

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

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## **Saudi Arabia**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**

### **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

The Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia prepared this report for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## Executive Summary

The export certificate table in this report deals mainly with official documents issued for food safety and animal health concerns. Regardless of the kind of agricultural products imported, a commercial invoice, a bill of lading, a country of origin declaration, a certificate of weight and a packing list must accompany official certificates. These four documents are defined below for information purpose.

## Commercial Invoice

A commercial invoice is a document a seller issues on company letterhead that details the business deal between the seller and a buyer. The invoice should include the name and address of both the seller and buyer, the date of the sale, a description of the goods sold, the quantity, the unit price, the terms of sale, and the total money amount due. The Saudi Customs Authority requires the commercial invoice to determine the true value of the shipment for the assessment of custom duties.

## Bill of lading

A document issued on behalf of the carrier describing the kind and quantity of goods being shipped, the shipper, the consignee, the port of loading and discharge and the carrying vessel. It serves as a document of title, a contract of carriage, and a receipt for goods.

## Country of Origin Certificate

This certificate is issued by an exporting company and should provide among other things information such as name and address of both exporting and importing companies, country of destination, name, and quantity of product(s) exported. The country of origin certificate is required by the Saudi Customs Authority to determine whether or not customs charges, waivers, or other preferential treatment applies to the imported product and to make sure products from countries banned from exporting to the Kingdom are prevented entry into the Saudi market. Saudi Arabia imposes import bans mostly for human health and phytosanitary concerns.

## Packing List or Certificate of Weight

Seed and grain importers request either a packing list or certificate of weight as one of the required import documents. A packing list is not required for processed foodstuffs, but is highly recommended for expediting customs clearance. Both the packing list and the certificate of weight provide information related to marks and numbers and other important information about the shipment.

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

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Dairy Products	1. Health Certificate	Products contain no harmful level of contaminants and fit for human consumption	Food safety	SFDA
	2. Veterinary Certificate	Among other things, it attests Milk is derived from cows in which BSE has not been officially identified and	Food safety	SFDA

	3. Certificate of Radioactivity Measurement (for imports from Europe and the former USSR countries)	bovine herds were not fed with protein derived from animal ruminant  Products detailed on the certificate contain total radiocaesium concentrations within officially established level and are fit for human consumption	Food safety	SFDA
Egg and Egg Products	1. Health Certificate	Egg products have been processed to ensure the destruction of all pathogen agents, especially Salmonella  Products have been processed against any contamination before and after processing  Egg products have been processed in an approved establishment under official health supervision  Based on of a national control scheme, egg products comply with the importing country of origin or international standards regarding residue of chemical contaminants, such as dioxins, pesticides, veterinary drugs etc... or any other contaminations	Food safety	SFDA

<b>Product</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
Fruits and Vegetables	Phytosanitary Certificate	Products are inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by importing country	Food safety	MOA
Processed Foodstuffs	Health Certificate	Exported products were processed or manufactured under conditions that	Food safety	SFDA

		comply with sanitary and health laws of the exporting country and are fit for human consumption		
Planting Seed	Phytosanitary Certificate	Products were inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by importing country	Phytosanitary concern	MOA
	Seed Analysis Certificate	Seeds were tested in accordance with ISTA rules and are free from insects, epidemic, diseases and weed seeds Imported seed is free from biotech contamination	Seed quality	MOA and importing company
	Official Biotech Free Certificate		Concern for biodiversity and food safety	MOA

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Grain	Phytosanitary Certificate	Certify that the plants, part of plants or products or other regulated articles described have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and conform to current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country including those for regulated non-quarantine pests  Imported grain meets the importers quality specifications	Phytosanitary concern	MOA
	Grain Analysis Certificate	Provides marks and numbers and other important information about the shipment	Grain quality	
	Certificate of Weight or Packing list	Attests that the stated quantity and type of exported grain was fumigated on the indicated date	To expedite customs clearance	MOA and importing company
	Fumigation Certificate		Grain quality	Importing company

Forest Products	International Conformity Certification Program	The goods stated below according to the attached invoice and exported from (name of the country) have been subjected to laboratory tests and proven to be in compliance with the approved standards in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Product quality	SFDA

## Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

See “purpose” column above.

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

### Live Horses

#### Health Certificate

An official health certificate issued by a USDA-approved competent veterinarian who is certified to carry out export certification must accompany horses exported from the United States to Saudi Arabia. A USDA veterinarian must endorse the health certificate issued. The health certificate, among other things, must confirm that the horses are free from diseases, were quarantined for 30 days prior to export, were given all required vaccinations and were pre-export tested. Detailed requirements for permanent importation of horses from the United States into Saudi Arabia are found in Appendix I.

#### Live bovine animals, camels, sheep and goats

Livestock importers (live bovine animals, camels, sheep and goats) must obtain an import permit from the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Quarantine Department before shipments leave the exporting country. Livestock shipments must be accompanied by country of origin and health certificates from a recognized authority in the country of origin duly authenticated by the Saudi embassy in that country.

#### Health Certificate

In the United States, a USDA authorized veterinarian issues official health certificates declaring that the exported livestock is free from diseases. This certificate shall contain among other things names and addresses of both exporting and importing companies and complete identification of the livestock to be exported. The health certificate should provide the following detailed information:

#### 1. Confirm the following:

- All imported animals are epidemic free and infectious disease free
- General health status of the imported animal
- Date of the vaccinations specified by the Ministry upon application for the import license
- Veterinary inspection for all imported animals within 24 hours prior to shipping
- All other prerequisites necessary for import license applicants

2. Port of departure of shipped animals must be one of the ports inside the country of origin, directly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with no anchorage or call to any other port, place or country which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared infected by epidemic diseases and therefore banned from animal imports to the kingdom.

3. A report, which content must be known to the shipper, must be submitted to indicate the following:

- Status of animal health throughout the journey, showing deaths and any occurrences of disease
- The shipped animals have not come through places or countries banned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- The shipped animals have not mixed with other infected animals

4. Veterinary inspection shall be conducted upon arrival at any Saudi port. The whole shipment shall be rejected if it is infected with any of the diseases listed in table 1. Refer to Appendix II.

5. Shipment may be quarantined upon detection of any disease mentioned in table No. 2 if the percentage of infection does not exceed 10 percent of the random sample inspected. If, however, the percentage exceeds 10 percent, the shipment will be refused entry. Refer to Appendix II.

6. The ministry may ban importation from any country or area as per the health status of that country or area according to decisions taken by the competent international organizations.

## **Poultry and Livestock Meat**

### **Official health certificate**

An official agency responsible for issuing health certificates should declare that 1) the meat is derived from healthy animals slaughtered at an officially approved slaughterhouse and under the direct supervision of the responsible official government agency, 2) the animals have not been fed with feed manufactured with animal protein or fat or animal remains, 3) the feed used comply with the approved standards, and 4) the animals were not subjected to growth hormones that do not comply with the levels mentioned in the approved standards. For beef and poultry meat imported from the United States, Saudi Arabia has agreed to recognize a two-certificate approach: (1) an official FSIS export certificate issued for beef and poultry meat and (2) a producer or manufacturer self-certification to cover any additional requirements not related to food safety or animal health issues such as animal protein free feed declaration. Appendix III shows the SFDA complete meat import requirements and sample producer/manufacturer self-certification for poultry and meat exports to Saudi Arabia.

### **Halal Slaughter Certificate**

This certificate indicates that slaughter has taken place in an officially licensed slaughterhouse and in accordance with Islamic Law (Shari'ah) procedures. Islamic institutions recognized by the Saudi Embassy or Consulates in the United States issue the halal slaughtering certificate. Information related to the approved Islamic institutions may be obtained from the Saudi Embassy in Washington or the nearest Saudi Consulate (New York, Houston, or Los Angeles). The concerned health authority must stamp several parts of slaughtered animals. Age of the slaughtered livestock should not exceed three years for lamb and five years for beef and only meat of male livestock is imported. Exporters should comply with prevailing Saudi rules and regulations regarding the procedure for cutting, shipping, and storing meat shipped to the Kingdom. A sample Halal certificate is shown Appendix III.

## **Fish and Seafood**

### **Health Certificate**

A health certificate for fish and seafood must attest that the imported product meets the following sanitary requirements:

Sea food products are for human consumption and derived from a zone/establishment free from fish contagious diseases

Sea products have normal organoleptic characteristics, comply with all Saudi and/or international standards and is fit for human consumption

Sea products have been processed in an approved establishment under official health supervision

On basis of a national follow-up control scheme, sea products comply with importing country- of-origin or international standards regarding residues of chemical contaminants

The certificate must be stamped and signed by an official inspector. Please refer to Appendix IV for a sample official health certificate

## **Dairy Products**

### **Health Certificate**

Any government official responsible for dairy inspection must state that the dairy product was manufactured on government approved and registered premises and is subject to regular audits or inspections. It certifies that the product at the time of shipment contains no harmful level of contaminants including dioxins and is fit for human consumption. It also certifies that the milk and milk based product(s) have undergone a recognized pasteurization process with the aim of avoiding public health hazards arising from pathogenic organisms associated with milk and the product can be freely sold for human consumption in the exporting country. Other information included on the health certificate includes a trader reference number, generic product name, product description, approval of manufacturer/packer, manufacturer's address, packer's address, consignor, consignee, country of manufacture, type of packing, net weight, quantity, production codes, place of dispatch, date of dispatch, destination, and expiry date.

Health certificates for dairy products must contain the following declarations:

The milk/dairy products described above have been processed from raw milk/powdered milk obtained from animals free from contagious diseases and fit for human consumption.

All dairy products have been processed and packaged in an approved establishment under official health control.

On basis of a national follow-up control scheme, the dairy product complies with the importing country of origin or international standards regarding residues of chemical contaminants, such as dioxin, pesticides, veterinary drugs etc., and no harmful colorants or preservative agents (according to codex alimentarius) were added to these products.

4. Complies with the importing country or international standards for bacteria count.

5. In case of heat treatment: done in a way to obtain the destruction of pathogens.

With regard to radioactivity: contains no harmful radioactivity, or not more than the accepted level, for the milk and milk products.

7. The declaration must be signed and stamped by an official inspector.  
Please refer to Appendix V for a copy of an official health certificate.

Saudi Arabia accepts the AMS and APHIS Certificates for U.S. dairy product exports.

### **Veterinary Certificate**

An exporting country government veterinary inspector's declaration that the exporting country is free of foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax, rinderpest and all the other diseases on the "Office International des Epizooties" (OIE.) list A to which the bovine species is susceptible. It addition, it must state that milk is derived from cows in which BSE has not been officially identified at the time of collection and that bovine herds are subject to official control and official brucellosis

and tuberculin testing. It further states that bovine herds were not fed with protein derived from animal ruminant and the exporting country is free of zoonotic bovine leucosis.

### **Certificate of Radioactivity Measurement**

A competent exporting country radiation protection institute certifies that the products detailed on the certificate contain total radiocaesium concentrations within officially established levels and are fit for human consumption. Other information provided on the certificate includes product description, quantity, manufacturer, consignor, order number, destination, official stamp and the signature of a competent official. Radiation and dioxin free requirements mostly apply to European imports. Shipments from the United States are exempt from this requirement.

### **Table Eggs and Egg Products**

The Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry requires that imported table eggs and egg products are accompanied by health and country-of-origin certificates. The official health certificate should provide the following information:

The egg products have been processed to ensure the destruction of all pathogen agents, especially salmonella.

The egg products have been processed against any recontamination before and after processing.

The egg products have been processed in an approved establishment under official health supervision.

On basis of a national follow-up control scheme, the egg products comply with the importing country-of-origin or international standards regarding residue of chemical contaminants, such as dioxins, pesticides, veterinary drugs etc., or any other contaminations.

No harmful colorants or preservative agents (according to Codex Alimentarius) have been added to the egg products.

6. The health certificate must be signed and stamped by a local official inspector. Please refer to Appendix VI for a copy of an official egg product health certificate.

### **Fruits and Vegetables**

#### **Phytosanitary Certificate**

This certificate must accompany all shipments of fresh fruit and vegetables to the Kingdom certifying that the products are inspected and/or tested according appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issue this certificate.

#### **Processed Foods**

#### **Health Certificate**

The exporting company certifies on its letterhead that the products have been grown, processed, or manufactured under conditions that comply with the sanitary and health laws of the United States of America. It further declares that the goods are radiation free, and that their sale for human consumption in the supplier's country has been authorized. The firm verifies that the merchandise is fit for human consumption. It is important to note that the exporting company on its letterhead issues health certificates for high value products, with the exception of dairy and meat products. Since dairy and meat products can be easily contaminated, they are tested for bacterial and other contaminants by official exporting country government inspectors. Processed foods that are not covered by SASO standards must meet Codex or country of origin standards.

The certificate also contains marks and numbers (shipment booking number, container size, container number, seal number, and quantities and list of exported products, production and expiration dates, destination, country of origin,



names and addresses of the shipper and receiver, mode of shipment, signature of the exporter and seal of chamber of commerce or notary public). Refer to appendix VII for processed foodstuff labeling and packaging requirements.

### **Planting Seed**

#### **Phytosanitary Certificate**

The purpose of this certificate is to verify that the seeds exported to Saudi Arabia are free from agricultural diseases. The certificate is obtained from the USDA. The certificate certifies that the plants, part of plants or products or other regulated articles described on the certificate have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by Saudi Arabia. Other information on the certificate includes treatment data, names and addresses of the exporter and importer, name of the seed and quantity declared, botanical name of the seed, number and description of package, distinguishing marks, place of origin, means of shipment, declared port of entry and name, signature and seal of authorized officer.

#### **Seed Analysis Certificate**

This certificate is to prove the degree of purity of the seeds shipped to Saudi Arabia. It is issued by USDA's and conforms with ISTA rules. The most important information the certificate must include is name and address of seller, kind of seed, seed class, quantity of sampled seed, importing country, results of inspection and percentage of germination, purity, impurity, moisture, etc. and confirmation that the seeds are free from insects, epidemic, diseases and weed seeds. Please refer to Appendix VIII for detailed official seeds import requirements.

#### **Certificate of Weight or Packing List**

This certificate should be issued by the exporting company indicating the name and address of the Saudi importer, invoice number, the name of the shipping vessel, port of loading, port of discharge, number/unit of bags, name of commodity, lot number, and weight of shipment.

#### **Official Biotech Free Certificate**

The Saudi Ministry of Agriculture banned biotech seed imports in 2003 and requires that an official certificate accompany each planting seed shipment to declare the imported seed is free from "biotech contamination." For imports of planting seeds from the United States, Saudi Arabia allows exporters to self-certify the status of the seed, i.e., conventional or non-biotech, and grant import licenses for conventional planting seeds.

### **Grain and Feed**

#### **Phytosanitary Certificate**

The purpose of this certificate is to verify that the grains exported are free from quarantine pests. This certificate is required to accompany all shipments of grain, grain flour and animal feed. The Kingdom requires that the certificate be issued by a responsible government agency such as USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA). The certificate is issued on the letterhead of an official government agency responsible for inspecting exported grains. The certificate contains at least a description of consignment, names and addresses of exporter and importer, declared means of transport, place of origin, place of entry, name of product, number and description of packages and distinguishing marks, botanical name, declared quantity, and the following declaration:

This is to certify that the plants, part of plants or products or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

Other information provided on the certificate includes additional declaration if any, disinfestations or disinfections treatment, chemical active ingredient, concentration, duration and temperature, date, seal and signature of issuing official.

### **Analysis or Quality Certificate**

This certificate is to verify that the imported grain meets the importers' quality specifications. An importing company hires a grain inspector in the country of origin to carry out loading supervision and sampling submission to laboratory for quality ascertainment. The certificate shows type and quantity of exported grain, name of vessel, shipper, port of loading, port of discharge, consignee, notification address, documentary credit number, sampling method, analysis result. The results show contents of moisture, foreign matters, damaged kernels, broken kernels, weevils kernels, grade of the grain, and aflatoxin level. Other information included on the certificate is stowage and the date loading is completed. A quality certificate is issued on the grain inspector's letterhead.

### **Certificate of Weight**

This certificate is issued by a grain inspector hired by the Saudi company or grain supplier indicating the grain type and quantity, name of shipping vessel, port of loading, port of discharge, name and address of the Saudi importer, weight ascertainment method, total ascertained weight, stowage information and the date loading was completed.

### **Fumigation Certificate**

A hired grain fumigation company issues this certificate. The certificate attests that the mentioned quantity and type of exported grain were fumigated on the indicated date. It also provides other pertinent information such as loading port, port of discharge, bill of lading date, documentary credit number, vessel name, holds fumigated, fumigant used, dosage, exposition time, shipper name, consignee name, notify address, date the certificate of issued, signature and seal of the issuing company.

### **Forest Products**

#### **International Conformity Certification Program**

In 1995, the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry established a program to regulate and monitor selected categories of products such as forest products exported to Saudi Arabia. The program is known as the International Conformity Certification Program (ICCP) and requires imported product to be in compliance with established SASO or internationally approved equivalents. Below is a guideline for the ICCP.

Special laboratories will be used as an alternative mechanism for certifying the conformity of imported goods to established standards, after the special laboratories have been approved for examination purposes.

The conformity certificate should be issued by authorized special laboratories at the country of origin. Such conformity certificates should accompany all the consignments of imported goods (forest products) certifying their conformity to the established standard (technical regulations). The certificate should confirm that these goods were subjected to a regular laboratory examination under supervision of the competent control agency in the country of origin. The entity should be fully responsible for the contents of this certificate. The producing company should assume full responsibility for all damages happening as a result of using such goods. Random samples may be taken from the imported consignments on their arrival to the Kingdom's ports in order to ascertain the veracity of the certificate. Please refer to Appendix IX for ICCP standard form.

## **Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements**

The required certificates must accompany all imported agricultural products at the time of entry, and the certificates are valid until the products are cleared through Saudi Customs. One export document is valid only for one shipment and cannot be used for clearing multiple shipments. The Saudi government accepts only manufacturers or exporters export declaration as certifications for country of origin, health certificate (for most processed foodstuffs) and commercial

invoice declarations. On the other hand, official certificates issued by U.S. states are accepted as long as the certifying departments are competent and authorized by federal counterparts to issue export certificates. The Saudi government has no intention, at least at this time, to derogate export certificates. As such, Saudi Customs does not allow clearances of agricultural products if all required certificates do not accompany them.

## **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

Depending on the nature of exported goods to Saudi Arabia, or according to a request from the Saudi importer, some additional certifications may be required. Some of the additional documentations that may be required are discussed below:

### **Food Manufacturer's Ingredients Certificate**

The food manufacturer's ingredients certificate is usually required when the labeling information on the packaged product is incomplete or does not provide adequate information about the imported product. The certificate, if requested, should include description of exported food products (contents and percentage of each ingredient), chemical data, microbiological standards, storage, and life of product (date of manufacturing and date of expiration). When products contain any animal fats, the certificate must confirm the kind of animal from which it is taken or state that no pork meat or its artificial flavor nor its animal fat is being used.

### **Certificate of Free Sale**

Saudi importers may sometime request a certificate of free sale for certain agricultural products. The certificate mainly states that a product is known to be sold freely in the supplying country and regulated by a governing body responsible for that particular product.

### **Consumer Protection Certificate**

This certificate must confirm the healthiness of the various ingredients used in the exported food products as well as declare their safety and fitness for human consumption. This certificate must be obtained from a responsible government agency such as USDA or one of its local offices, and it must be signed.

### **Certification Required for Products not listed on the Export Certificate Table**

For agricultural products not listed in the above table, the Kingdom has not yet issued import requirements or the requirements are not available for distribution by the concerned Saudi government agency when this report was written. For products where national standards are not established, the Kingdom accepts country of origin or international requirements. U.S. exporters wishing to export agricultural products for which the Kingdom has not yet issued import standards, should request the potential Saudi importer to approach the concerned ministry and obtain specific import requirements.

### **Quality and Labeling Regulations**

All food products, whether imported for commercial purposes, display, or for sampling, must be fit for human consumption and should meet established shelf life requirements. The product(s) must have a label or sticker showing the statutory information such as product name, country of origin, producer's name and address, production and expiry dates, in Arabic and English languages (samples imported must be labeled at least in English).

It is vital that American exporters adhere to SASO quality standards and labeling regulations to avoid rejection of products at a Saudi port of entry. The method for writing production and expiry dates is to put the day of the month first, followed by month and year. Use of the system commonly followed in the United States, where the month is shown first, is not acceptable in Saudi Arabia. Products that do not meet established SASO standards are either re-exported to the country of origin or destroyed at the importer's expense.

In December 2005, Saudi Arabia implemented a voluntary shelf life standard (manufacturer-determined use-by dates) for most foodstuffs with the exception of selected perishable foods (fresh or chilled meat and poultry; fresh milk and fresh

milk based products; margarine; fresh fruit juice; table eggs, and baby foods) that must meet SASO's established mandatory expiration periods. The revised standard (SASO 457/2005) will no longer ban imports of food products with less than half of its shelf life remaining.

Shelf life can only be shown by clear and unambiguous production and expiration dates. The use of any of the following statements for expressing expiration date is permissible.

- Expiration Date
- Use by (date)
- Fit for (from the day of production)
- Use Before (date)
- Sell by date (for food products having an expiration period exceeding 3 months).

The production and expiration dates should be declared on the label of the package in uncoded manner as follows:

- Day-Month-Year: for foodstuffs with an expiration period less than three months.
- Month-Year: for foodstuffs with expiration exceeding three months.

Dates shall be engraved or in relief, printed or stamped with permanent ink directly on all packages or on their original label by the producer only. Adding stickers for production and expiration dates is not permissible. There shall be not more than one date of production or of expiration on the same package. Both dates shall not be subject to deletion, change or deceit.

Products with No Specific Expiration Date: Products with no specified shelf life such as salt, spices, milled rice, etc. only the date of production or processing would be shown as: mm/yy.

We recommend that when putting together an order for a Saudi importer, a U.S. exporter cross check information contained on his/her food label, including Production/Expiration dates, with the Saudi buyer. FAIRS report SA7014 provides detailed information on the Saudi Arabia's food and agricultural import regulations.

## **A Two-Stage Document Notarization Procedure**

### **First Notarization Stage**

Depending on the types of certificate required for a particular agricultural product, the following documents must be signed by an authorized person or agent and authenticated either by the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, any U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce, the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce located in the city or area where the exporting firm is based. Some American exporters use a local U.S. notary public service to meet this first stage authentication requirement.

- Phytosanitary Certificate (for animal, plant, seed and grains)
- Country of Origin Certificate
- Halal Certificate for meat and cheese products if the rennet used in the cheese is of animal origin.
- Radiation Free Certificate (for foodstuffs imported from former USSR countries and Europe.) Dioxin Free Certificate (for foodstuffs imported from Europe (usually dioxin free statement is included in the health certificate).
- Quality Analysis Certificate for Grains
- Seed Analysis Certificate
- Official Biotech Positive Certificate

- Fumigation Certificate
- Veterinary Certificate

Other required export documents, including a bill of lading, a packing list and weight certificate do not need notarization.

On March 29, 2006, the Saudi Arabian Customs Authority issued a memorandum to drop a requirement that a Saudi embassy or consulate notarize commercial invoices and country of origin certificates issued by exporting companies to clear shipments on arrival at Saudi ports. Saudi Customs is now accepting the original commercial invoice and a country of origin certificate attested by a local chamber of commerce located in a city or area where the foodstuff are purchased and shipped.

### **Second Notarization Stage**

After the first attestation, documents should be forwarded to a Saudi Consulate or the Saudi Embassy in the U.S. for a final attestation. Refer to Appendix X for coordinates of Saudi Consulates and the National Arab Chamber of Commerce offices.

### **Certification Fees**

Certification fees vary depending on the certifying organization. For example, the National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce charges \$25.00 per page, while the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council and Saudi consulates, respectively, charge \$15 and \$8 per page to certify commercial documents. Fees are paid by company checks or money orders

### **Import of Samples**

Samples destined to potential Saudi buyers or for display in food shows are exempt from Saudi labeling and shelf life regulations but are subject to inspection at ports of entry. Samples, usually sent to Saudi Arabia by DHL and similar carriers, require a commercial invoice specifying that the product is not for sale and has no commercial value. The invoice will provide information such as consignee's name and address, details of product (s) and country of origin of the product. A packing list also is useful if samples of many different products are shipped. The documents do not require legalization by the Saudi mission (an exporting company stamp and signature are sufficient.) It is advisable to show on the invoice a nominal value of \$5 -\$10 for Customs purposes and state that the goods are "Not For Sale – No Commercial Value".

For clearance of a commercial sea or airfreight cargo exceeding \$500, a full set of documentation is required. For courier samples which do not require special certifications such as Halal, an invoice and country of origin certificate will be sufficient, provided the value a sample is not more than \$10,000.

### **Standard Commercial Terms of Payment**

Saudi importers use one or more of the following types of payment when importing goods from U.S. or other foreign suppliers:

**1. Letter of Credit (LOC):** A letter from a bank guaranteeing that a buyer's payment to a seller will be received on time and for the correct amount. Depending on the trust level between Saudi importers and foreign suppliers, one of the following types of LOCs are used as payments for imported products:

**A. Irrevocable Letter Of Credit (ILOC):** A letter of credit that cannot be canceled. This guarantees that a buyer's payment to a seller will be received on time and for the correct amount.

**B. Sight Letter of Credit (SLC):** A letter of credit that is payable as soon as the required documents have been presented.

**C. Deferred Payment Letter of Credit** -- A letter of credit that allows the buyer to take possession of goods by agreeing to pay the issuing bank or the confirming bank at a fixed future date, for example up to 90 days after shipment.) This kind of payment is used where a buyer and a seller have a close working relationship because, in effect, the seller (beneficiary of the L/C) is financing the purchase by allowing the buyer a grace period for payment.

**2. Cash against Document (CAD):** A payment term which states that a buyer must pay in cash before he gets shipping papers in order to get possession of the imported goods. The transaction involves a third party, usually an importer's bank, to keep shipping papers until it receives a full payment from the buyer. The problem with this type of payment is that if the importer changes his mind and does not want the goods, the exporter has to re-take possession of the goods and pay for the shipping and other costs. To use this type of payment, the U.S. exporter must have developed a close working relationship with his Saudi buyer.

**3. Cash in Advance:** In this case, the importer pays for his goods in advance before the exporter ships the goods to the importer. This kind of payment is the most advantageous to an exporting company.

As a final point, Post recommends that new-to-market American firms request an irrevocable letter of credit until a close working relationship is developed.

## **Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate**

This section (appendixes I to IX) provides copies of Saudi Arabian import requirements for livestock, poultry and meat, fish and seafood, dairy products, eggs and egg products, planting seeds, and forest products.

### **Conditions for Importation of Horses from the U.S.**

Conditions for the permanent importation of horses into the kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the United States of America:

1. Permission to import must be obtained from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine Department before shipment leaves the exporting country.
2. In order to obtain an import permit, a fully completed import permit application form must be submitted to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Agriculture. At the ministry's discretion, copies of test results and proof of vaccinations may also be requested.
3. Pre- export isolation: during the 30 days immediately prior to export the horses must be held in an isolation facility approved by USDA.
4. Pre- export Tests:

The horse must be subjected to the following blood tests with negative results:

- I. Coggins test for equine infectious anemia – see paragraph III (j) of the attached model health certificate for details.
- II. The Serum Neutralization Test for Equine Viral Arteritis with negative result at a dilution of 1 in 4. (This test is

required for uncastrated male horses only.) See paragraph III (e)(v) of the attached model health certificate for details.

III. Vesicular Stomatitis – where appropriate – see paragraph III (i) of the attached Model Health Certificate for options.

IV. Western and Eastern Encephalomyelitis – where appropriate – see attached Model Health Certificate for options.

The above tests are to be carried out in a laboratory approved for that purpose by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

5. Vaccinations:

I. All horses must be fully vaccinated against Equine Influenza – see paragraph III (m) of the attached Model Health Certificate for details.

Note: original certification showing proof of primary and all booster vaccinations, given in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations, must travel with the horse.

II. Other vaccinations may also be necessary - see Model Health Certificate for details.

6. West Nile Fever – Horses which are resident in States/provinces where the West Nile Virus has been found require additional certification, see paragraph III (o).

7. Health Certificate

When horses are sent to KSA an official Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian approved by the USDA to carry out export certification and endorsed by a Federal Veterinarian must accompany them. The certificate should be in similar form to, and contain all the information in the certificate attached at Annex A. to these conditions. Please read the certificate carefully to ensure that all parts are fully complied with. Dates must be inserted and deletions made where appropriate.

8. On arrival in the KSA the horse will be subjected to a minimum of 6 days isolation in an officially approved Isolation Center and will be subjected to further tests at the discretion of the Ministry of Agriculture. Should the horse fail any of the tests, or fail to comply with the conditions of import, including failure to provide proper certification it may be required to be re-exported at the owners’ expense or destroyed. All horses must arrive by air at one of the approved international airports (Riyadh or Jeddah) unless special authority is granted for landing elsewhere.

**Sample Copy of Import Certificate for Horses**

For the permanent import of horses into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the United States of America:

No. of Certificate.....

Third Country of dispatch: (1) .....

Ministry Responsible: .....

I. Identification of the animal

Species:

Horse

Breed

Age

Sex/Color

Method of identification and identification (\*)

(\*) A passport identifying the equine animal should be attached to this certificate provided that its number is stated.

(a) No. of identification document (Passport): .....

(b) Validated by: .....

(Name of competent authority)

II. Origin and destination of the animal

The animal is to be sent from: .....

(Place of export)

Directly to: .....

(Place of destination)

By aircraft: (3) .....

(indicate means of transport & registration marks, flight number or registered name, as appropriate)

Name and address of Consignor: .....

.....

Name and address of Consignee: .....

.....

III. Health Information

I, the undersigned, certify that the animal described above meets the following requirements:

(a) It comes from a country where the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable: African Horse Sickness, Dourine, Glanders, Equine Encephalomyelitis (of all types including VEE), Equine Infectious Anemia, Vesicular Stomatitis, Rabies, and Anthrax.

(b) It has been examined today and shows no clinical sign of diseases; (2)

(c) It is not intended for slaughter under a national program of infectious or contagious disease eradication;

(d) During the three months immediately preceding the exportation (or since birth if the animal is less than three months old or since entry if it was imported directly from the European Community during the previous three months) it has been resident on holdings under veterinary supervision in the United States of America and 30 days prior to dispatch



apart from equidae not of equivalent health status, in USDA approved isolation premises.

(e) It comes from the territory or in cases of official regionalization according to Community legislation from a part of the territory of a third country in which:

I) Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has not occurred during the last two years;

II) Dourine has not occurred during the last six months;

III) Glanders has not occurred during the last six months;

IV) either Vesicular Stomatitis has not occurred during the last six months (3) or the animal was tested on a sample of blood taken within 21 days of export on .....(4) by a virus neutralization test for Vesicular Stomatitis with negative results at a dilution of 1 in 12 (3);

v) in the case of an uncastrated male animal older than 180 days, either Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) has not been officially recorded during the last six months (3),

or

the animal was tested on a sample of blood taken within 21 days of export on .....(4) by a virus neutralization test for EVA, with negative result at a dilution of 1 in 4 (3), or an aliquot of its entire semen taken within 21 days of export on .....(4) was tested by a virus isolation test for EVA with negative result (3), or the animal was vaccinated on .....(4) against Equine Viral Arteritis under official veterinary supervision with a vaccine approved by the competent authority, according to the following program for initial vaccination and has been re-vaccinated at regular intervals (3).

Programs for initial vaccination against Equine Viral Arteritis:

Instruction:

Cross out vaccination programs that do not apply to the animal described above.

Verify supporting certification on testing before vaccination, and re- vaccination.

a) Vaccination was carried out on the day a blood sample was taken that subsequently proved negative in a virus neutralization test at a dilution of 1:4.

or

b) Vaccination was carried out during a period of isolation of not more than 15 days under official veterinary supervision, commencing on the day a blood sample was taken that was tested during that time with negative result in a virus neutralization test at a dilution of 1:4.

or

c) Vaccination was carried out when the animal was at an age of 180 to 270 days, during a period of isolation under official veterinary supervision. During the isolation period two blood samples taken at least 10 days apart proved a stable or declining antibody titer in a virus neutralization test for equine viral arteritis.

(f) It does not come from the territory or from a part of the territory of a third country considered, in accordance with EEC legislation, as infected with African horse sickness, and either it was not vaccinated against African horse sickness

(3) or it was vaccinated against African horse sickness on .....(3)(4).

(g) It does not come from a holding, which was subject to prohibition for animal health reasons, nor had contact with equidae from a holding, which was subject to prohibition for animal health reasons:

I) during six months in the case of equine encephalomyelitis, beginning on the date on which the equidae suffering from the disease are slaughtered;

II) in the case of equine infectious anemia, until the date on which the infected animals having been slaughtered, the remaining animals have shown a negative reaction to two Coggins tests carried out three months apart;

III) during six months in the case of vesicular stomatitis;

IV) during one month from the last recorded case, in the case of rabies;

V) during 15 days from the last recorded case, in the case of Anthrax or if all animals of species susceptible to the disease located on the holding have been slaughtered and the premises disinfected, the period of prohibition shall be 30 days, beginning on the day on which the animals were destroyed and the premises disinfected, except in the case of anthrax, where the period of prohibition is 15 days.

(h) It shows no clinical signs of contagious equine metritis (CEM) and it does not come from a holding where there has been any suspicion of CEM during the past two months nor had contact indirectly or directly through coitus with equidae infected or suspected of being infected with CEM;

(i) To the best of my knowledge, it has not been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease in the 15 days prior to this declaration;

(j) It was subjected to the following test carried out with negative results on a sample of blood taken within 21 days of export on .....(4)

- a Coggins test for equine infectious anemia;

(k) Either it was not vaccinated against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, (3) or it was vaccinated on .....(4) this being at least six months prior to pre-export isolation;(3)

(l) Either it was vaccinated against western and eastern equine encephalomyelitis with inactivated vaccine on .....(3)(4) this being within six months of and at least 30 days prior to export or it was subjected to haemagglutination inhibition tests to western and eastern equine encephalomyelitis on two occasions, carried out on samples of blood taken with an interval of 21 days on .....(4) and on .....(4), the second of which must have been taken within 10 days of export, either with negative reactions, if it has not been vaccinated, or with no increase in antibody count, if it has been vaccinated more than six months ago.(3)

(m) During the 60 days immediately prior to export, but not within 14 days of export, the horse received:

Either (i) two primary vaccinations against equine influenza, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations(3)(5).

Dates of vaccination 1..... 2.....  
Type(s) of vaccine ..... Batch No(s) .....

or

(ii) it received a booster dose to a certified previous course of primary vaccination(5).

Date of booster vaccination .....  
Type(s) of vaccine ..... Batch No(s) .....

(n) The horse has not been, during the last 30 days, in any state in which vesicular stomatitis (VS) has been diagnosed in the previous 6 months; has not been in contact with livestock that has been, during the last 30 days, in any state in which VS has been diagnosed in the last 6 months; has not been in contact with livestock that has been resident on infected holdings in the last 60 days.

(o) During the 30 days immediately prior to export:

either

i) It has not been resident in any State/province in which evidence of West Nile virus has been found in the previous 6 months,

OR

ii. a) It has not been resident on any premises where clinical cases of West Nile fever have been identified during this time AND b) It has been treated with an insect repellent, effective against WNV vectors, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, during any period, in the 15 days immediately prior to export, that the horse was in a State/province in which evidence of West Nile virus has been found in the previous 6 months.

Name of product ..... active ingredient(s).....

iii. It was not vaccinated against West Nile virus, or it was vaccinated against West Nile virus with an inactivated vaccine on at least two occasions at an interval of between 21 to 42 days, the last vaccination being carried out not later than 30 days prior to dispatch on .....

iv. The animal will be sent in a vehicle cleaned and disinfected in advance, with a disinfectant officially recognized in the country of dispatch, and designed in a way that droppings, litter or fodder cannot escape during transportation.

The following declaration signed by the owner or representative is part of the certificate.

V. The certificate is valid for 10 days.

Date Place Stamp (\*) and signature of the official veterinarian

(Name in block letters, qualification and title)

(\*) The color of the stamp must be different to that of the printing.

(1) Part of territory in accordance with Article 12 (2) of Council Directive 90/426/EEC.

(2) This certificate must be issued on the day of loading of the animal for dispatch to the Member State of destination or, in the case of a registered horse, on the last working day before embarkation.

(3) Delete as appropriate.

(4) Insert Date – In the case of a registered equine animal, tests carried out, their results and vaccination have to be entered in the identification document (passport)

Declaration

I, the undersigned .....(insert name in block capitals)  
(owner or representative of the animal described above)

Declare:

1. The horse will be sent from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination without coming into contact with other equine not of the same health status.

The transportation will be effected in such a way that health and well being of the animal can be protected effectively.

2. The animal has either remained in .....(exporting country) since birth or entered the exporting country at least 90 days prior to this declaration.

.....

(Place, date)

(Signature)

**List of Livestock Diseases**

Table: 1

Imported animals infected with the following diseases will be rejected right away without permission to unload at quarantine area:

1. Foot and mouth disease
2. Vesicular Stomatitis
3. Rinderpest
4. Pests des petits ruminants

5. Lump skin disease
6. Rift valley fever
7. Bluetongue
8. Sheep pox
9. Goat pox
10. Rabies
11. Aujeszky's disease
12. Louping – ill
13. Akabane disease
14. Camel pox
15. Malignant catarrhal fever
16. Ephemeral fever
17. Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
18. Maedi-visna
19. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
20. Scrapie
21. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
22. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
23. Anthrax
24. Brucellosis
25. Tuberculosis
26. Leptospirosis
27. Paratuberculosis
28. Enzootic bovine leucosis
29. Pasteurellosis
30. Contagious agalactia
31. Enzootic abortion of ewes
32. Listeriosis
33. Heartwater
34. New world screwworm
35. Old world screwworm

Table: 2

Animals infected with the following diseases can be kept in quarantine areas provided the infestation rate does not exceed 10 percent of random samples tested:

1. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis
2. Bovine viral diarrhea
3. Contagious pustular dermatitis (Scabby mouth)

4. Ulcerative dermatosis
5. Bovine ulcerative mammillitis
6. Papillomatosis
7. Cow pox
8. Pseudo cowpox
9. Newborn viral enteritis (Rota virus & Corona virus infection)
10. Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis
11. Dermatophilosis
12. Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
13. Caseous lymphadenitis
14. Ovine epididymitis (Brucella ovis) for slaughter animals only
15. Colibacillosis
16. Salmonellosis
17. Actinomycosis
18. Actinobacillosis
19. Calf diphtheria
20. Bovine anaplasmosis
21. Oestrus ovis infestation
22. Oestrus cameli infestation
23. Hypoderma bovis
24. Gastro-intestinal parasitism (Helminthes)
25. Verminous bronchitis (lungworm infestation)
26. Mange
27. Tick infestation
28. Coccidiosis
29. Cryptosporidiosis
30. Echinococcosis\hydatidosis
31. Babesiosis
32. Cysticercosis
33. Theileriosis
34. Trypanosomiasis
35. Filariasis
36. Ringworm

Other certifications that may be required for livestock imported for breeding purposes include certificate of weight to show the average weight of the exported livestock, production records and officially certified pedigree certificate.

### **Official Meat Imports Requirements**

We (name the body issuing the certificate) testify that the meat is derived from animals slaughtered in an approved and

recognized slaughterhouse under the supervision of (name of the official body) and we also testify that:

1. The meat is derived from animals with an average age of (...) and had been tested within the range of 12 hours before and after slaughtering by the official bodies concerned to ensure their safety and fitness for human consumption.
2. The meat is derived from animals born and reared in (name of country of origin) and from herds that are officially registered in (name of the body responsible for registering herds).
3. The meat is from animals, which have never been suspected or proved to be infected with an infectious disease.
4. The meat is prepared, handled, stored and transported according to the approved standards.
5. The meat is supervised through all stages of production, storage, and transportation by the official technician from (name of the official body).
6. The meat is not subjected or stored with products made from regions that do not comply with the conditions mentioned in paragraph 3.
7. The meat is transported from the slaughterhouse to the cutting house and then to the port of export, according to regulations, that does not allow it to pass by or stop at areas where pigs are kept, and the means of transportation should not by at any time used to carry pigs or its meat or products
8. Within the last three months there is no outbreak of an epidemic in (name of the region or county) and we also declare that:

All cows, veal, goats, sheep and poultry and their meat are subjected to inspection and veterinary examination.

According to the regulations in (name of the country) all infectious diseases are officially notified.

All animals infected with an infectious disease are completely destroyed.

9. The animals have not been fed with feed manufactured with animal protein or fat or animal remains, and the feed comply with the approved standards.
10. The animals were not subjected to growth hormones that do not comply with the levels mentioned in the approved standards.
11. The meat is processed with drugs and veterinary medicine within the levels mentioned in the approved standards.
12. According to the approved standards the meat does not contain any flavoring or coloring substances.
13. All health requirements are available in all abattoirs where cattle and poultry is being slaughtered and prepared for export. Hazard analysis and Critical control point system HACCP should be applied at all production phases at the abattoirs and factories where all kinds of meat and foodstuff are prepared.

Official stamp

Signature

Name of veterinary inspector

Date

Address

**Format of Health Certificate for frozen and chilled meat**

Name and address of consignor			Certificate No:		
Name and address of consignee			No of Seal on the Container/No of Container(s)		
Name, address and number for veterinary approval of the slaughterhouse:			Name of Exporting country		
Name, address and number for veterinary approval of the Cutting establishment:-			Name of Responsible Ministry		
Identification of means of transportation			Health Certificate for export of frozen and chilled meat and (un processed meat) to:		
Type of Meat			Local veterinary service in the country of origin		
Type of cut			Place of loading		
No of Halal certificate			Country and place of Destination		
Trade mark	Type & number of packages	Net weight	Date of expiration	Date of production	Slaughtering date



<p>I the undersigned, authorized person, certify that the good described above meets all the requirements mentioned in the sanitary attestation attached to this document.</p>					<p>Official stamp</p>
<p>Place</p>		<p>Date</p>			
<p>Signature of local official inspector</p>					

**Sample Halal Certificate**

The following information on halal certification was obtained from a recent halal certificate issued by a U.S. based approved Islamic Center for export of U.S. beef and poultry meat to Saudi Arabia.

<p>Letter Head of the Islamic Center:</p> <p>Date Certificate Issued:</p> <p>Halal Attestation: The Islamic Society hereby certifies that the under mentioned shipment of beef/lamb/poultry: has been slaughtered according to the Islamic Rite. The products have been inspected within 12 hours before and after slaughtering and found to be free from infectious diseases. No animal proteins, fats, bones, animal wastes or growth hormones were used in the fodder of these animals. Products have been inspected and found free of growth stimulants and harmful materials. Accordingly, these products are halal and suitable for Muslims to consume.</p> <p>Consignee:</p> <p>Shipper:</p> <p>Production Date(s):</p> <p>Slaughter Date (s):</p> <p>Expiry Date(s):</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>No. of Cases:</p> <p>Net Weight:</p> <p>Invoice No.</p> <p>Signature of the Imam and seal of the Islamic center:</p> <p>Halal certificate's serial number:</p>
--

The above information was included on the Islamic center's letter head

**Producer/Manufacturer Letterhead**

**Export Certificate for Fresh, Frozen or Processed Bovine or Mutton Meat to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

USDA/FSIS Certificate No: .....

Date.....

Place of Production: .....

**IDENTIFICATION OF MEAT**

Type of Meat (animal grade): .....

Type of cut: .....

Type of Package: .....

Quantity of cuts: .....

Net Weight: .....

No of Seal on the container: .....

No of Container(s): .....

**ORIGIN OF MEAT**

Name, address and number of veterinary approval of the slaughterhouse:

.....

Name, address and number of veterinary approval of the cutting establishment:

.....

**DESTINATION OF MEAT**

The meat is being sent from: .....

Country: .....

District or State: .....

City: .....

Destination: .....

Means of transport: .....

Name and address of exporter:

.....

Name and address of importer:

.....

It is hereby certified by the producer or manufacturer that:

- The meat is derived from livestock that were born and raised in the United States or from livestock that were legally imported into the United States, provided that such livestock did not originate in a country on which Saudi Arabia maintains a ban on such livestock.
- The meat is transported from the slaughterhouse to the cutting house and then to the port of export, according to a procedure that does not allow it to have any direct contact to where pigs are kept, and the means of transport should not be used to carry pigs or its meat or products concurrently.
- All meat was subject to the oversight of the United States Department of Agriculture in compliance with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements throughout the production processes.
- Due to religious (Halal) requirements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the livestock has not been fed with feed containing protein, fat or remnants of animal origin.

Signature of the producer or manufacturer

**Producer/Manufacturer Letterhead**

**Export Certificate for Fresh, Frozen or Processed Poultry Meat to the Kingdom  
of Saudi Arabia**

USDA/FSIS Certificate No: ..... Date: .....

Place of Production: .....

**IDENTIFICATION OF MEAT**

Type of Meat (animal grade): .....

Type of Poultry:.....

Type of cut: .....

Type of Package: .....

Quantity of cuts: .....

Net Weight: .....

No of Seal on the container: .....

No of Container(s): .....

**ORIGIN OF MEAT**

Name, address and number of veterinary approval of the slaughterhouse:  
.....

Name, address and number of veterinary approval of the cutting establishment:  
.....

**DESTINATION OF MEAT**

The meat is being sent from: .....

Country: .....

District or State: .....

City: .....

Destination: .....

Means of transport: .....

Name and address of exporter:

.....

Name and address of importer:

.....

It is hereby certified by the producer or manufacturer that:

- The meat is derived from poultry that were hatched and raised in the United States or from poultry that were legally imported into the United States, provided that such poultry did not originate in a country on which Saudi Arabia maintains a ban on such poultry.
- The poultry meat is transported from the slaughterhouse to the cutting house and then to the port of export, according to a procedure that does not allow it to have any direct contact to where pigs are kept, and the means of transport should not be used to carry pigs or its meat or products concurrently.
- All meat was subject to the oversight of the United States Department of Agriculture in compliance with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements throughout the production processes.
- Due to religious (Halal) requirements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the poultry has not been fed with feed containing protein, fat or remnants of animal origin.
- The poultry has not been fed with animal feed containing growth-stimulating hormones..

Signature of producer or manufacturer

**Health Certificate for Fish and Seafood Products**

Name and address of consignor	Certificate No
-------------------------------	----------------

Approval number, name and address of processing establishment.			Name of Exporting country		
			Name of Responsible Ministry		
			Health Certificate for export of fish and sea products to		
Name and address of consignee			Local veterinary service in the country of origin		
Identification of means of transportation			Place of loading		
			Country and place of Destination		
Species of products	State or type of processing	Type & number of packages	Net weight	Date of production	Date of expiration
I the undersigned, authorized person, certify that the good described above meets all the requirements mentioned in the sanitary attestation attached to this document.					
Place			Date		
Signature of local official inspector					
Official stamp					

### Health Certificate for Dairy Products

Name and address of consignor	Certificate No
Approval number, name and address of processing establishment.	Name of Exporting country

		Name of Responsible Ministry		
		Health Certificate for export of Dairy products to		
Name and address of consignee		Local veterinary service in the country of origin		
Identification of means of transportation		Place of loading		
		Country and place of Destination		
Type & number of packages	Description of the milk/milk products and animal species	Date of Production	Date of Expiration	Net weight
<p>I the undersigned, authorized person, certify that the good described above meets all the requirements mentioned in the sanitary attestation attached to this document.</p> <p>Place _____ Date _____</p> <p>Signature of local official inspector _____</p>				Official stamp

**Health Certificate for Egg and Egg Products**

Name and address of consignor	Certificate No
-------------------------------	----------------

Approval number, name and address of processing establishment		Name of Exporting country			
		Name of Responsible Ministry			
		Health Certificate for export of egg and egg products for human consumption to			
Name and address of consignee		Local veterinary service in the country of origin			
Identification of means of transportation		Place of loading			
		Country and place of Destination			
Name of products(Yolk powder, egg white powder etc..)	Product derived from (Domestic Fowl, other birds)	Type & number of packages	Net weight	Date of production	Date of expiration
I the undersigned, authorized person, certify that the good described above meets all the requirements mentioned in the sanitary attestation attached to this document.					Official stamp
Place		Date			
Signature of local official inspector					

## Processed Foodstuffs Labeling Requirements

### General Requirements

Regulations for labeling of prepackaged foodstuffs are found in Gulf Standard 9/1995. This is a GCC-wide standard, which was prepared by the State of Kuwait. In sum, prepackaged food product labels should be in Arabic or include an Arabic language translation of the label. Labels must contain at a minimum: the product name, packer's name, country of origin or manufacture, listing of ingredients, instructions, where applicable, for the end use of the product, the shelf-life of the product.



GCC 9/1995 is a document of 10 pages. The labeling requirements are as follows:

- Labels of prepackaged foodstuffs and the attached labeling shall be in Arabic language. When one language or more is used in addition to Arabic language, all information in the other languages shall be the same as the information written in the Arabic language.
- In case of food products containing animal fats, meat and meat derivatives, excretions and their products such as gelatin and rennet, the kind of animal from which they are taken shall be declared taking into consideration to declare on the label that they are legally permitted.
- In case of prepackaged foodstuffs prepared for feeding animals, the statement “Unfit for human consumption” or “Special for animal Feeding only” shall be clearly and prominently declared on the label.
- Name of foodstuff: Specific, not generic, name of the prepackaged food. Names and phrases provocative to Islamic religious feelings such as “made of pork flesh or its derivatives,” “Alcoholic beverages,” or any doctrinally forbidden symbols and marks in Islamic countries such as the sign of the Cross, etc. should not be used.
- List of Ingredients: Complete list of ingredients in descending order of proportion, including additives permitted for use according to Saudi or International Standards and Legislation such as preservative, coloring matters, etc.
- Net contents in metric units (volume in case of liquids).
- Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor.
- Special Storage, transportation and preparation instructions, if any.
- Additives
- Country of Origin
- Shelf life: Shelf life can only be shown by clear and unambiguous production and expiration dates. The use of any of the following statements for expressing expiration date is permissible.

The Expiration Date (DD/MM/YY)  
Use by.....(Date)  
fit for.....from the date of production,  
Use before.....(Date),  
Sell by.....(Date).

It is understood that the date of production is the first day of the month shown and the expiration date the last day of the month shown, e.g., a one-year shelf would be shown as Jan. 99 - Dec. 99.

- Over-prints, erasable printing or stamping of any of the foregoing shelf life information are not permitted.

However, **only one** “sticker” providing all information in Arabic as provided in the original label is allowed on a packaged product provided that the sticker does not cover and/or conceal the details on the original label. Packaging materials and methods should be suitable to the packaged material to avoid reaction with the contents.

- Products with No Specific Expiration Date: Products with no specified shelf life such as salt, spices, milled rice, etc. only the date of production or processing would be shown as: dd/mm/yy.

We recommend that when putting together an order for a Saudi importer, a U.S. exporter should cross check information contained on his/her food label, including Production/Expiration dates, with the Saudi buyer.

### **Additional Labeling Requirements**

In addition to requirements per GCC 9/1995, the following labeling information must be declared for food additives and antioxidants used in foodstuffs:

For coloring matters, their mixtures, preparations and diluents used in foodstuffs, the following additional information must be declared:

1. Common name
2. Color index number
3. Name of solvent or diluent
4. Production and expiration dates in a non-coded manner (day-month-year)
5. Dye purity
6. The statement “Free from alcohol”
6. The statement “Color matter for use in foodstuffs.”

For Flavors permitted for use in Foodstuffs common name and code number (if found) must be declared on food products containers contained flavors.

For preservatives permitted for use in food products, common name or EEC number and a statement “Preservative for Use in Food Products” in case of preservatives containers.

For emulsifiers, stabilizers and thickeners permitted for use in foodstuffs, the following additional information must be declared:

1. Common name or EEC no.
2. In case of gelatin, lecithin and mono and diglycerides the source shall be mentioned.

For Sweeteners Permitted for Use in Food Products:

1. The name of sweeteners or INS numbers
2. Food products formulated specifically for use by diabetics or for other special nutritional uses shall contain the

statement "Food for special dietary use or food for diabetic."

3. The amount of sweeteners matter, mg/liter or kg in case of using combination of sweeteners, the amount of each in combination shall be declared.

The following warning must be declared:

4. In case of aspartame, "Not to be used by persons who have phenyl ketonuria."

5. In case of saccharine, "Use of this product may be hazardous to your health because it contains saccharin which has been determine to cause cancer in laboratory animals."

6. In the case of sugar alcohol "Excess of consumed quantity may cause diarrhea."

The following additional labeling information must be declared for antioxidants permitted for use in foodstuffs:

1. Common name or EEC number

2. A statement "Antioxidants permitted for use in foodstuffs" in case of antioxidant containers.

#### **Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling**

In addition to the general labeling requirements as stated in GS 9/1995, further information must be declared for prepackaged foods for special dietary use per Gulf Standard No. 654/1996 (General Requirements for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Use). Following is some of the labeling information to be stated.

1. Name of the product followed by the characterizing essential features indicating that it is a food for special dietary use.
2. The amount of energy expressed in kilojoules and kilocalories per 100 grams or 100 ml of the food product and where appropriate per the specified quantity of food as suggested for consumption.
3. Its content of protein, carbohydrates, fat, dietary, fiber and each vitamin and mineral per 100 grams or 100 ml of the food (as sold) product and where appropriate per specified quantity of food as suggested for consumption.
4. The total quantity of the specific nutrients, which provide the characterizing essential features per 100 grams or 100 ml of the food product and where appropriate per specified quantity of food as suggested for consumption.
5. The special cases in which the food is used and the suitable amount permissible for daily consumption.
6. Storage conditions before and after opening of the package.
7. The procedures of preparation and use, and in the case of baby and infant foods the procedures shall be indicated according to the age of child.
8. The following cautionary statement shall be declared: "To be Used Under Medical Supervision," wherever applicable

to certain food.

9. The amount of added sweeteners accompanied by the following cautionary statements:

- a) In the case of aspartame: "Not to be used by persons who have phenylketonuria," "The maximum intake shall not exceed 40mg/kg of body weight."
- b) In the case of saccharin: "Use of this product may be hazardous to your health, because it contains saccharin which has been determined to cause cancer to laboratory animals."
- c) In the case of manitol: "Excess of consumed quantity of manitol over 20g per day may cause diarrhea."
- d) In the case of sorbitol or xylitol: Excess of consumed quantity of sorbitol or xylitol over 40g per day may cause diarrhea.

10. Not to be described or marked in such a manner that misleads the consumer.

### **Biotech Labeling**

In March 2003, Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) was established. However, in May 2009, it took over from the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) the responsible of inspecting imported high value food products for biotech content at the Kingdom's 27 ports of entry. SFDA will be responsible for setting new food standards and implemented existing ones starting from next year. In the past, standards were set by SASO while imported foodstuffs were tested by MOCI at ports of entry. SFDA will take over inspection of imported animal feed, fruits, vegetables and drugs in 2010.

Following is a summary of the biotech labeling decree which were implemented by the MOCI in 2001. The SFDA will continue to apply the decree until a biotech standard is issued.

In December 2001, MOCI implemented its biotech labeling decree for processed foodstuffs. The decree requires a positive biotech labeling if a product contains genetically modified vegetable (plant) ingredients. In a similar move, the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) implemented in January 2004 a comparable biotech-labeling requirement on animal feed, fruit and vegetables while banning imports of biotech seeds.

A. Positive labeling: If a product contains one or more genetically modified plant ingredient, the information should be clearly communicated to the consumer by labeling. A triangle should be drawn on the label with text that should read "Contains Genetically Modified Product (s). The Ministry will not accept a statement that says "This Product May Contain biotech Ingredients." Saudi Arabia does not permit imports of foodstuffs that contain genetically engineered animal products. According to the MOCI, local food producers must also abide by the biotech labeling requirements.

B. Bilingual labeling: The biotech statement must be clearly written in Arabic and English languages with ink color different from that of the main product tag.

C. Health certificate: Biotech products exported to Saudi Arabia must have been approved in the country of origin for human or animal consumption. Each shipment must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a government

agency stating that the biotech ingredient used in the foodstuff is approved in the country of origin for human or animal consumption.

D. PCR Real Time Method: MOC approved the PCR Real Time Method for GE testing and set 0.9 percent threshold. If the test results reveal more than 0.9 percent of GE ingredient, the product is either destroyed locally or re-exported to the country of origin. Products with less than 0.9 percent of GE content are exempt from further testing for six months. If still on the market after six months, these products must be tested and recertified. Presently, no GE-labeled retail food products are marketed in Saudi Arabia, but GE-labeled bulk commodities and products destined for institutional end users are imported and marketed.

E. Biotech health certificate: The Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry has agreed to accept health certificates issued by state departments of agriculture for high value products instead of the previous requirement that the certificates be issued by a federal government agency such as USDA or FDA for U.S. products. The Ministry has reiterated its refusal to consider any health certificate issued by exporting companies or other private organizations including notary public statements.

F. For U.S. grains: The MOA has accepted a one-time biotech grains certification statement from the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) submitted to the Ministry in 2003. The statement certified that the exported transgenic grains are the same as those consumed in the United States. The approved statement eliminates the need for a shipment-by-shipment positive biotech certification for corn and soybean meal exported to the Kingdom. The MOA still requires each shipment of biotech fruits and vegetables to be labeled and accompanied by a biotech health certificate. In 2004, the MOA banned imports of all types of biotech seeds.

G. It is required that genetically engineered products, which are exported to Saudi Arabia, must have been approved in the country of origin for human consumption. Each shipment must be accompanied by health certificate issued by a biotech licensing government agency (such as the FDA) stating that the biotech ingredient (s) used in the foodstuff is approved in the country of origin (United States) for human consumption. One certificate could be issued that certifies a list of biotech items used in a foodstuff.

H. All genetically modified food products should be in compliance with legal and ethical controls observed in the Kingdom and must meet pertinent Saudi Arabian standard specifications. The biotech labeling requirements will also apply to locally produced agricultural products. The biotech-labeling requirement went into effect December 1, 2001.

G. In February 2005, the Saudi Government announced the establishment of a national high-level biotech committee consisting of four ministries, the Saudi Arabian Standard Organization (SASO), universities and the private sector to conduct a comprehensive policy review of current biotech labeling requirements based on two ministerial decrees. The committee distributed its first draft standard for public comment in early May 2005 and received comments in August 2005. After taking into consideration comments received from all interested parties including USDA, SASO distributed another set of draft standards listed below for public comment in early 2006.

SASO Draft No 3002 /2006 “General Requirements for Genetically Modified Processed Food and Feed”

SASO Draft No 3195 /2006 “General Requirements for Genetically Modified unprocessed Agricultural Products”

SASO Draft No 3196 /2006 “General Requirements for Risk Assessment and Traceability”

Comments on the above three draft standards were delivered to SASO by the end of March 2006.

After working on the above mentioned three biotech draft standards three years, SASO decided to abandon its efforts to issue national biotech standards and opted to join hands with other members of the GCC (U.A.E., Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain) to work on promulgating GCC wide agricultural biotech standards under the auspices of the Gulf Standards Organization (GSO). In February 2008, the GSO established an Agricultural Biotech subcommittee and converted the three SASO biotech draft standards to GSO draft standards. The subcommittee is expected to review the three draft standards in November 2009. According to SASO, the three biotech draft standards contain some of the comments provided by the U.S. and other countries in 2006.

I. Following is a sample certificate issued by a state department of agriculture and accepted by Saudi port authorities:

*Certificate of Health and Free Sale, Sanitary and Purity*

"I, (name of state official), do hereby certify that (name of U.S. company and address) operates a food manufacturing plant which is inspected at regular intervals by full-time inspectors employed by the (name of state) Department of Agriculture. The facility’s equipment and raw materials, as well as the processing and packaging procedure, meets all sanitary requirements and the operation is in good standing in every respect. We certify the following listing of products as freely, and without qualification, sold and used in the United States of America (USA).

This product may contain genetically modified organisms.

This certificate shall be good for one year from the date of issue.

This certificate is not to be construed as either an expression of implied warranty of any products of said company, nor shall it be used for propaganda, advertising, or other simple purposes.

This certificate shall not be altered after the issue date, or it will be deemed void by the (name of state) Department of Agriculture and the undersigned.

(The certificate should be issued with the seal of the State Department of Agriculture, notarized, and signed by the appropriate State Department of Agriculture official)."

II. Below is GIPSA’s one-time grains certification statement accepted by the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture in lieu of a shipment-by-shipment biotech certification requirement.

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Statement</b>
Soybeans	We hereby certify that the soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans that have been approved for import into the EEC under directive 96/281/ EC.

	The soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans. Transgenic soybeans commercially produced in the United States have completed the necessary review under the U.S. regulatory process for determining the safety of new agricultural biotechnology products. This well coordinated regulatory process sets U.S. standards for human, animal, and plant health, and environmental safety. The transgenic soybeans used for domestic purposes are the same as those used for export.
<b>Corn</b>	Transgenic corn commercially produced in the United States has completed the necessary review under the U.S. regulatory process for determining the safety of new agricultural biotechnology products. This well coordinated regulatory process sets U.S. standards for human, animal, and plant health, and environmental safety. The transgenic corn used for domestic purposes is the same as corn used for export.
<b>Testing Parameters</b>	The sample was tested using a method equal to or exceeding the performance of the A's GIPSA testing recommendations, as set out in Directive 9181.1.

### **Packaging and Container Requirements**

In 1997, Saudi Arabia issued standard No. SSA 1149/1997 entitled Food Packages-part 1-General Requirements. Some of the main requirements are listed below:

All packaging materials used in fabricating, forming, or treating packages shall be of food grade for contact with foods and in compliance with relevant Saudi standards.

They shall be clean and in a condition that does not allow any contamination probabilities of the contained material.

They shall maintain the properties of the packaged material and protect it from gaining undesirable odors, flavors and tastes.

They shall offer protection to the product against contamination with microorganisms, insect, rodents, and dirt in the cases of products that requires it.

They shall be impermeable to moisture in the cases of food products that require it.

They shall offer necessary protection against environmental conditions and mechanical hazards such as impacts, vibration, static stresses, and they shall be in an intact appearance during handling.

They shall not affect the container as a result of migration of some of their constituents that may react or be mixed with the food materials.

It shall not be in a pharmaceutical shape.

Saudi standard No. SASO 1301/1997 deals with specifications for the general requirements of plastic packages used for packaging food materials. The three page regulations require limits among other things that the concentration of a vinyl chloride monomer not to exceed 1 mg per kg of the plastic material, or 0.01 mg per kg of the packaged food material if the packages are made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Per the standard, the following labeling information should be written on labels of plastic packages used to package foodstuffs:

1. Type of plastic material
2. Weight, capacity, number, or dimensions based on the type of packages
3. Statement of food grade
4. Purpose and type of application
5. Directions for usage
6. Warnings if applicable

### **Planting Seeds Import Requirement**

#### Vegetable Seeds Import Requirement

The packs may be made of papers or nylon imprinted with the species, class, quality, exporting company, importing merchant, purity ration, germination ratio and date of inspection or otherwise labeled with the same on the back or placed inside an easy to read through nylon bag. Another choice is that many packs can be placed in a cardboard box and labeled with the number of the cases contained and then labeled with details imprinted on the bag. The product shall be free of weed seeds.

Local importer must obtain a written permit prior to seed import from the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Quarantine Department.

Following are required certificates and documents for imported planting seeds:

1. Certified certificate of origin
2. Agricultural hygiene certification (containing the same quantity, species and classes) stating that the seeds are free of pests and fungal diseases.
3. Bill of lading or airway bill plus a copy of the commercial invoice.
4. For cucurbitaceae seeds, a certificate that the seeds are virus resistant strains.
5. For bean seeds, a certificate that proves they are free of halook seeds.
6. Disinfectant treatment certificate from the country of origin shall be attached.
7. Import of biotech, improved seeds, shoots or of biotech parents seed is prohibited. An authenticated official certificate providing that the seed is free from biotech contamination must be from the country of origin must be attached.
8. Seeds approved for imports should not arrive at one of Saudi ports before the elapse of 10 days from the date the import permit is
9. This import permit is valid for six months from the date of approval.



#### Onion Import Requirements:

1. Certificate of origin, duly authenticated by the authorities concerned.
2. Agricultural hygiene certificate of the same number and items certifies that the seeds are free from pests and fungal diseases.
3. Bill of lading or airway bill plus the commercial invoice copy.
4. Disinfectant treatment certificate from the country of origin shall be attached.
5. Seeds approved for imports should not arrive at one of Saudi ports before the elapse of 10 days from the date the import permit is granted.
6. Import of biotech, improved seeds, shoots or of biotech parents seed is prohibited. An authenticated official certificate providing that the seed is free from biotech contamination must be from the country of origin must be attached.
7. This import permit is valid for six months from the date of approval.

#### Seedling (nursery plants) imports Requirements:

1. Certificate of origin, duly authenticated by the authorities concerned.
2. Bill of lading or airway bill plus commercial invoice copy.
3. Agricultural hygiene certificate of the same number and items certify that the shoots are free from pests and fungal diseases.
4. Soil entry with the shoots is prohibited. Shoots shall be pre-planted into internationally recognized material (petmos), in the agricultural perlite or vermiculite.
5. Shoots shall be labeled with species and class labels.
6. Shoots approved for imports should not arrive at one of Saudi ports before the elapse of 10 days from the date the import permit is granted.
7. Import of biotech, improved seeds, shoots or of biotech parents seed is prohibited. An authenticated official certificate providing that the seed is free from biotech contamination must be from the country of origin must be attached..
8. This import permit is valid for six months from the date of approval.

#### Potato Buds (tubers) import Requirements:

1. Agricultural hygiene certification (containing the same quantity, species and classes) stating that the seeds are free of viral, bacterial, fungal, insect diseases and 100% free of pseudomonas solanacearum.

2. Bill of lading or airway bill plus a copy of the commercial invoice.
3. Potatoes buds shall be of the type recommended by Ministry of Agriculture. They shall be free of radiation.
4. The buds imported for vegetation or production shall be basic seeds-class E, their size shall not be less than 28 ml and not more than 55 mm.
5. The buds shall be received in new labeled 50 kg burlap sacks. Their class shall be imprinted on the sack labels. The experimental buds may be packed in wood boxes of 20-30 kg capacity labeled with the above mentioned information.
6. Buds approved for imports should not arrive at one of Saudi ports before the elapse of 10 days from the date the import permit is granted.
7. Import of biotech, improved seeds, shoots or of biotech parents seed is prohibited. An authenticated official certificate providing that the seed is free from biotech contamination must be from the country of origin must be attached.
8. This import permit is valid for six months from the date of approval.

#### Grain and Forage Seeds Import Requirements

1. Certified certificate of origin.
2. Bill of lading or Airway bill and the commercial invoice copy.
3. For alfalfa seeds, certificate: of free of weed seeds, certified seeds, investigation certificate from a specialized company, duly authenticated by the Saudi Embassy, stating that the seeds are in accordance with the required conditions and specifications.
4. Seeds shall not arrive at any port in the Kingdom prior to the elapse of 10 days after the date of approval of the import permit.
4. Disinfectant treatment certificate from the country of origin shall be attached.
5. Each package shall be labeled with the purity ratio, germination ratio and date of inspection in Arabic language.
6. Vegetable, cereals and alfalfa seeds from Eastern Europe, Canada and Turkey shall be attached with the Orange International Seed Lot Certificate by ISTA, whereas seeds from Northern America shall be attached with Federal Lab Certificate. The Lot No. mentioned in the certificate should match that on the packs.
7. Seeds approved for imports should not arrive at one of Saudi ports before the elapse of 10 days from the date the import permit is granted.
8. Import of biotech, improved seeds, shoots or of biotech parents seed is prohibited. An authenticated official certificate providing that the seed is free from biotech contamination must be from the country of origin must be attached.

9. This import permit is valid for six months from the date of approval.

**International Conformity Certificate Program Standard Form**

Certificate No.

Date of issue:

We (name of the testifying body) testify that the description of the goods stated below according to the attached invoice and which is exported from (name of the country) have been subjected to laboratory tests and proven to be in compliance with the approved standards in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Name & address of manufacturer:	Name and address of exporter:
Name and address of importer:	Invoice No. & date:
Port of loading:	Port of arrival:
Means of shipment:	Country of origin:

Item Name & description	Packaging	Quantity	Item No.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Official stamp:

**Author Defined:**

**Coordinates of Saudi Consulates and Arab Chamber of Commerce**

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