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Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report outlines the most important information that importers/exporters need to pay attention to when managing food and agricultural products to and from Mozambique. It contains information from the government authorities who oversee import/export of food commodities and agricultural inputs, such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Trade & Industry, Economy & Finance, and Health, as well as subordinated agencies of these institutions. The report summarizes Mozambique general food laws, regulatory authorities, major import/export procedures, food and packaging/labeling regulations, registration measures, and other trade facilitation measures. At the end, it provides major government regulatory agencies contacts, and a list of useful local public and private sector contacts for additional technical product-specific information and import assistance.

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All the sections of this Report have been updated based on recent regulation amendments, updated website links and to comply with the updated FAS reporting instructions. The report includes an assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imported into Mozambique.

This report was prepared by the USDA - Foreign Agricultural Services in Maputo, Mozambique 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 customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any products are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to

the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

Executive Summary

Mozambique is currently a net importer of agricultural products and relies heavily on South Africa, Europe, China, India, and the United States for much of its food and other agricultural import needs. Major U.S. exports are wheat, soybean oil, and poultry and meat products (excluding eggs). U.S. imports include tree nuts, raw beet and cane sugar, and tobacco.

Despite low average tariffs and relatively stable and predictable formal trade regulations, Mozambique's inefficient customs procedures hinder trade. The United States concluded a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with Mozambique in 2005. The latest TIFA meeting was held in January 2012. Mozambique was a signatory of the Continental Africa Free Trade Area (CFTA) at the African Union's March 2018 Summit in Kigali but has yet to ratify the agreement. Mozambique is a member of the World Trade Organization and the Southern African Development Community. Mozambique is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Information on various sectors of the Mozambican market is available from the FAS Attaché Reports web site at www.fas.usda.gov.

Country Overview

In April 2020, Mozambique created the External Trade Portal site (<http://portalcomercioexterno.gov.mz/pt>), where importers/exporters may obtain useful information regarding trade with Mozambique. The portal contains info from different government and non-government institutions that support trade. Information in this portal includes import/export and transit goods procedures, including required forms, import taxes, agreements, and/or preferential markets agreements.

The Mozambique Minister of Trade and Industry stated that "The External Trade Portal is a key public instrument for both government and private sector that is in line with transparency and information access in general. The portal will be useful for legislators and policy makers, who will identify the complexity of actual procedures when applied for imported goods and suggest reforms". Post expects that as of April 2020, access to information eased import/export procedures and reduced time spent in other consultations.

Section I: General Food Laws

Mozambican food and agricultural import regulations and standards are developed and administered by three government ministries: Agriculture & Rural Development, Trade & Industry, and Health. Under these ministries, other agencies directly involved in food and agricultural imports include the National Institute for Normalization and Quality, and the Mozambique Revenue Authority.

Mozambique requires companies associated with the food value chain to ensure that processes are implemented to reduce the health risk to consumers by implementing food safety management systems. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is primarily responsible for domestic food regulations, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MIC) is responsible for implementing import regulations. The MIC delegates many of the responsibilities associated with food imports to the National Institute for Normalization and Quality (Instituto Nacional de Normalização e Qualidade - INNOQ). Mozambique is member of the WTO. Mozambique major food laws include the Decree 9/2016 on Food Fortification, and the Decree 6/2009 Pesticides Management regulation (Portuguese), <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/moz155275.pdf>.

Regulatory Authorities

Table 1: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Division/Directorate	Summary
Veterinary Services Department (DNV)	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate policy and manage risks in the import and export of animals and animal products • Issue licenses to import animals and animal products
National Seed Service (SNS)	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate policy and manage risks in the import and export of seeds • Issue licenses to import planting seeds
National Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry Services	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate policy and manage risks in the import and export of vegetable products (plants and their derivatives) for food, ornamentation, processing and / or propagation. • Issue licenses to import plants and plant products
Codex Alimentarius Office	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Contact Point for the Codex Alimentarius National Commission along with the Ministry of Commerce

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Table 2: Ministry of Trade and Industry

Division/Agency	Summary
Multiple Departments	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate interagency formulation and implementation of trade policy • Manage all commercial activities, including issuing import licenses for agriculture, food, and non-food products • Ensure the implementation of SPS measures • Develop and implement quality control standards • Ensure compliance with obligations under the WTO and other international trade organizations

Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry

The National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ) is a public institute with a national scope and is supervised by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The fundamental objective of this organization is to implement the National Quality Policy. This policy ensures that standardization, methodologies, certifications and quality management activities for agriculture and food products are implemented.

Table 3: National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ)

Division/Agency	Summary
INNOQ Multiple Departments	<p><u>Key responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for overall standards in Mozambique • Announce notifications presented by WTO country members • Notifies WTO on Mozambique trade regulations • Analyze trade barriers

Source: INNOQ

Section II: Labeling Requirements

Labeling requirements for foodstuffs are developed by the INNOQ (National Institute for Normalization and Standards). Additional information regarding labeling requirements can be found by clicking on the following link, in Portuguese, www.innoq.gov.mz.

Mozambique requires “Formal Labeling Tests”, aimed at ensuring labeling compliance, such as:

- Information on net quantity in legal unities and alphanumeric sizes (NM 15).
- Product identification.
- Identification of the product name, physical address, and the product owner.

The National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ), is the legal entity that can conduct labeling tests on request by importers, or National Economic Activities Directorate (INAE).

The Decree-Law 2/2010, of December 31, 2010 established the rules of measurement and specifies that all the information on the labels of any pre-measured product sold in the country must be in Portuguese. Pre-packaged foodstuffs with labels in foreign languages must also contain translations into Portuguese. Perishable pre-packaged food must contain instructions for its storage, use, date of manufacture and expiration date. Fortified foodstuffs must contain information regarding the chemical composition and must bear the fortification seal. The labelling of fortified foodstuffs shall be in accordance with the provisions of the following Mozambican Standards:

1. NM 15 for the General Requirements for Labelling of Pre-packaged Products.
2. NM 80 for Tolerance Allowed for Pre-Measured Products.

The label and any changes it may incur will need to be discussed with the Ministry of Health and to the INNOQ for approval.

The labels of packaged foods and beverages must show the following information in legible characters and must be in Portuguese:

- Name or brand of the product.
- Name or business name of the producer.
- The headquarters of the producing company.
- Production facilities.
- Nutritional content.
- Ingredients list in descending order of quantities present, by weight or volume.
- Additives list.
- Net weight contained in the package.
- Identification of “artificial colors”, in case of foodstuffs subject to dying or any treatment.
- Date of manufacture.
- Period of validity for human consumption; and

- Lot number.

Any specific names on the label needs to be accompanied by the corresponding common name. The Ministry of Health can indicate and publish the list of foodstuffs which do not need to indicate the date of manufacture and or period of validity. Pre-packaged foodstuffs with labels in a foreign language also need to contain their total or partial translation into Portuguese. Perishable pre-packaged food shall contain on its label, the instructions for storage, use, date of manufacture and expire date.

Alcohol

Alcohol for consumption must have the following phrase clearly written in capital letters on all labels: “The sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages to persons under 18 years of age is prohibited”. All warning messages on containers labels for alcoholic beverages shall be broad, clear, legible and in capital letters, and state the alcoholic content of the drink.

Each label needs to be in Portuguese and have product information on the ingredients and the health effects from the abuse of alcoholic beverages. Pre-measured foods and beverages with labeling problems may be subject to sanctioning. This measure is aimed at bringing commerce into line with legislation and minimizing public health problems.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

Packages for pre-measured products must contain clear and explicit information on the quantity expressed in Legal Units of Measure. Products that are pre-measured in units of mass shall indicate the net quantity, excluding the weight of the packaging. The inclusion of any product other than the product for which the package was intended, is not permitted. There is a broad array of legislation pertaining to the marking, labeling, and packaging that are classified in foodstuffs, alcohol and cigarettes, and general/non foodstuffs, each of them with their respective regulatory decrees.

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

Mozambique food legislation is covered by the Ministry of Health and includes food safety guidance on food additives (100/87), pesticides regulation (88/87), imported foods (80/87), food hygiene, and others. The decree 9/2016 <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/moz155275.pdf> (Portuguese) establishes processed food fortification, with industrial micronutrients, import of processed foods, as well as sanctions applied for violators.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry share responsibility for regulations pertaining to food additives and they are guided by International Codex Alimentarius standards.

CODEX maximum residue limits (MRLs) are recognized and accepted for imported foodstuffs in Mozambique and the regulation is enforced by the National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ).

Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

The scope of pesticide/contaminant is regulated by the Decree 45/2004 of 29 of September, on production, packaging, labelling and storage of pesticide and contaminant. Pesticides must be registered through a specific board called RRCA (Agro-chemical registration board).

The ministerial diploma 153/2002 of the 11th of September 2002 creates the juridical/administrative regime for pesticides registration, defines technical guidance, and clarifies the role of different official entities that regulate pesticides management. Pesticides registration follows universal rules in relation to product identification, including the manufacturer and the authorized seller, and its physical characteristics (chemical, toxicological, environmental, and agronomical). Through the registration, precautions are defined to explain the following: defense of applicants, consumers, environment, as well as the application indicators. Pesticides registration can only be done by companies that are legally established in Mozambique and with authorization by the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Agriculture and Rural Development, Land and Environment, and Health.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development requires that the import of any kind of plant and animal product be approved by the respective National Directorates of Agriculture and Forests and Veterinary services (Decree34/2016, of August 24, 2016). United States facilities are required to be registered and certified with the National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ) and National Institute of Economic Activities (INAE).

The Decree 49/2004 of 17th of November regulates the general processes facilities to be registered. The exporter must provide name, age, nationality, place of birth, residence, ID number, date, and place of issue, if they are a private individual. If it is a company, the exporter needs to provide its official denomination, its public registration details, full address, and the full name of its representative.

Subject to audits/inspections, the major documents required are:

- (i) Request for commercial activities registration.
- (ii) Plan of the facilities for commercial activity.
- (iii) Public registration of the social pact published in the Republic Bulletin.
- (iv) Rental contract of the facility; and
- (v) Proof of fiscal registration obtained from the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Once issued, the registration lasts:

- (i) One year, for individual importer/exporter, counted from the date of issue of the respective card; and
- (ii) Five years for private companies.

Relevant documentation includes importer/exporter form, importer/exporter, and exporter/importer card. Importers must be licensed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. No import taxes, aside from

tariffs and VAT, are imposed, except on sugar and some luxury items. Pre-shipment inspections are mandatory for all import products. All food, animal and plant products entering the country are subject to registration with local authorities. Depending of the type of each product, different bodies may be consulted, as per appendixes below. Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements exist in legislation for the importation of foodstuffs and plant materials, but rarely enforced in practice.

The 'Documento Unico Certificado' (DUC) was introduced, which is one single document containing all the necessary information for customs and other stakeholders in the import process. In 2014 further progress in import procedures was made by the electronic single-window system 'Janela Única Electrónica' (JUE), including not only trade information but also is the interface for financial control to clearance agents, sellers, buyers, and customs. There exists a so-called 'positive list' of products that require Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI).

Taxes Besides customs duties imported products are also subject to Value Added Tax (VAT) and the Specific Consumption Tax (Imposto sobre Consumos Específicos; ICE). The VAT is a single rate set at 17%, whereas ICE is between 15% and 75%, and issued to product subgroups. Food is not addressed in this kind of tax. To protect some of the domestic agricultural production some products are zero-rated: cornmeal, rice, bread, powdered milk for nursing mothers, wheat and wheat flour, tomatoes, horse mackerel, animal feed rations and sugarcane production inputs.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Mozambique follows and implements international food safety management standards (ISO).

Vitamin-Enrichment Requirements; Dietetic or Special Use Foods; Halal / Kosher; Food Sanitation Laws/Guidelines

In 2016, Mozambique launched Policy-Decree No. 9/16 (<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en/node/23876>). This Decree approves the Regulation for Food Fortification with Industrially Processed Micronutrients. This Regulation provides for the rules for implementing the mandatory addition of micronutrients in food, particularly in wheat flour, maize flour, edible oil, sugar, and salt produced, marketed, and imported in accordance with the Mozambican Standards (NM). Economic operators who import, produce, and sell such fortified food, throughout the national territory, must comply with the rules on fortification, labelling and use. Offences and penalties for illegal activities are specified in the text.

The decree introduced mandatory fortification of flour, and corn meal (with iron, folic acid, zinc, and vitamin B12), cooking oil and sugar (with Vitamin A), and salt (with iodine), following legislation designated to combat malnutrition. Flour is optionally fortified with vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamin B6. Details can be found at

<https://www.nutraingredients.com/Article/2016/07/21/Landmark-law-Mozambique-brings-in-mandatory-food-fortification>.

Section VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

The Mozambique Industrial Property Institute (IPI) regulates and implements the copyright and trademark laws in Mozambique, through the newly updated Decree-law No. 1/2018 of May 4, which supersedes the Commercial Code (Cod.Com) of 2005.

The newly updated decree establishes the special regimes of copyright and mandatory obligations related to industrial property, the copyrights of inventions, utility models and trademark registration, industrial designs, logos, commercial names, denomination of origin, geographic indications, etc. Industrial property covers all market, services, agro-industry, forestry, fishery, food, construction, and extractive industries.

Mozambique is part of the International Union for Industrial Property Protection, as per the Paris Convention of March 20, 1883. More details can be found at www.ipi.gov.mz.

Section IX: Import Procedures

Mozambique is a member of the World Customs Organization and does comply with the harmonized customs system. Some documents are required to import in Mozambique:

1. Import license
2. Commercial invoice
3. Packing list
4. Bill of Entry
5. Certificate of Origin
6. Transport document (road manifest, AWB or Bill of Lading).
7. Cargo release order
8. Delivery order
9. Inspection report
10. Payment receipts

No import taxes, aside from tariffs and VAT, are imposed, except on sugar and some luxury items. All importers must be licensed by the National Directorate of Trade, which is part of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Registration is straightforward and has not been used as a non-tariff barrier. There are no specific procedures for samples shipments. Sample shipments require the same set of documents as a normal shipment. The value of goods should still appear on the commercial invoice indicating "for customs clearance purpose only" on the invoice. Zero value invoices are not acceptable. Pre-shipment inspections are mandatory for all imports. The importation of live animals (other than domestic pets) requires veterinary certificates. Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements exist in legislation for the importation of foodstuffs and plant materials but are rarely enforced in practice. Special import permits, and licenses are necessary for pharmaceuticals, firearms, munitions, and explosives.

Regulated goods (known as the Positive List) may be subject to pre-shipment inspection in the country of export before they are allowed into Mozambique. Goods on the Positive List must comply with import regulations and must be accompanied by a Documento Unico Certificado (DUC).

Mozambique’s “Positive List” includes the goods indicated below, these are subject to compulsory Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI). Where the tariff code is indicated, all goods contained there are subject to PSI.

Positive List

Chapter & Tariff Code Position	Exclusion from PSI
Chapter 2 PP 02.07.12; 02.07.14; 02.07.25; 02.07.27; 02.07.33; 02.07.36. – Frozen meat and edible parts of poultry 01.05	None
Chapter 11 PP 11.02 - Flour	Quantities up to 20 kgs
Chapter 15 PP 15.07; 15.08; 15.11; 15.12; 15.13; 15.15 – Cooking Oil	Quantities up to 20 liters
Chapter 25 PP 25.23 - Cement	Quantities up to 100 kgs
Chapter 28 Chemical products	None
Chapter 29 Chemical products	None
Chapter 30 Pharmaceutical products under HS codes: 30.01; 30.02; 30.03; 30.04; 30.05 and 30.06	Quantities for personal use
Chapter 36 PP 36.05 – matches	None
Chapter 40 PP 40.11; 40.12 – New tires and used tires	Quantities up to 5 tires
Chapter 87 Vehicles - 87.01, 87.05, 87.11	New vehicles that have never been registered in the country of manufacture

Source: <http://www.at.gov.mz/por/Comercio-Internacional/Procedimentos-Aduaneiros/Lista-Positiva>

- Agricultural products associated with the positive list cover the following categories: Food and live animals.
- Meat and meat preparations.
- Dairy products and birds’ eggs.
- Fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and preparations thereof.
- Cereals and cereal preparations.
- Vegetables and fruits.
- Sugar, sugar preparations and honey.

- Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof.
- Feedstuff for animals (excluding unmilled cereals); and
- Miscellaneous edible products and preparations.

Additional import requirements and details can be obtained through government official channels on appendix I below.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Two multilateral agreements establish Mozambique best practices on trade facilitation: The Revised Kyoto Convention of the World Revenue Organization, which the country adhered to in 2012, and the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement that Mozambique ratified in 2016.

Mozambique uses the electronic revenue platform added to the Electronic Single Window (JUE), which aims to accelerate evaluations for imported goods. <http://tfig.unece.org/cases/Mozambique.pdf>

The imported goods database, called “eValuator,” will facilitate trade by reducing time spent in disputes on the value of goods.

All procedures established by import and export modules are in line with best international practices. The declaration processes of import/export, followed by payments, subsequent verification, and risk management are normalized and supported by best practices of the World Revenue Organization, as well as the required documentation. The average release time is 24 hours, with delays that vary from 24 to 48 hours, depending on mode of transport (sea, air, or land).

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MIC)

Av. Praça 25 de Junho, 300

Tel: +258 21343500

Fax: +258 21352669

E-mail: mic@gov.mz

www.mic.gov.mz

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER)

Praça dos Heróis Moçambicanos

Tel: +258 21468200 +258 0000000

Fax: +258 214874121

E-mail: geral@agricultura.gov.mz

www.agricultura.gov.mz

National Institute for Normalization and Quality (INNOQ)

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Maputo - Moçambique

Fixed line: +25821344600

Fax: +25821344610

Mobile: +258 82 4756985

Email: info@innoq.gov

www.innoq.gov.mz

Instituto de Propriedade Industrial (IPI)

R. Consiglieri Pedroso, 165

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Tel: +251 21354900

Fax: +258 21354944

E-mail: ipi@ipi.gov.mz

www.ipi.gov.mz

Maputo-Mozambique

Mozambique Revenue Authority

<http://www.at.gov.mz/Tabelas-de-Requisitos/Importador-Exportador>

<http://www.at.gov.mz/por/Media/Files/Importacao-de-Carga-Geral>

<http://www.at.gov.mz/por/Media/Files-1/Importacao-Pre-Embarque/Lista-Positiva>

<http://www.at.gov.mz/por/Perguntas-Frequentes2/Procedimento-de-Importacao-e-Exportacao>

http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/members/detail/faolex/en/?country_iso3=MOZ

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

Office of the Agricultural Affairs (FAS Maputo)

U.S. Embassy Maputo

Av. Kenneth Kaunda, 193

Tel: (+258) 21492797 ext. 3016

E-mail: Almeida.Zacarias@fas.usda.gov

Office of the Agricultural Affairs (FAS Pretoria)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria

877 Pretorius Street

Pretoria, South Africa 0001

Tel: (+27) 12-431-4057

Fax: (+27) 12-342-2264

E-mail: agPretoria@fas.usda.gov

www.fas.usda.gov

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria

877 Pretorius Street

Pretoria, South Africa 0001

Tel: (+27) 12-431-4711

www.aphis.usda.gov

Attachments

Prohibited Imports

1	Counterfeit merchandise, books and works of art
2	Objects, photographs, albums, recordings or images and film of a pornographic nature or other materials that are judged offensive to the public

3	Medication and food products harmful to public health
4	Food products that are harmful to public health that cannot be used for other purposes, like animal feed, or compost.
5	Distilled alcoholic drinks that contain essences or chemical products recognized as harmful such as: Aldeido Benzoico, Badia, Eteres silicitos, Hissopo e Tulinana
6	Hallucinatory and psychiatric substances (recreational/Illegal drugs), except when imported for hospital use
7	Certain gases as specified below: - Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) - Halogens (Halon 1211, Halon 1301 and Halon 2402) - Carbon Tetrachloride of Carbon (CCL4) - Other substances banned as per the Montreal Protocol as regards substances that destroy the ozone layer as ratified by Resolution No. 8/93 of the 8th December
8	Vehicles where the driver is sitting on the left-hand side that are used for commercial purposes. 'Commercial purposes' has been defined as: - sale or resale to third parties - use in transport which generates income - use in support of income

Source: <http://www.at.gov.mz/por/Comercio-Internacional/Procedimentos-Aduaneiros/Mercadoria-Proibida-a-Importacao>

Attachments:

No Attachments