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Jordan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report covers updates to Jordan's food and agricultural import regulations and standards.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix) :

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology (JISM), Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), Customs Authority (CA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation	Purpose	Requesting
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		Required on Certificate		Ministry
Powder Milk	Country of origin certificate (COOC).	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	CA
	Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) Veterinary Animal Health Certificate (VAHC).	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Human Health	JFDA
	Fitness for Human Consumption Certificate.(FHCC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA
	Product Validity for Consumption in the Country of Origin.(PVCCOOC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA
Flavored Milk	COOC, VAHC, FHCC, PVCCOOC, Approved flavor and/or coloring material.	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JFDA, CA
Bovine Meat	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases- food safety	MOA
	<i>Halal</i> certificate (HC)	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA
Processed meat	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	MOA, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases. Food safety.	MOA
	HC	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA

Poultry meat	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	CA
	HC	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA
	VAHC	FSIS		MOA
Pisces (Fish and sea fruits) Frozen and or Processed	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	CA
	VAHC	Department of Commerce	Health, Risk control.	MoA
Cheese	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA- APHIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases. Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-only first time	Accredited by FDA, USDA- APHIS	Food quality.	JFDA
Honey	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	CA
	Residues free certificate	FDA, USDA APHIS	Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
Fresh fruits and Vegetables	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	CA
	Quarantine pests free Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary certificate SPS	USDA-APHIS	Plant health.	MOA

These requirements are for any consignment coming directly from the U.S. to Jordan, or transshipped in a sealed container with invoices state clearly the final destination is Jordan. If the consignment is destined to a third country and/or the container has been unsealed on a third country then more requirements are needed that might include but not limited to the requirements for that third country.

Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology Organization(JISMO)has limited its mandate to issue the regulation and forward the rest to JFDA .

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

According to Article 31 of the Customs Law of 1998 and its amendments, every customs declaration must include the following:

- Maritime or air bill of lading.
- Commercial invoice indicating value, weight, freight and insurance charges etc. All invoices should be notarized by the Jordanian diplomatic mission in the country of origin. Certification by the local chamber of commerce is sufficient, subject to the approval of the customs department director, in cases where a Jordanian consulate is not available.
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority in the exporter's local area.
- Value declaration form for shipments exceeding JD 2,000 (USD 2,820).

The customs department may request other documents related to the shipment as needed. All unprocessed agricultural products are by law under the mandate of Ministry of Agriculture while processed food is under the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA).

A USDA FSIS certificate is necessary for meat products including poultry products to cover the requirement (veterinary and sanitary certificate).

All animal origin meat shall be accompanied with a *Halal* certificate to indicate the slaughter process has observed Islamic traditions. This general requirement is to satisfy religious requirements of the consumers' beliefs.

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

All food consignments received at Jordan's border points for clearance shall be accompanied with relevant documents as follows:

Raw plant material food shall be accompanied with:

- A USDA APHIS Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary certificate.
- A vessel inspection certificate for the preparedness and ability to transport cereals.

Vegetable oils shall be accompanied with:

- A certificate of preparedness to haul edible oils;
- A certificate declaring the type of metal used in the tank's lining;
- A certificate declaring the type of paint used for lining; and,
- A certificate with a list of materials carried by the vessel for the last three trips prior to current one.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

The Ministry of Agriculture requires a prior approval as a condition to ensure that the animals and animal products meet local health standards issued by JISMO. Importation of rice, sugar, and wheat derivatives has been liberalized. The private sector may import these items into Jordan, if the product meets local quality standards. Alcoholic beverages may be imported into Jordan, but high tariffs are applied as a revenue source for the government.

Usually when importing meats, fruits, fish and vegetables, a prior license of import should have been issued by the relevant authority. In this case Ministry of Agriculture issues an import license to the trader upon request and indicates the time validity of the license, which is usually three months unless otherwise mentioned.

For transit shipment to a third country the license validity is usually two months except for chilled meat it is valid for one month.

The original certificate does not need to accompany the product at the time of entry, instead a photocopy or fax copy would be considered temporarily enough, especially with perishables like meat and fruits consignments. The customs authority releases the consignment under bail, or any acceptable form of securities until the original certificate has been submitted, The importer can import his shipment to Jordan on a multiple bases using the same import license either until the license expiration date or the quantity is fulfilled.

Jordan customs authority accepts U.S. state-issued export certificates, it also accepts suppliers' or manufacturers' export declarations as proof of compliance but retain the right to investigate it at any moment without the need to justify. Whenever there is a suspicion in any U.S. issued certificate, GOJ authorities pass it to the U.S. embassy in Amman to consult USG

about the authenticity of such certificate. In the case there is a fraudulent certificate, the whole shipment will be rejected.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Jordan Customs developed and launched the Customs Integrated Tariff System (CITS) in Aug/2005 to assist importers. Web site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Importers can use this system to monitor commodity tariffs, import conditions and commodity trade agreements. The CITS system allows an importer to review all regulations and requirements of the commodity trade; all CITS system information is in Arabic and English.

All imported foods should conform to the Jordanian standards issued by JISMO. All agricultural products may be imported by the private sector, if the products meet local quality standards, which are set by JISM on the basis of the *Codex Alimentarius* (<http://www.codexalimentarius.net>, www.jism.gov.jo). In 2003, JISM instituted a pre-shipment inspection program, which is entirely voluntary for food importers. Import licenses are not required for most imported goods. Some products require prior approval from either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Agricultural products for which prior approval is required from the Ministry of Agriculture are live animals, fresh, chilled and frozen meat and frozen animal semen.

Any imported agricultural or food product may be inspected and tested to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. Virtually all prepared and mixed foods are tested at the border.

The JFDA has the authority to inspect food products at the retail and wholesale distribution levels. A representative may enter any place and collect samples for testing. If a product fails to meet technical requirements or is found unfit for human consumption, it is removed from distribution channels and destroyed.

Food additives are regulated by JISM and JFDA. In general, permissible additives and their concentrations are those approved by the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission. However, the technical standards for foods contain specific lists for food additive and their permissible levels of use. These standards should be consulted to make sure that additives are permitted. Labeling requirements are set by JISMO. Legal requirements for labeling are fairly standard although a statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required. All labels must either be in Arabic or have a stick-on label in Arabic. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer's name and address, net weight, fortifying matter (like added vitamins and minerals to powder milk), lot number and "use before" or "best before" date. Local labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs). Nutritional labeling is mandatory in certain categories of food including infant formula, food for dietary use, etc. Web-site: www.jism.gov.jo

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Author Defined:

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Jordan Food & Drug Directorate
Tel: (962-6) 4612663
Fax: (962-6) 4612663
Web-site: www.jfda.jo

Ministry of Industry and Trade
Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/5663774
Fax: (962-6) 560-4691
Web-site: www.mit.gov.jo

Ministry of Agriculture
Veterinary Services Directorate
OR
Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 5686151
Fax: (962-6) 5686310
Web-site: www.moa.gov.jo

Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology
Tel: (962-6) 5680139
Fax: (962-6) 5681099
Web-site: www.jism.gov.jo

Jordan Customs Department
P.O.Box 90, Amman, Jordan
Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6
Fax: (962-6) 464-7791
E-mail: Customs@Customs.gov.jo
Web-site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Ministry of Environment
Tel: + (962-6) 5560113
Fax: + (962-6) 5560288
Web-site: <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/>

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
P.O.Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan
Tel: + (962-6) 3 203 5757/8
Fax: + (962-6) 3 203 0912
Web-site: <http://www.aqabazone.com/>

For further help, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, POBox 354, Amman, Jordan, Phone: (962-6) 5906056, Fax: (962-6) 5920146, E-Mail: Mohamed.khraishy@usda.gov, and/or AgAmman@usda.gov