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**Report Highlights:**

The National Plant and Animal Health and Food Safety Agency (SENASA) has expedited the import process by implementing an on-line import permit system in July 1, 2020. The Sanitary Regulatory Agency (ARSA) has also provided on-line sanitary registration authorizations since April 2020. Through these systems, SENASA and ARSA send their authorizations directly to both ports of entry and importers.

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (FAIRS)****ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT 2020****HONDURAS****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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**Report Highlights:** SENASA has expedited import processes by implementing an on-line import permit system since July 1, 2020. ARSA is also providing on-line sanitary registration authorizations since April 2020. SENASA and ARSA sent authorizations directly to ports of entry and importers.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, **before** any goods are shipped.

**FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Major U.S. agricultural exports to Honduras are soybean meal, corn, wheat, rice, pork and pork products, dairy products, prepared food, wine and beer, poultry meat and products, and other intermediate products.

The Honduran Government's (GOH) main regulatory agency responsible for food and agricultural import and exports is the National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA).

On July 1, 2020 SENASA launched an on-line import permit system for plant products and seeds. Importers of products of animal origin and live animals have been able to submit the import permit request electronically since May 2020.

SENASA is electronically sending import permits for seeds, plant and animal products and live animals directly to the port of entries and importers. SENASA is expecting to have the online import permits for animal products and live animals by the end of 2020.

The Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA) assigns product registration numbers for food and beverages sold at the retail and wholesale level. ARSA began the process to obtain the sanitary registration number and sanitary license online in April 2020.

ARSA is currently reviewing the comments received from industry for their new "Food and Beverages Sanitary Control Regulation. The proposed new regulation's implementation is planned for 2021.

### **Section I. Food Laws:**

The regulatory environment in Honduras related to the enforcement practices and import policies for food and agricultural products is governed by the GOH's National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA), and the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA).

Food and agricultural regulations and standards established in Honduras apply to all products equally, and to both domestic and foreign suppliers.

SENASA establishes regulations and procedures, and oversees compliance regarding imported plant and animal foodstuffs. SENASA issues import permits for plant, animal, consumer-ready food products, products shipped in bulk for repacking, and inputs used in food processing for human or animal consumption. In addition, it issues import permits for agricultural chemicals and veterinary products that enter Honduras. Establishments that process or store and distribute food and animal products are required to register with SENASA.

ARSA issues sanitary licenses and product registrations for processed food, beverages, and food additives, among other products. ARSA oversees supervision, review, control, surveillance, and inspection of products sold at the retail and wholesale level. ARSA is georeferencing all the local establishments that they have inspected, and to whom they have provided a Sanitary License to store, distribute and sell food. In addition, ARSA oversees medicines, natural products, cosmetics, medical devices, and hygiene products.

ARSA eliminated the laboratory test previously required for food and beverage product registration. This requirement was replaced by an affidavit signed by the legal representative of the importing company. The laboratory analysis is done during the surveillance stage when the products are in the market.

Food laws and technical regulations for imported products are enforced by SENASA through the registration and inspection of establishments that process or store food and animal products, requirements established for plant and animal products to issue import permits, and confirming compliance with those requirements during inspections at the port of entry. ARSA applies the enforcements of their laws and regulations through product registration and inspection of establishments that store, distribute, and sell food products at the retail and wholesale level.

Import policies are also governed by Central America regulations established by the Council of Economic and Trade Integration Ministers (COMIECO). COMIECO, as part of the Central American Secretariat of Economic Integration (SIECA), is assigned to establish economic integration policies for the region. COMIECO agrees unanimously on Resolutions that approve Central America Technical Regulations (RTCA in Spanish).

The RTCA's have, as an objective, the harmonization of regulations for sectors such as: food and beverages, rules of origin, tariffs, sanitary registration, and others. A Resolution is issued by COMIECO that approves the RTCA. The information in the RTCAs is in Spanish.

Resolutions can be found at:

<https://www.sieca.int/index.php/integracion-economica/instrumentos-juridicos/actos-administrativos/consejo-de-ministros-de-integracion-economica/resoluciones/>

In addition, import policies for food and agricultural products follow World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO), Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA-DR), and CODEX Alimentarius guidelines.

ARSA is currently reviewing the comments received from industry for the new "Food and Beverages Sanitary Control Regulation". The regulation has not been updated since 2005. The proposed new regulation's implementation is planned for 2021.

Major food and agricultural RTCAs governing imported foodstuff are provided below. The web links show the information in the RTCAs in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food and Beverage Industry. Good Manufacturing Practices	<b>RTCA 67.01.33:06</b> can be found in Annex 4 of Resolution 176-2006	<a href="https://arsa.gob.hn/descargas/RTCA_67.01.33.06.pdf">https://arsa.gob.hn/descargas/RTCA_67.01.33.06.pdf</a>
Processed Food and Beverages. Fruit Nectars	<b>RTCA 67.04.48:08</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 226-2008	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/226-2008ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599627642&amp;Signature=7%2B2jZqrFOHwSnsvQXoUb5Qc%2B6JM%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/226-2008ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599627642&amp;Signature=7%2B2jZqrFOHwSnsvQXoUb5Qc%2B6JM%3D</a>
Dairy Products. Cheeses. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.70:14</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 366-2015	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/366-2015ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599625827&amp;Signature=Wpt96XgOSAfiMTHSHobCu9h7C4%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/366-2015ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599625827&amp;Signature=Wpt96XgOSAfiMTHSHobCu9h7C4%3D</a>
Pasteurized Milk	<b>RTCA 67.04.66:12</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 337-2014	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/337-2014ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626014&amp;Signature=KwuHozguWsSfldVcBudT1O%2Foiy8%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/337-2014ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626014&amp;Signature=KwuHozguWsSfldVcBudT1O%2Foiy8%3D</a>
Prepared Food and Beverages. Oils and Fats. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.40:07</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 215-2007	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/215%20-202007ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599627174&amp;Signature=kXERuOGTyYaS%2FRRcvmhB4pVFqTQ%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/215%20-202007ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599627174&amp;Signature=kXERuOGTyYaS%2FRRcvmhB4pVFqTQ%3D</a>
Flours. Fortified Wheat Flour. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.01.15:07</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 201-2007	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/201-2007ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626378&amp;Signature=h8dftHiGuA%2BiRPrdTHJGRNy%2FD38%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/201-2007ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626378&amp;Signature=h8dftHiGuA%2BiRPrdTHJGRNy%2FD38%3D</a>
Food. Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety	<b>RTCA 67.04.50:08</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 243-2009	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/243-2009ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626623&amp;Sig">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/243-2009ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626623&amp;Sig</a>

		<a href="#">nature=bNtpphKN3pKAUXsFr2HMN3fxivw%3D</a>
Agricultural Inputs. Requirements for the Production and Commercialization of Certified Basic Grain and Soy Seeds.	<b>RTCA 65.05.53:10</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 259-2010	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/259-2010ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626808&amp;Signature=wMZfMBOYYK%2BAVQB%2BJV9xMeXyZDE%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/259-2010ANEXO.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599626808&amp;Signature=wMZfMBOYYK%2BAVQB%2BJV9xMeXyZDE%3D</a>

In addition, import policies for food and agricultural products applied by SENASA and ARSA generally follow World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO), Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA-DR), and CODEX Alimentarius guidelines.

## Section II. Labeling Requirements:

### General Requirements

The language required on product labels is Spanish. The standard U.S. nutritional fact panel is acceptable. The label must be translated into Spanish with the same information that is given in the foreign language label. Stick-on labels shall comply fully with labeling requirements on product information, but must **not** indicate the manufacturing or expiration date. Stick-on labels can be affixed at the importer's establishment prior to retail sale.

**SENASA requests and enforces that the products of animal origin display the production and expiration date on the shipping carton(s) and are stamped on the primary package upon arrival at the port. The dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format. This requirement is closely inspected at the ports of entry.**

The RTCAs that govern general labeling are below. The web links show the RTCAs in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
General Labeling for Pre-packed Foods	<b>RTCA 67.01.07:10</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 208-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-280-2012-aprueba-rtca-67-01-0710-etiquetado-general-de-los-alimentos-previamente-ensados/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-280-2012-aprueba-rtca-67-01-0710-etiquetado-general-de-los-alimentos-previamente-ensados/</a>

An outline of the information provided in the RTCA which must appear on an imported food product label follows:

- Name of the product
- List of ingredients
- Net content
- Sanitary Registration Number (SRN)
- Name and address of the importer or distributor of the product
- Country of origin of the product
- Lot number
- Expiration date

The **RTCA 67.01.60: 10 – Nutritional Labeling below provides** nutrient content claims and descriptors. The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish, which is **currently being reviewed by the Central American countries.**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
<b>Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption of Population over Three Years Old</b>	<b>RTCA 67.01.60: 10</b>	<a href="https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/COMIECO%202011%20Etiquetado%20Nutricional%20de%20Productos%20Alimenticios%20Preenvasados%20para%20Consumo%20Humano.pdf">https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/COMIECO%202011%20Etiquetado%20Nutricional%20de%20Productos%20Alimenticios%20Preenvasados%20para%20Consumo%20Humano.pdf</a>

The **RTCA 67.01.32:06** below provides **special labeling requirements for sample-size products.** The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Requirements for Import of Processed Food for Exhibition and Tasting	<b>RTCA 67.01.32:06</b> can be found in Annex 3 of Resolution 176-2006	<a href="http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/176-2006ANEXO%203.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599625108&amp;Signature=yVKcHZ1nSrWjs3kujyE3aaDmQqQ%3D">http://web-sieca.s3.amazonaws.com/actos%20administrativos/resoluciones/comieco/176-2006ANEXO%203.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAQZBIU6IINLAVIAEJ&amp;Expires=1599625108&amp;Signature=yVKcHZ1nSrWjs3kujyE3aaDmQqQ%3D</a>

### Other Specific Labeling requirements:

All food products which have been treated with radiation (ionizing energy) must have specified on the label the nature of the treatment. Labels are not required for bioengineered products, health and functional food claims, or product tracing.

The RTCA's below provide alcoholic beverages labeling requirements. The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Alcoholic Beverages Labeling	<b>RTCA 67.01.05:11 and RTCA 67.01.06:11</b> can be found in Resolution 332-2013	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-332-2013-aprueba-rtca-67-01-0511-bebidas-alcoholicas-bebidas-alcoholicas-fermentadas-requisitos-de-etiquetado/?lang=en">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-332-2013-aprueba-rtca-67-01-0511-bebidas-alcoholicas-bebidas-alcoholicas-fermentadas-requisitos-de-etiquetado/?lang=en</a>

The following products are excluded from expiration date labeling requirements:

- Alcoholic beverages containing 10 percent or more of alcohol by volume
- Bakery products, which due to their nature, are generally consumed within 24 hours of the time they were produced (it is, however, common practice for bakeries to put an expiration date on products).
- Vinegar, chewing gum, and fresh fruits and vegetables

### Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

The GOH does not require any special packaging or limitations on container size. Shipments of food inputs waiting to be processed or repacked do not require labeling. If they are sold as individual units at the retail

level, a label is required. Containers can be of plastic, metal, glass, cardboard or any other materials which comply with requirements to maintain the quality and safety of the product.

The web link in the RTCA below indicates the amount of product in pre-packed foods in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Amount of product in pre-packed foods	<b>RTCA 01.01.11:06</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 168-2006 and 291-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-168-2006-aprueba-rtca-01-01-1106-cantidad-de-producto-en-preempacados/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-168-2006-aprueba-rtca-01-01-1106-cantidad-de-producto-en-preempacados/</a>

#### Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

The RTCA 67.04.54:18 Food Additives below has been updated. The web link provides the information in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food and Beverages: Food Additives	<b>RTCA 67.04.54:18</b> can be found (in Spanish) in the Annex of Resolution 419-2019	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-419-2019-sustituye-totalmente-rtca-alimentos-y-bebidas-procesadas-aditivos-alimentarios/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-419-2019-sustituye-totalmente-rtca-alimentos-y-bebidas-procesadas-aditivos-alimentarios/</a>

The updated RTCA 67.04.54:18 adapts the Codex Stan 192-1995. The additives accepted vary depending on the Codex 192-1995 food category, which can be found in the updated RTCA.

Honduras's regulatory authorities allow flavorings accepted by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), The Flavors and Extracts Manufacturing Association (FEMA) and the European Union based on Section 6.3 of RTCA 67.04.54:18 Processed Food and Beverages: Food Additives.

U.S. exporters can obtain further information (in Spanish) on permitted or prohibited food additives at the following ARSA e-mail: [alimentos@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:alimentos@arsa.gob.hn).

## Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

Pesticides and veterinary drugs are regulated by SENASA's Plant and Animal Health Sub-Directorates. Ministerial Decree No.642-98 establishes the requirements for registration, importation, manufacturing, formulation, re-packaging, re-bottling, transportation, storage, sale, use, and management.

SENASA uses a list of pesticides approved for use in Honduras and applies the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for imported food products set forth by CODEX. If the tolerance levels are not covered by CODEX, SENASA applies the MRLs from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The importer and the pesticide must be registered with SENASA's Plant Health Sub-Directorate. SENASA follows international regulations for its registration process. An application for pesticide registration must be submitted with documents such as: Certificate of a Registered Pesticide Product issued by EPA or USDA and Certificate of Qualitative and Quantitative Composition issued by the producer or manufacturing company of the product.

In addition, other documents required are toxicological and ecotoxicological studies. After the product and the importer are registered with SENASA, the importer requests a permit from SENASA to import the product. Among the data required for the import permit are: pro-form invoice, location and name of the manufacturer, lot number of the product, and amount to import.

U.S. exporters can obtain information on approved pesticides and allowed MRLs at SENASA's Plant Health Sub-Director's Office. Aflatoxin levels for corn in Honduras can be obtained at SENASA's Food Safety Sub-Directorate. Honduras defers to CODEX standards for aflatoxin levels on food products. Please contact SENASA, listed in Appendix I.

The **RTCAs** below provide pesticides regulations. The web link shows the RTCAs in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Botanical Pesticides for Agricultural Use. Requirements for Registration	<b>RTCA 65.05.62.11</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 346-2014	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-348-2014-aprueba-rtca-65-05-62-11-plaguicidas-botanicos-de-uso-agricola/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-348-2014-aprueba-rtca-65-05-62-11-plaguicidas-botanicos-de-uso-agricola/</a>
Microbiological Pesticides for Agricultural Use. Requirements for Registration	<b>RTCA 65.05.61:11</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 297-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-297-2012-aprueba-rtca-65-05-6111-plaguicidas-microbiologicos-de-uso-agricola-requisitos-para-el-registro/?lang=en">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-297-2012-aprueba-rtca-65-05-6111-plaguicidas-microbiologicos-de-uso-agricola-requisitos-para-el-registro/?lang=en</a>

**Veterinary drugs:**

**Veterinary drugs** are controlled by SENASA's Animal Health Sub-Directorate. The RTCA below provides the regulation. The web link of the RTCA is in Spanish.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Veterinary Medicines and Related Products. Requirements for Sanitary Registration and Control	RTCA 65.05.51:08 can be found in Annexes of Resolutions 257-2010, 326-2013 and 362-2015	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-257-2010-aprueba-rtca-65-05-5108-medicamentos-veterinarios-y-productos-afines/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-257-2010-aprueba-rtca-65-05-5108-medicamentos-veterinarios-y-productos-afines/</a>  <a href="https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-326-2013-adicionar-al-anexo-c-del-reglamento-tecnico-centroamericano-rtca-65-05-51-08-medicamentos-veterinarios-y-productos-afines-requisitos-de-registro-sanitario-y-control-el-art/">https://www.sieca.int/index.php/download/resolucion-no-326-2013-adicionar-al-anexo-c-del-reglamento-tecnico-centroamericano-rtca-65-05-51-08-medicamentos-veterinarios-y-productos-afines-requisitos-de-registro-sanitario-y-control-el-art/</a>

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

The official certificates and documents that must accompany shipments can be found in the GAIN Reports for Honduras: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Export Certificate Report and Exporter Guide. The regulations do not request a Certificate of Free Sale. Honduras does not require any inspection or testing procedures prior to shipment. Products are monitored at the retail level.

**Facility Registration:**

U.S. facilities do not need to be registered with a Honduran regulatory authority prior to export. Under the United States-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

**Product Registration:**

**In order to register their products for import, companies must follow a general procedure, which consists of obtaining a Sanitary Registration Number (SRN) with ARSA.** The SRN is required for imported and domestic processed foods to be sold at the retail and wholesale level.

**The requirements, documents and application for a SRN are published in ARSA's website at:**  
<https://www.arsa.gob.hn/index.php?page=pruebapaginas&pagina=RSAYB>

On April 2020, ARSA implemented the online submission for SRN. The authorization is sent with a CQR code to ARSA's customs representative and the importer.

The product should be registered by the legal representative of the company who imports or distributes the product. It is not necessary to have a Lawyer. Domestic or international industries that manufacture the product are also able to register the product.

The specific documentation that must be submitted with the request of SRN is the following:

- Copy of Sanitary License
- Free Sale Certificate
- Product label
- Affidavit signed by the legal representative

For further information, companies can visit ARSA's website in reference to the above-mentioned requirements and documents at:

- <https://www.arsa.gob.hn/index.php?page=pruebapaginas&pagina=RSAYB>

The SRN process takes about 60 days. The importer's representative should regularly check ARSA's website to review if their sanitary registration number has already been processed.

The importer will need to pay about US\$10.00 per product for the SRN. If an applicant has an emergency and must obtain the SRN in a short period, ARSA has a price schedule system to expedite the process. The SRN is valid for five years.

ARSA has the following contact information to assist companies in the product registration process:

- Product registration: [consultas@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:consultas@arsa.gob.hn).
- Food and beverage product registration: [alimentos@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:alimentos@arsa.gob.hn)
- Complaints: [denuncias@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:denuncias@arsa.gob.hn)

The **RTCA 67.01.31.07 – Procedure to Grant Sanitary Registration and Sanitary Inscription** (see **below**) **indicates the process to obtain a product registration.** The web link shows the current RTCA in Spanish. However, the RTCA is **presently being reviewed by the Central American countries, and it is undergoing a public feedback period. A new version is forthcoming.**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food. Procedure to Grant Sanitary Registration and Sanitary Inscription	RTCA 67.01.31.07 can be found in Annex of Resolution 325-2013	<a href="https://arsa.gob.hn/descargas/Anexo_325-2013_Procedimiento_para_Otorgar_el_Registro_Sanitario.pdf">https://arsa.gob.hn/descargas/Anexo_325-2013_Procedimiento_para_Otorgar_el_Registro_Sanitario.pdf</a>

ARSA also issues a Sanitary Inscription, which is the authorization granted to an importer or distributor of a previously registered product. The sanitary registration number assigned will be the same registration number of the distributor who initially registered it. The sanitary inscription is also processed online and is valid for five years. The Sanitary Inscription process is also being reviewed.

#### Central America Mutual Recognition

Central America Customs Union (CACU) members agreed that for the products produced or processed in a CACU country, when a product obtains a SRN, it does not need to be registered in another. Products produced in the United States are not eligible for the registration exemption. It is important to note that the origin of the product is considered to be a CACU country if the product is processed in a CACU country, even if the raw material is not from a CACU member country.

In order to receive this CACU benefit, the only procedure that a CACU country has to carry out is to request a "Registration Acknowledgment" which is the same throughout Central America. The acknowledgment lasts the length of time that the product is registered, which is five years.

#### Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

**Vitamin Enrichment:** The requirements are regulated by the **RTCA 67.01.60: 10 - Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption, (see below)**. The RTCA is presently being reviewed by the Central American countries, and is undergoing a public review period. There will be a new version in the near future.

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption of Population over Three Years Old	RTCA 67.01.60: 10	<a href="https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/site/default/files/COMIECO%202011%20Etiquetado%20Nutricional%20de%20Productos%20Alimenticios%20Preenvasados%20para%20Consumo%20Humano.pdf">https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/site/default/files/COMIECO%202011%20Etiquetado%20Nutricional%20de%20Productos%20Alimenticios%20Preenvasados%20para%20Consumo%20Humano.pdf</a>

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**Special Use Foods:** The General Law of Food Fortification provides the framework for products that are widely used by the population. These products require added ingredients to provide an increase in their nutritional value and be properly labeled as fortified, such as:

- Sugar for human consumption must be fortified with vitamin A.
- Salt must be fortified with iodine.
- Wheat flour must be fortified with iron, folic acid, vitamins B1 and B2, and niacin.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no further data is available for other regulations or ordinances impacting imported foods.

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

The GOH has taken actions to improve Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). In 1993, Honduras passed a comprehensive IPR law. The GOH has since complied with the requirements of this legislation by creating an IPR Office within the Economic Development Secretariat.

As a signatory to the Uruguay Round agreements and member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Honduras has accepted the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) standard. In addition, Honduras has signed CAFTA-DR, which contains a chapter on IPR. To be protected under Honduran Law, trademarks must be registered with the Economic Development Secretariat. Trademark registrations are valid for 10 years from the registration date. “Notorious marks” are protected under the Pan-American Convention (1917) of which Honduras is a member. Illegal registration of a notorious mark, however, must be contested in court by the original holder

#### **SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES**

**The GOH’s institutions involved in the customs clearance process for imported food and agricultural goods are the National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA) and the Honduran Customs Administration (ADUANAS).**

SENASA delegated the responsibility of all quarantine inspections and treatments of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). OIRSA’s Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) inspectors are located at the borders, ports, and airports. SEPA follows SENASA’s instructions to enforce the import requirements of raw animal and plant products, processed and consumer-ready foods, as well as inputs used in food processing at the time of entry. ADUANAS officials review that the invoice complies with the GOH’s revenue tariff.

SEPA and ADUANAS inspectors are involved in conducting the customs clearance of imports of food and agricultural products at the port of entry by reviewing:

- Compliance of requirements indicated on the import permit approved by SENASA.
- Consistency of information across all original documents submitted in the Import Permit, Phyto or Zoosanitary Export Certificate, Certificate of Origin, Commercial Invoice, Bill of Lading and Packing List such as: names of importer, exporter, shipment's content, amounts, product description, and country of origin and point of shipping. Import documents do not need to be translated into Spanish.
- The SEPA inspector conducts an inspection of the product. **SENASA requests and enforces that the products of animal origin display the production and expiration date on the shipping carton(s) and are stamped on the primary package upon arrival at the port. The dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format (DD/MM/YYYY). These requirements are closely inspected at the ports of entry.**
- The entry of animal products and by-products depends on the food safety conditions of the product itself. It also depends on the exporting country's current animal health and pest's status. In cases that a quarantine pest is found, a treatment will be applied prior to allowing the product to enter the country. When a non-quarantine pest is found alive or dead, the quarantine treatment will not be applied.
- Product samples and mail orders are subject to the same import regulations as all other products.
- The entire customs clearance procedure depends of various factors such as: the time of submission of all the documents to Customs, that the documents comply with all the requirements, or if a pest is found, among others. In cases where the documents show discrepancy, or a pest is found, SENASA issues a notification for detained/or rejected product.
- Product sampling is done randomly. It is taken from animal products origin, seeds that the import permit requires it, and when bacteria or fungi are found. Samples are submitted to laboratory analysis to check the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the product.
- The specialized container and cargo terminals in Puerto Cortes, took over the operations of loading and unloading cargo. The "Operadora Portuaria Centroamerica" (OPC) loads and unloads containers. The "Terminal Especializada de Honduras" (TEH) manages the bulk cargo.
- Post notes that any products shipped on wooden packing material must show the ISPM-15 stamp on all pallets, or the product will require additional fumigation upon entry. Some exporters take photos of the ISPM stamps before the shipment is sent, due to doubts about the veracity of local inspector findings, although this is of course not a requirement.

Further information can be found in the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Export Certificate.

## Section X. Trade Facilitation

SENASA has an “Imports Requirements System” platform with the requirements for imports of plants and animal products into Honduras. The exporter/importer should search the product by country of origin, common or scientific name and the import requirements are displayed. The system can be accessed at:

<http://plataforma.senasa.gob.hn:8080/requisitos/consulta.php>

In May 2020, SENASA started the process for importers to submit the import permit request electronically for products of animal origin and live animals. In July 1, 2020 SENASA launched an on-line import permit system for plant products and seeds.

The system allows the importer to register with SENASA, enter all the data and required documents of the product to be imported, and have the import permit in a few hours.

Importers of plant products and seeds are able to access SENASA’s on-line system at:

<http://importaciones.senasa.gob.hn/#/login>

SENASA transfers the import permit immediately to the port of entry and the importer. SENASA is expecting to have the online import permits for animal products and live animals by the end of 2020.

The customs clearance is usually granted within a short period of time; however, depending on the work load at the port and whether or not all of SENASA’s and ADUANAS’ requirements are complete, the average release times can range from a few hours to a week.

U.S. facilities do not need to be registered with a Honduran regulatory authority prior to export. Under the United States-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

Common delays for plant and animal products are caused by data in the import permit request and documents required by SENASA not being consistent with the information provided about exporter, amounts, product description, origin, and point of shipping.

## Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts:

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Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Embassy

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E-mail: [AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov)

For further information on exporting U.S. agricultural products to other countries, please visit the Foreign Agricultural Service's home page: [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov).

**Attachments:**

No Attachments