

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: PN2025-0007

Report Name: Panama Restricts Rice Imports

Country: Panama

Post: Panama City

Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

On July 31, President Mulino signed Executive Decree 14, which declares rice as a national security crop and shields Panama's rice producers from international competition. The decree effectively closes Panama's market to imported rice between June 1 and December 31, and establishes an import licensing system to control imports during the rest of the year. Specialty categories exempted from the decree include jasmine, basmati, and parboiled rice.

Policy Summary

Executive Decree 14 entered into force upon signature and effectively closes Panama’s rice market during the harvest and pre-harvest period, determined to extend from June 1 through December 31. During the remainder of the year imports are to be governed by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) through an import licensing system. The government of Panama has not provided details on the planned licensing system but has stated that allocations will be subject to local purchase requirements. The decree also outlines an advisory role for the association of local producers, stipulating that it will make recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture in deciding timing and volume of potential imports.

Affected HS Codes
1006.10.90.00.00
1006.30.10.00.10
1006.30.10.00.90
1006.30.90.00.00
1006.40.00.00.00

Background

The United States – Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) establishes a tariff rate quota system for U.S. rice exports to Panama. In 2025, 9,044 MT of rice may enter the market duty free, with an over quota duty of 54 percent and an over-safeguard rate of 90 percent applied after reaching the trigger of 11,757 MT. Panama’s rice quota and duties are scheduled to phase out in 2031.

Attachments:

[ED14 July 31 2025.pdf](#)