

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** New Regulation Requires Registration for Exporters of Tree Nuts and Other Products to Turkey

**Country:** Turkey

**Post:** Ankara

**Report Category:** Oilseeds and Products, Planting Seeds, Tree Nuts, Vegetables, FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

As part of a new regulation to track certain agricultural and food commodity imports, including tree nuts, Turkey's Ministry of Trade requires importers of these commodities to register each import shipment with a monitoring center. Importers must also provide certifications about the authenticity of exporters with whom they conduct business. These certifications require exporters to initially submit a form with basic business and tax identification information to a local chamber of commerce or other business group entity AND to the nearest Turkish Consulate in the United States for certification. After receiving this one-time physical certification, exporters can use an online system to add or update the names of their Turkish business partners and renew their yearly certification. The regulation goes into effect on May 8, 2020.

## **Disclaimer**

Please note that 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 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.

## **New Regulation Requires Registration for Exporters of Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Sunflower Seeds, Tea, Bananas, and Peppers to Turkey**

On March 24, 2020, the Turkish Ministry of Trade published Notification Number 31078 in the Official Gazette of Turkey, announcing new surveillance of imports of certain agricultural and food commodities to be partly accomplished through an exporter registration system. This requirement will apply to foreign exporters of commodities including tree nuts (almonds, walnuts, and cashews), peanuts, sunflower seeds, sunflower seed oil and other related products, tea, certain types of peppers, bananas, garlic, and several other products. Please see Annex I below for the complete list of items, including product descriptions and tariff codes.

The stated purpose of this regulation is to obtain more accurate reference prices for certain commodities and to combat illegal trade in these goods. Although officially these requirements go into effect on May 8, 2020, many importers are already asking their exporter partners to complete the required paperwork in order to avoid any possible delay of shipments at the Turkish border.

According to the notification (please see Annex I below for the unofficial English translation), importers of the listed commodities must register their transactions and their partner exporter companies with one of 12 regional exporters' unions in Turkey, which function as registration centers. As part of the importer's application, certain information is required from the partner exporter. This information must initially be provided with hard copy certifications by a local Chamber of Commerce (or other industry group) AND a Turkish Consulate in the United States within 60 days of an exporter's first transaction with a Turkish importer. A blank copy of the Exporter Registration Form is provided in Annex II.

Exporters should also register online in the eBirlik system, available at <http://ithalat.ebirlik.org/impws/index.jsp>. After initial approval involving the importer

registering the exporter with the registration center in Turkey, exporters can continue to add additional Turkish import partners using this electronic system and annually renew their registrations via the eBirlik system, both without further additional physical certification. A step-by-step guide of how to register, initially set up an account in the system, and re-certify after 1 year is available online at [https://ithalat.ebirlik.org/impws/Exporter\\_Registry\\_Form\\_Guide\\_Book.pdf](https://ithalat.ebirlik.org/impws/Exporter_Registry_Form_Guide_Book.pdf).

#### Exporter Registration Procedure:

1) Exporters should fill out the Exporter Registration Form. The form can be found in Annex II below or can be downloaded from the internet at:

<https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/03/20200324-6-1.pdf>. Please note that business confidential information, such as number of employees and number of sales, is optional.

2) The Exporter Registration Form must then be authenticated (signed and sealed) by a local competent authority, such as the exporter's local Chamber of Commerce, or other competent authority, defined in the Turkish regulation as "legal entities, authorized to approve the genuineness of signatures and seals appearing on documents."

3) The Exporter Registration Form must be officially approved by a Turkish official located in a Turkish Consulate in the United States. Exporters can bring or send their registration to the nearest Turkish Consular Services location. There are seven Turkish Consulates in the United States, located in Washington D.C., Boston, New York, Miami, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles. For a list of consulates and relevant contact information, please visit this website <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa> and click on "United States of America." The approval should be processed within 3 days.

When sending the registration form, exporters should include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope or a courier airway bill with company address and account number in order to receive the approved form from the Turkish Consulate. The Turkish Consulates recommend using USPS Express Mail, or a private shipping company to ensure timely receipt of the authenticated form. The minimum processing fee per document is \$20; however, exporters are advised to contact the applicable Turkish Consulate and confirm the current fee. Payments can be made by cash, company check (personal checks are not accepted), or money order, made payable to "Turkish Consulate General."

4) The completed and authenticated form should be sent to the importing partner in Turkey, who will submit the form with other required documents to the regional registration center. The Exporter Registration Form is valid for one calendar year. However, the physical certification process is only required upon initial registration in the Turkish system. Re-approvals can be submitted and approved electronically through the eBirlik system. For more information about the eBirlik system, please refer to the instructions in the guide

available at: "[https://ithalat.ebirlik.org/impws/Exporter\\_Registry\\_Form\\_Guide\\_Book.pdf](https://ithalat.ebirlik.org/impws/Exporter_Registry_Form_Guide_Book.pdf)"  
For questions or additional information, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs,  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey at (011-90-312) 468-6129 or [AgAnkara@usda.gov](mailto:AgAnkara@usda.gov)

**Annex I: Communiqué on Surveillance in Import (Unofficial English Translation) and List of Applicable Products**

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Official Gazette Number 31078

NOTIFICATION From the Ministry of Trade:

**COMMUNIQUE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SURVEILLANCE IN IMPORT  
(COMMUNIQUE NO: 2020/3)**

**Scope**

ARTICLE 1 - (1) This Communiqué; The customs tariff position (G.T.P.) in Annex I includes the procedures and principles regarding the future monitoring of the imports of the products specified.

**Recording**

ARTICLE 2 - (1) Importers who want to import the products specified in Article 1 shall register the information regarding their import to the registration centers authorized by the Ministry of Trade and listed in Annex II before import. A Registration Document is issued stating that the import transaction has been registered.

**Imports**

ARTICLE 3 - (1) Regarding the registration of the customs declarations for the free circulation of the products to be registered, the Registration Document specified in Article 2 or its electronic record is submitted to the relevant customs administration by the importer, without making any distinction of origin.

**Application**

ARTICLE 4 - (1) In order for the applications related to the Registration Document requests to be evaluated, the Registration Document application form in Annex III must be filled in a complete and duly manner and sent to one of the registration centers together with the documents attached to this form. If necessary, additional information and documents may be requested.

**Finalization of the application**

ARTICLE 5 - (1) Applications for the Registration Certificate made in full and duly are finalized within 10 (ten) business days at the latest.

(2) If it is determined that the declaration made is contrary to the truth and there is an inconsistency in the information and documents presented in the applications, or if there is a serious suspicion in this direction, the Registration Document is not issued until these issues are clarified. Applications of this nature are transferred to the registration center coordinator by the registration center for evaluation.

#### Information on the Registration Document and the use of the Registration Document

ARTICLE 6 - (1) Validity of Registration Documents is 45 (forty-five) days. A Registration Document cannot be used for more than one declaration and its duration cannot be extended.

(2) Registration Document does not prevent the implementation of the provisions of the Customs Law No. 4458 dated 27/10/1999 regarding the customs value of the goods and does not replace the documents required to be obtained under other legislation.

(3) When the customs declaration is registered, the value or amount determined and accepted by the customs exceeding the value or amount registered in the Registration Document by less than 5% (including 5%) does not prevent the import.

(4) Registration Document cannot be transferred to third parties.

#### Agricultural Monitoring Committee

ARTICLE 7 - (1) Communiqué on the Implementation of Supervision in Imports published in the Official Gazette dated 4/6/2013 and numbered 28667 regarding the quality, origin, value and similar features of the article under the scope of this Communiqué, and other works and procedures related to the registration of its imports. No: 2013/9), the Agriculture Monitoring Committee (Committee), which was previously established, makes recommendations and suggestions to the Ministry of Trade, General Directorate of Imports (General Directorate).

#### Agricultural Monitoring Committee Notifications abrogated

ARTICLE 8 - (1) The following communiqués have been repealed:

a) Communiqué on the Implementation of Surveillance in Imports published in the Official Gazette No. 25744 dated 3/3/2005 (Communiqué No: 2005/5).

b) Communiqué on Implementation of Surveillance in Imports published in the Official Gazette No. 25828 dated 28/5/2005 (Communiqué No: 2005/8).

c) Communiqué on the Implementation of Surveillance in Imports published in the Official Gazette dated 7/1/2006 and numbered 26046 (Communiqué No: 2006/1).

ç) Communiqué on Implementation of Surveillance in Imports published in the Official Gazette No. 27289 dated 15/7/2009 (Communiqué No: 2009/8).

d) Communiqué on the Implementation of Surveillance in Imports published in the Official Gazette dated 16/3/2013 and numbered 28589 (Communiqué No: 2013/2).

e) Communiqué on the Implementation of Supervision in Imports published in the Official Gazette No. 30029 dated 5/4/2017 (Communiqué No: 2017/4).

#### Force

ARTICLE 9 - (1) This Communiqué enters into force on the 45th day following the publication date.

#### Executive

ARTICLE 10 - (1) The provisions of this Communiqué are executed by the Minister of Trade.

#### List of Applicable Goods

(Turkish Customs) Tariff Code	Product Definition
0703.20	Garlic
0712.90.90.00.11	Garlic
0801.31.00.00.00	Cashew nuts – in shell
0801.32.00.00.00	Cashew nuts - shelled
0802.11	Almonds – in shell
0802.12	Almonds - shelled
0802.31.00.00.00	Walnuts – in shell
0802.32.00.00.00	Walnuts - shelled
0803	Bananas and plantains – fresh and dried
0902.10.00.00.00	0902.10.00.00.00 Green tea (not fermented) in immediate packings of a content not exceeding 3kg
0902.20.00.00.00	Other green tea (not fermented)
0902.30.00.00.00	Black tea (fermented) and partly fermented tea in immediate packings of a content not

	exceeding 3kg
0902.40.00.00.00	Other black tea (fermented) and other partly fermented tea
0903.00.00.00.00	Maté
0904.21.10.00.00	Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried neither crushed nor ground: Sweet peppers
0904.21.90.00.11	Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried neither crushed nor ground: Red peppers
0904.22.00.00.11	Of the genus Pimenta, crushed or ground: Red peppers
1202.30.00.00.00	Peanuts (ground-nuts), not roasted or otherwise cooked, whether or not shelled or broken: seed
1202.41.00.00.00	Peanuts: other, in-shell
1202.42.00.00.00	Peanuts: shelled, whether or not broken
1204.00.90.00.00	Flaxseed (linseed), whether or not broken: other
1205.10.90.00.00	Low erucic acid rape or colza seeds: other
1206.00.91.00.11	Sunflower seeds, whether or not broken: other, confectionary seeds
1206.00.99.00.11	Sunflower seeds, whether or not broken: other, confectionary seeds
1206.00.91.00.19	Sunflower seeds, whether or not broken: other
1206.00.99.00.19	Sunflower seeds, whether or not broken: other
1207.60.00.00.00	Safflower seeds
1208.90.00.00.11	Flours or meals of oilseeds: other, sunflower seed flour and coarse meal
1512.11.91.00.00	Sunflower seed oil: crude
1512.19.90.00.11	Sunflower seed oil: other
2008.11	Peanuts (ground-nuts), prepared or preserved (peanut butter)



**Annex II**

<b>EXPORTER REGISTRY FORM</b>			
Legal Title*			
Business Title**			
Address*** 1. Line			
Address 2. Line			
Address 3. Line			
City			
State/Province/Region			
ZIP			
Country			
Phone Number			
Fax Number			
URL			
E-mail			
Tax Authority			
Tax Registry Number			
Number of Employee (Yearly average)			
Total Sales in USD (last year)			
Year of Establishment			
Legal (Corporate) Status			
International quality certificates owned and their registry numbers			
<b>Countries products are exported to</b>			
Export country(ies)		Product(s)	
<b>I hereby declare that the information presented above is correct and verifiable.</b>			
Name, surname and title in the company			
Company stamp and sign of the authorized person			

\*The title that company is registered to.

\*\*The title appears on invoice.

\*\*\*Legal address that headquarters is legally registered.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.