutory Instrument 136 of 2001	Not available online
Food and Food Standards (Preservatives, Additives and Prohibited Substances) Regulations, 1972	Not available online
Hazardous Substances Control Act (2000)	Download
Food Fortification Regulations, 2016 - Statutory Instrument 120 of 2016	Download

Source: MOHCC

In the absence of a regulation pertaining to a specific additive, Zimbabwe normally adopts the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). If an additive is not available under the Zimbabwe positive list or covered by Codex, an exporter may request permission from MOHCC to use such an additive. Notably, this may be a long process as MOHCC may request supporting evidence that the additive is safe for consumption.

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

The MLAWCRR, MOHCC, and EMA are the key ministries and agency responsible for regulating and enforcing pesticide and contaminants regulations. All pesticides intended for sale, distribution, manufacturing and use in Zimbabwe must be registered.

The MLAWCRR is responsible for the registrations, permits and usage of pesticides in agriculture production, and for ensuring that agricultural producers and exporters comply with the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and only use chemical remedies registered in terms of The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, and Remedies Act (18:12) of 1996 (Pesticide Regulations) – Statutory Instrument 144 of 2012. “Farm Feed” means any substances and feed which is intended or offered for the feeding of poultry, domestic animals, or livestock, and/or any stock lick or substance which can be used and is used as a stock lick. Pesticide registration procedures, forms, guidelines, regulations, registered active ingredients and banned pesticides may be obtained from the Department of Research and Specialist Services (<http://www.drss.gov.zw/index.php/downloads>) and **Table 12**. Companies have full responsibilities for conflicts or claims arising as a result of the use of pesticide trade names and trademarks. Thus, companies are advised to conduct a thorough check on registered trademarks before commencing the pesticide registration process.

The MOHCC is responsible for determining and approving the MRLs for pesticides, metals and other chemicals that may be present in foodstuffs. In addition, the MOHCC is also responsible for inspections, and ensuring compliance with MRLs in all domestic and imported foodstuffs. Zimbabwe has a positive pesticide list. In the absence of regulations governing a specific pesticide and contaminant, Zimbabwe defers to the CODEX standards.

The Environmental Management Agency also regulates the labelling, packaging, handling, transportation, use and facility licensing for pesticides or other agricultural chemicals.

Table 12: Existing Pesticides and Contaminants Regulations

Name of Regulation	Link
The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, and Remedies Act (18:12) of 1996 (Pesticide Regulations) – Statutory Instrument 144 of 2012	Download
Registered Pesticides Active Ingredients in Zimbabwe Registered Pesticides Active Ingredients in Zimbabwe	Download
Label Checklist	Download
List of banned Pesticides in Zimbabwe	Download
New Pesticide Registration Procedure	Download
Application for Registration Form (P1)	Download
Pesticide Information Banner	Download
Environmental Management (Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 12 of 2007	Download
Environmental Management (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 10 of 2007	Download
Environmental Management (Control of Hazardous Substances) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 268 of 2018	Download

Source: MLAWCRR, MOHCC, & EMA

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

Facility Registration

According to the [Food and Food Standards \(Inspection and Certification\) Regulations, 2015 - Statutory Instrument 5 of 2015](#), both domestic and foreign facilities intended for the sale, manufacture, production, processing or treatment of foods have to be registered with the MOHCC and issued with a Food Sanitary Certificate. In addition, the [Food and Food Standards \(Import and Export\) Regulations, 2015 - Statutory Instrument 8 of 2015](#), states that where an importer or exporter fails to produce a Food Sanitary Certificate, the food shall be subject to inspection and analysis, and shall be detained at the port of entry, a designated warehouse or as may otherwise be directed by the competent authority at the said port pending the inspection and analysis.

Where Zimbabwe has an equivalence agreement with any country, a certificate equivalent to a Food Sanitary Certificate issued by a competent authority of any such country may be accepted at a port of entry and a pre-shipment inspection may, unless specifically demanded by a competent authority on good cause shown, not be required. The United States does not have an equivalence agreement with Zimbabwe. U.S. facilities must apply for the Food Sanitary Certificate from the Government Analyst Lab at the MOHCC or apply for an exemption to use a U.S. issued certificate equivalent to a Food Sanitary Certificate. The U.S. exporter or facility owner is responsible for the cost of inspectors from either MOHCC to visit the U.S. facility for certification, or for the fees of any approved U.S. based certification body. A facility is only required to register once and may be subject to audits/inspections during the registration process. Notably, a Food Sanitary Certificate or equivalent certificate shall not exempt an exporter or importer from complying with any other pre-shipment veterinary, biotechnological, plant quarantine, phytosanitary, GMO and environmental requirements.

Table 13 below provides a list of facilities that will require registration and the respective regulations or procedures.

Table 13: Facility Registration Requirements in South Africa

Facility	Link
Dairy facilities (Cream depots, creameries and factories)	Download
Institutions involved in biotechnology research and applications	Download
Fertilizers, farm feeds, remedies and sterilizing plants	Download
Facilities involved in Agricultural Biotechnology research and trials	Download

Source: MOHCC

Product Registration

Products that require registration prior to importing in Zimbabwe include Genetically Modified (GM) products, beverages, farm feeds, pesticides and fertilizers.

According to the [National Biotechnology Authority \(Agricultural Biotechnology Products\) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 160 of 2018](#), no person shall import, export, commercialize or carry out a trial release of GM products, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and bio-stimulants without a registration with

the National Biotechnology Authority. Applications for registration are considered within 72 hours, and the National Biotechnology Authority may either approve the application, contact the applicant requesting for further documents or information before granting the certificate, or reject the application giving reasons for refusal in writing. A registration certificate is valid for a period of one calendar year and may be renewed annually thereafter.

The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds and Remedies Act restricts the sale of any fertilizer, farm feed or remedies unless it is registered under this Act. The registration of fertilizer, farm feed or remedy can only be done by an individual residing in Zimbabwe or a company registered in Zimbabwe. This may be handled by the Zimbabwean importer or distributor. Information on the registration of the product can be obtained from the following MLAWCRR website, <http://www.drss.gov.zw/index.php/downloads> .

In Zimbabwe, Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) are governed by the Plant Breeders' Rights Act and the Plant Breeders' Rights Regulations, 1998 (Statutory Instrument 113 of 1998). Plant and propagating material intended for sale into Zimbabwe need to be registered and issued with PBR, valid for twenty years and renewable for an additional five years. Applications for PBRs are made to the Registrar for PBRs and must contain information pertaining to the origins of the plant and the full name of the breeder. The Registrar may exercise his discretion to either grant or refuse the application. If the application is accepted, a notice shall be published bearing the name of the applicant and stating their intention to register a new plant variety. The application shall be subject to public opposition for a period of three months from the date of publication. Within that stipulated period, any person can lodge an objection to the application in writing with the Registrar. If no opposition is noted during the opposition period, the Registrar shall grant the PBR, issue a certificate of registration and publish a notice.

Basic Certification and Documentation that Must Accompany Shipments

In addition to the import permits, certificate of conformity, sanitary and phytosanitary permits, the following basic documentation should also accompany all food and agricultural shipments into Zimbabwe:

- A commercial supplier invoice that shows the price charged to the importer in addition to the cost of placing goods on board of the ship for export.
- Bills of entry (Form 21) documentation that provide the correct physical addresses of supplier, storage facilities, correct quantities, grades, and HS codes of commodities.
- The Bill of Lading (where applicable).
- Insurance documents.
- Other special documentation and certifications may be required by the importer, e.g., Laboratory results/certificates from approved/ accredited establishments or Organic Certifications if the product claims to be organic.
- Export or Transit Bill of Entry from the country of export (where applicable).
- Value Declaration Forms.
- Port Charges Invoices (where applicable).
- Agent / Importer's Worksheet.
- Duty Free Certificates, Rebate Letters, or Value Rulings (where applicable).

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Other Specific Standards

Table 14 below provides the names of other laws, legislation, or ordinances impacting imported foods that are not previously covered.

Table 14: Other Specific Standards

Regulation/ Standard	Link
Beverages	
The Liquor Act (Chapter 14: 12)	Download
The Traditional Beer Act (Chapter 14:24)	Download
Food and Food Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2001 – Statutory Instrument 25 of 2001	Download
Meat and Meat Product	
Food and Food Standards (Poultry, Poultry Meat and Poultry Products) Regulations, 1990 - Statutory Instrument 103 of 1990	Download
Animal Health (National Animal Research Ethics Committee) – Statutory Instrument 246 of 2021	Download
Harare (Meat) By-laws, 2017 – Statutory Instrument 37 of 2017	Download
Grain and Grain Products	
Food and Food Standards (Flour, Bread and Cereals) Regulations, 1972 - Statutory Instrument 1211 of 1972	Download
Food and Food Standards (Pasta Products) Regulations, 1991 – Statutory Instrument 149 of 1991	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Wheat and Barley) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 188 of 2021	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Maize) Regulations, 2019 - Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Cotton) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 96 of 2021	Download
Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Soya Beans) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 97 of 2021	Download
Agricultural Marketing Authority (Grain, Oilseed and Products) By-laws - Statutory Instrument 140 of 2013	Download
Seafood	
Food and Food Standards (Fish And Fish Products) Regulations, 1990 – Statutory Instrument 104 of 1990	Download
Other	
Food and Food Standards (Peanut and Peanut Products) Regulations, 1990 – Statutory Instrument 99 of 1990	Download
Food and Food Standards (Import and Export) Regulations, 2015 - Statutory Instrument 8 of 2015	Download
Food and Food Standards (Inspection and Certification) Regulations, 2015 - Statutory Instrument 5 of 2015	Download
Food and Food Standards (Advisory Board) Regulations, 1995 - Statutory Instrument 322 of 1995	Download
Plant Pest and Diseases (Importation) Amendment - Statutory Instrument 121 of 2019	Download
Dangerous Drugs (Production of Cannabis for Medicinal and Scientific Use) Regulations, 2018 - Statutory Instrument 062 of 2018	Download

Dangerous Drugs (Production of Cannabis for Medicinal and Scientific Use) (Amendment) Regulations (No. 1) - Statutory Instrument 178 of 2018	Download
Agriculture Marketing Authority (Industrial Hemp) Regulations, 2020 - Statutory Instrument 218 of 2018	Download
Forestry	
Forest Amendment Bill	Download
Forest Amendment Bill - NEW Proposed Amendments	Download
Forest Amendment Bill - Proposed Committee Stage Amendments	Download

Source: [Environmental Management Agency \(EMA\)](#), MLAWCRR & MOHCC

Plant-Based Meat/Dairy Alternatives

Zimbabwe does not have regulations specific to Plant Based Meat Alternatives. However, such products must comply with the Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations, 2002 - Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002 and Consumer Protection Act (Chapter 14:44). The Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations addresses and provides guidance on vegetarian or vegan claims and other labelling requirements with which Plant-Based Meat/Dairy alternatives must comply. There is a gap in regulations for Plant-Based Meat/Dairy alternatives that address potential cross-contamination from non-vegetarian products to vegetarian products, animal material processing aids, management or controls of manufacturing processes, and allergen precautionary labelling on vegetarian products.

Organic Food Certification and Regulations

Zimbabwe does not have a government certification system for organic products and farms. The inspection and certification of organic products and farms is carried out by private certification bodies primarily for export markets or to fulfill private requirements set by domestic retailers. As a result, Zimbabwe certifying bodies are market focused and follow international best practices or the agreed export market certification standards, e.g. the USDA National Organic Program, European Union Organic Regulations (European Community, Regulation EEC 2092/91), Codex Alimentarius Guidelines and IFOAM Basic Standards. Ecocert Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is one of the private certification organizations often used by growers in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Organic Producers and Promoters Association Trust (ZOPPA Trust), a local cooperator representing organic producers, promoters and processors in partnership with the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) and other interested stakeholders are working on the Draft Zimbabwe Organic Standards. Once finalized, the Zimbabwe Organic Standards would be used for standardization of organic production in Zimbabwe.

Although there are no regulations in place specifically for organic foods in Zimbabwe, the production, processing and labelling of organic products is required to comply with all the general food and agricultural regulations. Hence, both imported and domestic organic foods are subject to the Food and Food Standards (Food Labelling) Regulations, 2002 - Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002 and Consumer Protection Act (Chapter 14:44).

Other Voluntary Standards

Table 15: Other Voluntary Standards

Standard	Purpose
ZWS 332: 2015 - Labelling of food and feed that are and are not products of genetic modification	Specifies the labeling and advertising of food and feed produced from genetic modification or consisting of or containing GMOs irrespective of whether the food/feed contains DNA or protein.
ZWS 915:2014 - Zimbabwe Organic Farming	Applies to the following products which carry or are intended to carry, descriptive labeling referring to organic production methods.
ZWS 763:2000 - Peanut butter	Covers the manufacturing, production, processing or treatment of peanut butter.
ZWS 748:2001 - Vegetable cooking oil	Covers several types of refined /unrefined vegetables oils suitable for human consumption.
ZWS 747:2003 - Canned fruits	Specifies the manufacture, production, processing or treatment of canned fruits of different types and grade.
ZWS 746:2004 - Fruit jams, jellies and marmalades	Covers the manufacture, production, processing or treatment of fruit jams, fruit jellies and marmalades.
ZWS 725:1999 Ostrich feed	Specifies the requirements for ostrich feed.
ZWS 706:2001 - Canned ox tongue in gelatine and stewed steak in gravy	Specifies requirements for the manufacture, production processing and treatment of canned ox tongue in gelatine and stewed steak in gravy in order to ensure a safe, sound and wholesome product.
ZWS 609: 2000 - Bread Part 1: White	Specifies the requirements for yeast-leavened white bread.
Part 2: 2002 Brown and whole-wheat bread	Specifies the requirements for yeast-leavened brown and wholewheat bread.
ZWS 532:1997 - Salt	Specifies requirements for common salt for human and animal consumption.
ZWS 518:1996 - Cattle feeds	Specifies requirements for cattle feeds.
ZWS 392:1995 - Sunflower seeds	Specifies minimum requirements for sunflower seeds (<i>Helianthus annus</i>).
ZWS 381:1996 - Part 1: Black pepper Specifies requirements for black pepper (<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linnaeus), whole or ground	Specifies requirements for black pepper (<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linnaeus) whole or ground.
ZWS 380:1995 - Dehydrated garlic	Specifies requirements for dehydrated garlic in various commercial forms.
ZWS 379:1995 - Ginger: whole, in pieces or ground	Specifies requirements for ginger (<i>Zingiber officianale</i> Roscoe) whole, in pieces or ground.
ZWS 352:1992 - Fruit squashes and fruit cordials (fruit syrups) and their bases	Covers the manufacture of fruit squashes and fruit cordials (fruit syrups) and their bases.
ZWS 348:2007 - The manufacture of soft drinks and soft drink concentrates	Covers the manufacture of soft drinks.
ZWS 265:1993 Open pack meat products	Covers the manufacture, production, processing and treatment of open pack meat products of human consumption.

Source: Standards Association of Zimbabwe

SECTION VIII: TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Copyrights and Intellectual Property Regulations and Procedures

The registration and maintenance of property rights (trademarks, patents, designs and copyright) is governed by the regulations in **Table 16** under the MIC. Property rights, including intellectual property, are protected under a variety of laws and regulations, which basically provide the right for the property right holder to enforce their registered rights through the courts.

Table 16: Relevant Intellectual Property Rights Regulations

Regulation	Link
Trade Marks (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 4) – Statutory Instrument 239 of 2020	Download
Patents (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 16) - Statutory Instrument 238 of 2020	Download
Industrial Designs (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 15) - Statutory Instrument 237 of 2020	Download

Source: MIC

Protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is part of the [Eastern and Southern Africa and European Union Economic Partnership Agreement](#). The Eastern and Southern Africa countries included in the agreement are Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As part of this EPA, Zimbabwe recognizes and protects GIs using the following domestic legislation, [Geographical Indications Regulations, 2016 - Statutory Instrument 70 of 2016](#) and [Geographical Indications \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2020 \(No. 1\) – Statutory Instrument 236 of 2020](#). However, to receive full protection, GIs must be registered in Zimbabwe.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

Import Procedures and Guidelines

The MLAWCRR, MOHCC, MIC, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe Republic Police, National Biosafety Authority, and Bureau Veritas Zimbabwe are the main agencies involved in the customs clearances for imported food and agricultural products. Import documents must be in English to expedite customs clearance. The customs clearing timelines are dependent on the border post used and mode of transport (road or air). The customs clearing procedure at the Beitbridge border post, the busiest and main port of entry into Zimbabwe ranges from 2 days to 2 weeks. Product samples for trade shows or not for commercial distribution are subject to the same import regulations and certifications as all other products. However, exporters may apply for exemptions from the relevant Ministry or through the respective event organizers. **Figure 2** shows the detailed procedures for importing food and agricultural products into Zimbabwe.

Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (Certificate of Conformity)

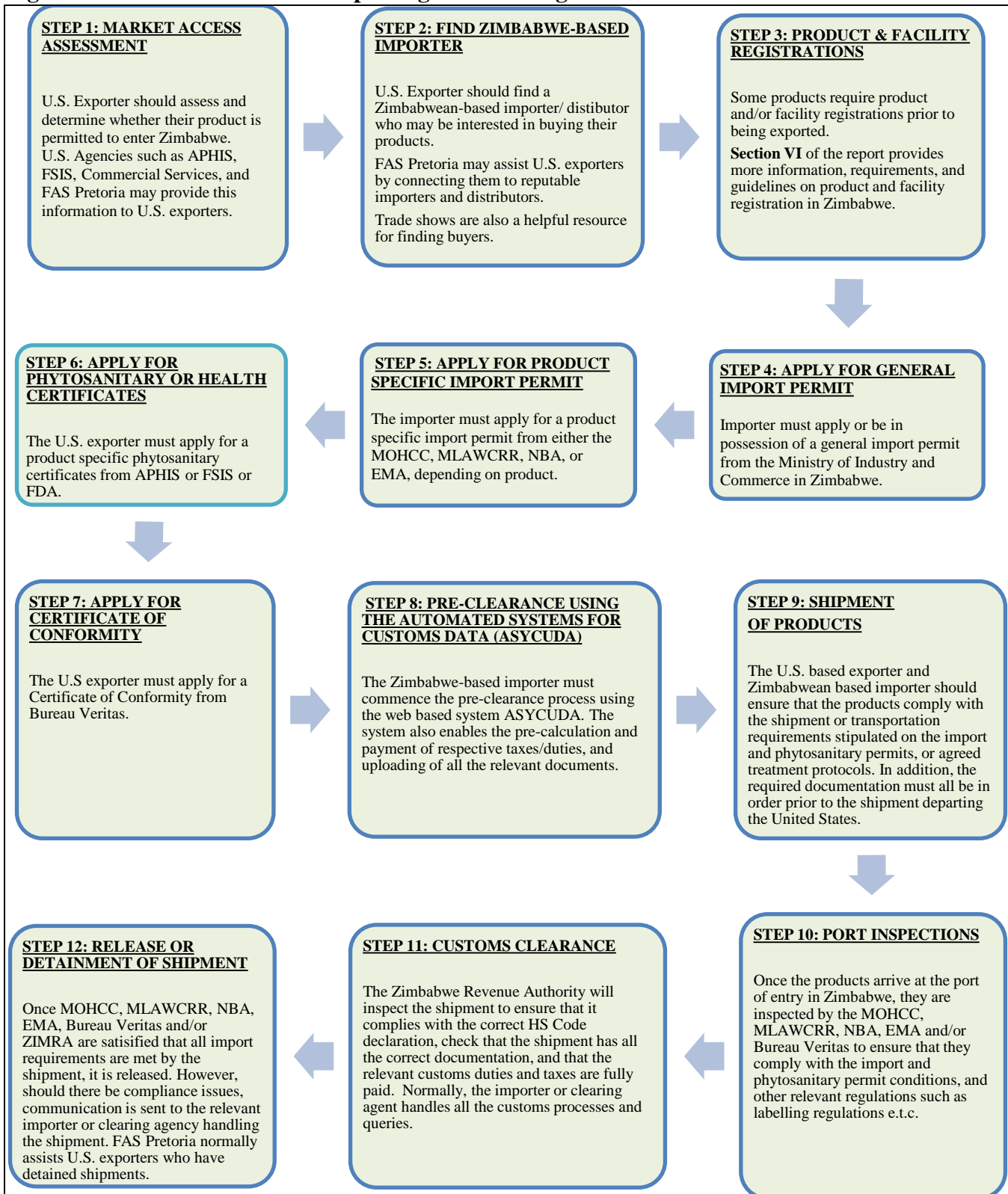
In 2015, Zimbabwe published the [Control of Goods \(Open General Import License\)\(Standards Assessment\) Notice, 2015 – Statutory Instrument 132 of 2015](#), appointing Bureau Veritas to carry out pre-shipment assessment of imports to ensure compliance to the relevant standards and regulations, and that imported products meet quality, safety, health and environmental standards. Thus, effective from March 2016, exporters of certain products to Zimbabwe are required to produce a “Certificate of Conformity” issued by Bureau Veritas. The list of food and agricultural products that are subject to conformity assessment are shown in **Table 17**. The pre-shipment processes include conformity documentary review, control testing if necessary, and physical inspection. The guidelines, procedures, exempt goods, and fees for obtaining the Certificate of Conformity may be found on the following Bureau Veritas website, <https://verigates.bureauveritas.com/programmes/zimbabwe>. Pre-shipment inspections are allowable under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Pre-shipment Inspections, provided that they meet the necessary requirements on non-discrimination, transparency, review and appeals processes. While the Certificate of Conformity enforces compliance to standards and regulations, they add to the cost of exporting, both in terms of time (2 – 7 days) and inspection fees.

Table 17: List of Food and Agricultural Products Subject to Conformity Assessment

Product Group	HS Code
Biscuits	1905.3100; 1905.9090
Confectionary	1704.1000; 1704.9000; 1806.1000; 1806.3100; 1806.3200; 1806.9000
Beverages (non-alcoholic and alcoholic)	Headings 20.09, 22.01, 22.02, 22.03 (Excluding 2203.0091); 22.04 (Excluding 2204.1011, 2204.1091, 2204.2111, 2204.2113, 2204.2191, 2204.2193, 2204.2911, 2204.2913, 2204.2991, 2204.2993); 22.05 (Excluding 2205.1011, 2205.1091, 2205.9011, 2205.9091); 22.06 (Excluding 2206.0051, 2206.0053, 2206.0071, 2206.0073); 22.08 (Excluding 2208.5011, 2208.6010, 2208.9021, 2208.9091)
Snacks	1901.9090, 1902.2000, 1902.3000, 1904.1000, 2005.2000, 2005.4000, 2008.1900
Fertilizers	Headings 31.01, 31.02, 31.03, 31.04, 31.05
Packaging materials	Heading 39.19; 4415.1000; Heading 45.03; 4601.9200, 4601.9300, 4601.9400, 4601.9900; Heading 46.02; 4819.1000, 4819.3000, 4819.5000, 4822.9000, 4823.6100, 4823.6900, 4823.9060, 4823.9070, 4823.9090, 4823.7010; Headings 63.05, 73.10, 74.10, 74.19, 76.12, 80.07

Source: [Tralac](#) & [Bureau Veritas](#)

Figure 2: Basic Procedures for Importing Food and Agricultural Products into Zimbabwe



Source: MLAWCRR, MOHCC, MIC, NBA, Bureau Veritas Zimbabwe, ZIMRA and the EMA.

SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) uses a web based system called Automated Systems for Customs Data ([ASYCUDA](#)), which enables pre-clearance of goods, payment of customs duties or the relevant taxes, and trade facilitation (faster clearance of goods at ports of entry). Clearing agents are the main users of [ASYCUDA](#) and use the system for importing and pre-clearance of imported products. Zimbabwe does not currently use the Global e-phyto hub (created by the International Plant Protection Convention). While the application of permits and certificates may be done by phone or email, the processing and issuance of permits and certificates is currently done manually and printed copies still have to be collected from the respective offices. Zimbabwe is in the process of developing an online “single window” system, to digitize the permit and health certificate process, and to enable linkages with [ASYCUDA](#). The single window system has not been finalized.

Zimbabwe provides advance rulings for all the commodities on HS Code classification, tariff determinations, customs value, and labelling compliance. Applicants must apply for a tariff determination at ZIMRA through their customs broker/clearing agent. While advance rulings are helpful in expediting the clearance of products at the ports, the final release of the products is subject to the approval of inspectors or customs at the Ports who may withhold shipments for other specific reasons. The following ZIMRA website provides further guidance and contact details for advance rulings, <https://www.zimra.co.zw/customs/advance-classification-rulings> . ZIMRA also has a dispute resolution processes should an importer or customs clearing agent not agree with a determination or decision made at the port of entry.

The biggest challenges with exporting to Zimbabwe, are the delays (on average 3 days to 3 weeks), backlogs, cumbersome clearing processes/requirements, and alleged corrupt practices at the main port of entry, the Beitbridge border post. Thus, most major importers appoint clearing agents to handle their customs and clearing processes at the ports of entry. The importer or clearing agent is responsible for all costs at the port of entry including customs duties, applicable taxes, storage, and ad hoc costs relating to disposal, removal or re-routing of the consignment, including costs incurred by Zimbabwean government or agencies to monitor the action taken. These payments are made through [ASYCUDA](#).

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate, and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR)

Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services (DVLS)

Email: vetlib13@gmail.com or vetlabs@africaonline.co.zw

Tel: +263 24 2706603 or +263 4 705 885/6

Address: 18 Borrowdale Road, Harare

Website: <http://www.dlvs.gov.zw/>

Department of Research and Specialist Services

(Plant Quarantine Services, Seed Services Institute)

Dr. Claid Mujaju, Acting Director

Email: mujajuclaid@gmail.com

Phone: (+263) 242700339

Mobile: (+263) 773056028 / (+263) 712611765

Address: PO Box CY 550, Causeway, Harare

Website: <http://www.drss.gov.zw>

Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC)

Government Analyst Laboratory/ CODEX Point of Contact.

Fredy Chinyavanhu, Deputy Director Food Control,

Email: nepfoodsafety.zw@gmail.com

Tel: +263 772 426 084 or +263 712 875 435.

Address: <http://www.mohcc.gov.zw>

Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC)

Bureau Veritaz Zimbabwe

Mr Tendai Malunga, Country Chief Executive

Email: tendai.malunga@bureauveritas.com or conformity.zimbabwe@bureauveritas.com

Tel: +263 (4) 792 683 or + 263 (4) 792 684

Address: Causeway Building, 8th Floor, North West Wing, 4th Street & Central Avenue, Harare

Website: <https://verigates.bureauveritas.com/programmes/zimbabwe>

Ministry of Higher & Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development (MHTESTD)

National Biosafety Authority

Email: nba@nba.ac.zw or marketing@nba.ac.zw

Tel: +263-242 -782155, 782167, 782856

Address: 21 Princess Drive, Newlands, Harare

Website: <https://nba.ac.zw/>

Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality

Environmental Management Agency

Email: eep@ema.co.zw or registry@ema.co.zw

Tel: +263 (0) 8677 006 244 or +263 779 565 707

Address: 685/6 Lorraine/Faber Drive, Bluffhill, Harare

Website: <https://www.ema.co.zw/index.php>

Standards Association of Zimbabwe

Ms. Romana Marunda, Director Standards Development, Information & Training

Email: rmarunda@saz.org.zw or marketing@saz.org.zw

Tel: +263 242 882017; 850704; 885512;852988

Address: 1 Northend Close, Northridge Park, Borrowdale, Harare

Website: www.saz.org.zw

Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA)

Mrs Silvia Chauke, Technical Manager, Customs and Excise Division

Email: schauke@zimra.co.zw

Tel: +263 790813/4

Address: 7th Floor ZB Centre, Cnr First Street & Kwame Nkrumah Avenue

Website: www.zimra.co.zw

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Office of Agricultural Affairs (FAS/USDA)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria, 877 Pretorius Street, P.O. Box 9536, Pretoria, South Africa 0001

Tel: (+27) 12 431 4057

Fax: (+27) 12-342-2264

E-mail: agpretoria@usda.gov

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria, 877 Pretorius Street, P.O. Box 9536, Pretoria, South Africa 0001

Tel: (+27) 12 431 4740

Fax: (+27) 12-342-3385

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Clearing Agents/ Brokers

It is recommended to use reputable clearing agents who are a member of a recognized association.

Below are some of the associations in Zimbabwe:

Shipping and Forwarding Agents Association of Zimbabwe (SFAAZ)

Address: Office 6, Block 2, Longcheng Plaza, Belvedere, Harare

Tel: +263 242 778 419

Cell: +263 772 306 837

Email: secretariat@sfaaz.org

List of members: <http://sfaaz.org/members/>

Website: <http://sfaaz.org/>

Zimbabwe Indigenous Freight Forwarders Association (ZIFFA)

Caleb Chihota (President-ZIFFA)

Cell: +263 771 926 650

Email: ziffa2016@yahoo.com or secretariat@ziffa.co.zw

Website: www.ziffa.org

International Freight Forwarders Association of Zimbabwe (IFAZIM)

Contact details not available online.

Zimbabwe Indigenous Freight Association

Contact details not available online.

Useful Websites for Downloading Regulations, Acts, Bills and Statutory Instruments:

Veritas Zimbabwe (<https://www.veritaszim.net/>)

Zimbabwe Legal Resources (<https://www.law.co.zw/>)

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme (<https://swm-programme.info/>)

APPENDIX III: PDF ATTACHMENTS OF ALL THE RELEVANT FOOD & AGRICULTURAL ACTS, REGULATIONS, AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS IN ZIMBABWE

Attachments:

[Animal Health Act - Chapter 19-01.pdf](#)

[Animal Health \(Livestock Identification\) \(Cattle\) Regulations 2003.pdf](#)

[Plant Pests and Diseases Act Chapter 19-08.pdf](#)

[Plant Pests and Diseases \(Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa\) Regulations, 2016 - Statutory Instrument 141 of 2016.pdf](#)

[Plant Pests and Diseases \(Importation\) \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2019 \(No. 4\) - Statutory Instrument 121 of 2019.pdf](#)

[Control of Goods \(Import and Export\) \(Agriculture\) Regulations, 2007 - Statutory Instrument 137 of 2007.pdf](#)

[Fertilizer Farm Feeds and Remedies Act.pdf](#)

[Farm Feeds Regulations - Statutory Instrument 162 of 2014.pdf](#)

[Seeds \(Certification Scheme\) \(Amendment\) Notice, 2016 \(No. 4\).pdf](#)

[Plant Breeders Rights Act Chapter 18-16.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards Act \(Chapter 15-04\).pdf](#)

[Hazardous Substances Control Act 2000.pdf](#)

[Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act Chapter 15 -03.pdf](#)

[Dairy Act.pdf](#)

[Water Act.pdf](#)

[Consumer Protection Act Chapter 14 -14 No 5 of 2019.pdf](#)

[Merchandise Marks Act 9 of 1974 - Chapter 14 - 13.pdf](#)

[Sugar Production Control Act Chapter 18 - 19.pdf](#)

[Control of Goods Act Chapter 14 - 05.pdf](#)

[Control of Goods \(Open General Import License\) Standards Assessment – Consignment Based Conformity Assessment \(CBCA\) \(Amendment\) Notice 2020 \(No 1\).pdf](#)

[Control of Goods \(Open General Import License\) \(Standards Assessment\) Notice 2015 - Statutory Instrument 132 of 2015.pdf](#)

[CBCA Zimbabwe - List of Products.pdf](#)

[The National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe \(NBA\) Act of 2006 - Chapter 14 - 31.pdf](#)

[Environmental Management Act 13 of 2002.pdf](#)

[Environmental Management \(Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances\) Regulations 2007 - Statutory Instrument 12 of 2007.pdf](#)

[Environmental Management \(Control of Hazardous Substances\) Regulations 2018 - Statutory Instrument 268 of 2018.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Food Labelling\) Regulations, 2002 - published in Statutory Instrument 265 of 2002.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Food Labelling\) \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2019 \(No. 2\) - published in Statutory Instrument 236 of 2019.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Poultry, Poultry Meat and Poultry Products\) Regulations, 1990 - Statutory Instrument 103 of 1990.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Flour, Bread and Cereals\) Regulations, 1972 - Statutory Instrument 1211 of 1972.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Pasta Products\) Regulations, 1991 – Statutory Instrument 149 of 1991.pdf](#)

[Grain Marketing \(Control of Sale of Wheat and Barley\) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 188 of 2021.pdf](#)

[Grain Marketing \(Control of Sale of Maize\) Regulations, 2019 - Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019.pdf](#)

[Grain Marketing \(Control of Sale of Cotton\) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 96 of 2021.pdf](#)

[Grain Marketing \(Control of Sale of Soya Beans\) Regulations, 2021 - Statutory Instrument 97 of 2021.pdf](#)

[Agricultural Marketing Authority \(Grain, Oilseed and Products\) By-laws - Statutory Instrument 140 of 2013.pdf](#)

[Food and Food Standards \(Fish And Fish Products\) Regulations, 1990 – Statutory Instrument 104 of 1990.pdf](#)

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