

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

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 4/11/2016

GAIN Report Number: TR6017

Turkey

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report for Turkey

Approved By:

Elizabeth Leonardi, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Nergiz Ozbag, Senior Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural products imports into Turkey. It was prepared by the Office of the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service in Ankara, Turkey for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. It should be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Certificate Report.

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 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.

Section I. Food Laws:

The main target of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize the related laws and regulations with the European Union (EU) *acquis communautaire*. In the scope of EU harmonization, the Turkish Government issued a Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed on June 13, 2010 with the objective of protecting and ensuring public health, food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health and consumer interests taking into consideration environmental protection. In the past, veterinary services, phytosanitary, food and feed policies were covered by separate laws and regulations. Unlike the old bills, Law 5996 covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of food, materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and feed, controls of residues of plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and other residues and contaminants, control of epidemic or contagious animal diseases and harmful organisms in plants and plant products, welfare of farm and experimental animals and pet animals, feeding of animals, animal health and plant protection products, veterinary and plant health services, entry and exit procedures of live animals and products to country as well as related official controls and sanctions.

The Law gives authority for the principles and procedures relating to the production, packaging, sale, import, and export of spring water, drinking water, natural mineral water and water for medical purposes and the principles and procedures relating to compliance with technical and hygienic rules, ensuring fulfillment of quality standards and monitoring and control of quality standards of potable and utility water to Ministry of Health (MoH). MoH is also responsible for the principles and procedures relating to the production, import, export, and control of dietary foods for special medical purposes.

For the implementation of Law no. 5996, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs was extensively reorganized by the Decree Law no. 639 under the name of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) in June 2011. Currently, MinFAL is the competent authority with regard to food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary issues in Turkey. Under MinFAL, the General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) is the most important ministerial structure for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies, adoption of legislation related to these policies, relevant official controls and inspections at all stages of processing, distribution and placing on the market as well as ensuring animal health and welfare. The GDFC is contact point for international organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Trade Organization (WTO), and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Another important law is Law no. 5977 on Biosafety, which was published in the Official Gazette on March 3, 2010. The objective of this Law is to establish and implement a biosafety system in order to

prevent the potential risks of the genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products thereof obtained through modern biotechnological means within the context of scientific and technological advancements; protect human, animal and plant health; safeguard and ensure the sustainable use of the environment and biological diversity and to determine the procedures and principles governing the control, regulation and monitoring of these activities. It governs all activities, including, but not limited to, the research, development, processing, placing on the market, monitoring, utilization, importation, exportation, transit, transportation, preservation, packaging, labeling and storage regarding GMOs and products thereof.

Veterinary medicinal products, human medicinal products and cosmetics which acquired license or got approval from the MoH do not come under the scope of the Biosafety Law. In the scope of this Law, the Biosafety Board was established in 2011. Since then, twenty five corn events and seven soybean events have been approved by the Biosafety Board for feed use only. Two of the twenty five approved corn events were suspended by the High Court in December 2013, then the Court reversed its decision in May 2015.

No traits have been approved for food use in Turkey. (For more information on Turkey's Biosafety Law, please refer to the FAS Turkey Biotechnology Annual GAIN Report, available from FAS's website.)

Enforcement of Turkish food and agriculture legislation is performed by 81 Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates (PAD) and 957 District Directorates (DD). The public laboratories of MinFAL, including 39 Provincial Food Control Laboratories, one National Food Reference Laboratory, one Bursa Food and Feed Control Central Research Institute Laboratory, nine Veterinary Control Institute Laboratories, eight Plant Quarantine Laboratories and Plant Protection Research Institute Laboratories, and 93 private food control laboratories are authorized and audited by MinFAL and are involved in the official control system. Auditing of directorates, districts and laboratories is performed by GDFC officials.

The legal infrastructure of agriculture is mainly based on regulations and/or communiqués and/or circulars rather than on laws. The reason for this is that the Turkish constitutional system does not allow laws to be adopted, amended or abolished easily. Therefore governments have traditionally preferred to publish regulations, communiqués, directives, or circulars, etc. The majority of the regulations on food and agricultural products are prepared and published by MinFAL. However, there are also regulations published by other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and the MoH. More than one hundred implementing regulations of Law no. 5996 has been published and enforced by MinFAL since 2011. The Turkish government rarely informs international bodies, such as the WTO, about possible or actual regulation changes. Exporters should be aware that there may be some variation among Provinces in applying legislation. This may be due to the lack of guidelines for the enforcement of rules in some cases. Most Turkish food and agriculture-related laws, regulations, communiqués, directives, and circulars are available in Turkish on the website of the GDFC <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Mevzuat.aspx> and a few are in English at <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/EN/Mevzuat.aspx?OgeId=14>

Section II. Food Additives Regulations:

The food additive section of the Turkish legislation is quite detailed and it was prepared in an effort to conform to EU regulations. The Revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives was published in the Official Gazette on 06/30/2013 and amended once on 11/24/2014.

The Regulation specifies general conditions for inclusion and use of food additives in the list. It sets the food additive functional groups, names of food additives, defines the food categories, and lists maximum amounts and conditions of additives allowed in defined food categories, as well as exceptions and restrictions. It also lists food items in which food additives are not allowed to be used, and lists certain food additives which are not allowed to be used for certain traditional foods, such as fermented sucuk (traditional spicy beef sausage), heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner, döner and köfte, pastırma, pekmez, pide, bazlama and ciğ köfte. For example E-620-625: Glutamic acid-glutamates and E-626-635: Ribonucleotides, which have the function of flavor enhancing, are prohibited to use in fermented pastırma, sucuk, heat treated sucuk, poultry döner and köfte. MinFAL states that the reason of this prohibition is to protect the traditionalism of these products and protect unnecessary usage of additives. In addition, nitrates are banned in fermented sucuk and pastırma, as well as in döner and köfte. MinFAL states that the aim of this prohibition is to prevent the additives used except for technological necessities. The Regulation is available [here](#) in Turkish language.

Section III. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides was published in the Official Gazette no. 29099 dated 08/25/2014. The Regulation is applied to foodstuffs of plant and animal origin to be used as fresh, processed and/or composite food in or on which pesticide residues may be present. It does not apply to the manufacture of products other than food, or sowing or planting, or activities authorized by national law for the testing of active substances. The Regulation sets the categories of foods, such fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, oilseeds, cereals, animal-origin foods such as meat, egg, honey, fish etc. of which maximum residue limits (MRLs) are applicable for. It also lists the MRLs of pesticides in Annex-2 (acceptable maximum residue limits of pesticides used only in Turkey) and Annex-3 (maximum residue limits of pesticides used in EU) and sets the list of the pesticides not used or prohibited in Turkey. The Regulation is updated occasionally by MinFAL.

Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Pharmacologically Active Substances and Their Classification Regarding Maximum Residue Limits in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin was published in the Official Gazette no. 28282 dated 05/04/2012 and amended three times on 7/26/2013, 10/25/2015 and 2/15/2016. Pharmacologically active substances and their classifications regarding maximum residue limits are set in the Regulation.

Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Contaminants was published in the Official Gazette no. 28157, dated 12/29/2011, and amended once on 12/19/2012. It sets the maximum levels of the certain contaminants (nitrates, mycotoxins, heavy metals, 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD), dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and erucic acid) in foodstuffs.

All these three Regulations were prepared by the MinFAL in the scope of harmonization to EU, however, there are differences from EU in the Regulations. The Turkish Food Law maintains provisions

for regulators to refer to the Codex Alimentarius or EU Directives if the pesticides, contaminants or pharmacologically active substances are not contained in the Turkish Food Codex. The Regulations are accessible at <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Mevzuat> in Turkish language.

Section IV. Packaging and Container Regulations:

The framework Regulation Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food was published on the Official Gazette no 28157 dated 12/29/2011 and it was amended twice on 08/03/2012 and 08/16/2014. This regulation is applied to materials and articles, including active and smart packaging materials/food contact materials and articles, which in their finished state;

- are intended to be brought into contact with food;
- are already in contact with food;
- can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use and were intended for that purpose;

This Regulation is not applied to materials and articles which are supplied as antiques, covering or coating materials, such as the materials covering cheese rinds, prepared meat products or fruits, which form part of the food and may be consumed together with this food and fixed public or private water supply equipment.

The Regulation sets the general and specific requirements for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and specific requirements for active and intelligent food contact materials and articles and labeling of these.

Under the framework Regulation, there are specific Communiques for materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film, ceramic articles and plastic materials and articles which set the specific rules for these materials and articles. These regulations are available at website <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Mevzuat.aspx> in Turkish language.

Section V. Labeling Requirements:

General Requirements

The communiqué regulating the packaging and labeling of foods was published on August 25, 2002. This communiqué was prepared within the framework of harmonization with the EU Directive on the Labeling, Presentation and Advertising of Foodstuffs, Directive on Nutrition Labeling of Foodstuffs, and Directive on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the ranges of nominal quantities and nominal capacities permitted for certain prepackaged products. It was amended once in 2004 and twice in 2006.

On December 29, 2011, the GDFC published a new Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Labeling in the Official Gazette. It was prepared parallel to relevant EU Directives and Regulations and amended four times since it was published. The Regulation sets the rules for the labelling of foods to be delivered as

such to the consumer and certain aspects relating to its presentation and advertising. Nutritional and health claims are also involved in the scope of this Regulation.

According to the Regulation, labels should not mislead the consumer by suggesting that the food possesses special characteristics when in fact all similar food possesses such characteristics and by attributing to the food effects or properties which it does not possess. Statements, signs or pictures should not be on labels which mean or imply that food has the property of preventing, treating or curing a human disease. The importer is responsible for the imported food product's labeling.

An imported food item may arrive in its original package, but a permanent "sticker" label, in Turkish, must be attached to the package before it is marketed. Each food has to be labeled clearly, completely and accurately in Turkish language before placing on the market. Other languages in addition to Turkish may also appear on the label. Labeling requirements are enforced by PAD and DD (provincial and district directorates) officials. Turkish authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations. The standard U.S label does not comply with Turkish labeling requirements.

Compulsory Information:

The compulsory information must appear on the packaging or on a label attached to it. The information must be marked in such a way that it is easily visible, clearly legible and indelible. The following information is compulsory on labels of foods for those domestic and imported:

- (1) The name under which the product is sold,
- (2) The list of ingredients, in descending order of weight,
- (3) Allergenic ingredients or allergenic processing aids
- (4) The net quantity of product,
- (5) Date of minimum durability. For highly perishable goods (due to microbiological activity), "use by" and date. Date must be given as day/month/year or: "best before" and date in terms of day and month for foods expected to keep for three months or less, or: "best before end" and date in terms of month and year only for foods expected to keep for more than three months but not longer than eighteen months, or "best before end" and date in terms of either month and year or year only for foods expected to keep for more than eighteen months,
- (6) Any special storage conditions or conditions of use,
- (7) The name or business name and address of business operator (i.e., manufacturer or packager or seller or importer)
- (8) Business Registration number of business operator,
- (9) Country of origin,
- (10) Instructions for use if needed,

(11) Strength of alcohol by volume with respect to beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume,

(12) Approval number of food where required,

(13) The quantity of certain ingredients or categories of ingredients such as fats, oils, herbs, etc.

Additional Compulsory Information:

(14) The statement "...contains alcohol" if the ethyl alcohol is used as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of a food notwithstanding the amount of the alcohol.

(15) The statement "contains ... obtained from pigs" if the product contains any product/ingredient obtained from pigs notwithstanding the amount of that product/ingredient.

(16) The statement "...contains herbal sterol/stanol" or "...contains added herbal sterol/stanol" if herbal sterol and/or sterol ester is added to product,

(17) The statement "...contains high amount caffeine, not for children or pregnant or lactating woman" if product contains caffeine exceeding 150 mg/L,

(18) The statement "...contains licorice. Patients with hypertension should avoid the consumption" if the product contains glycyrrhizic acid or ammonium salts of glycyrrhizic acid,

(19) The statements "...contains sweeteners" or "...with sweeteners" or "...contains sugar and sweetener" or "...contains aspartame (source of phenylalanine)" if the product contains sweetener and/or added sugar,

For the foods containing sugar alcohol more than 10 percent "it may create laxative affect"

(20) The statement "...packaged under protective atmosphere" if the product is packaged with packaging gases.

In addition to compulsory labelling, certain foodstuffs such as infant and follow-on formulas, wines, aromatized wines, spirit drinks, food supplements, energy drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, sugar, honey, coffee, meat and meat products, fruit juice, and dairy products have additional specific labelling requirements in their vertical communiques.

Because of difficulties in fighting adulterated foods such as baby foods, honey, alcoholic drinks, energy drinks, black tea, food supplements and vegetable oil, MinFAL decided to implement an additional single code system for these food categories. This system is called "Product Verification Monitoring System (PVMS)". According to PVMS, consumers will be able to verify purchased food products information by using a 19 digit number. At first, MinFAL, determined the seven food categories (above) to implement this system, but implementation of the PVMS was postponed three times and won't go into effect until 2017. The system was originally scheduled to go into effect on December 31, 2013 and was postponed until August 31, 2014. Then, alcoholic beverages were excluded from the scope of the PVMS. Since the related sectors were not ready to implement the system in 2015, it was again postponed and will go into effect on December 31, 2016. Currently PVMS will target six food

categories: food supplements, honey, energy drinks, black tea, vegetable liquid oil, infant formula, follow-on formula, supplementary baby foods. (For more information on the system, please refer to our GAIN Report on “Turkey Again Delays Implementation of New Labeling System PVMS” dated 1/6/2016.)

A. Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling and Nutritional Claims

Nutritional labeling is mandatory when there is a nutritional claim and/or health claim made either on the label, or in some sort of presentation or advertisement of foodstuff. Food supplements are out of the scope of this requirement. This requirement is valid also for the foods for special dietary purposes without prejudice to its vertical legislation. Nutritional labelling includes energy value, fats, carbohydrates, proteins (where required), fiber, and salt/sodium, vitamins and minerals. Nutritional claims and their requirements are given in detail in the Regulation. Some examples for the nutritional claims *allowed* in the Regulation on Labeling are as follows:

- If the energy value of the solid food is not more than 40 kcal, a nutritional claim such as “low calorie” might be on the label;
- If the energy value or ingredient amount is reduced 30 percent with respect to a similar product, the claim “reduced calorie” might be on the label;
- If the amount of alpha linolenic acid (ALA) amount is minimum 0,3 gr per 100 gr or 100 kcal food, the claim “source /contains/ added Omega 3 fatty acids” might be on the label;
- If the 100 gr or 100 ml foodstuff contains less than 0.5 gr of sugar, the claim “sugar free” might be on the label.

To see for whole group of nutritional claims and their requirements allowed by the Regulation, please visit the web site at <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Mevzuat/Turk-Gida-Kodeksi> in Turkish language.

B. Specific Requirements for Health Claims

According to the Regulation, health claims on the label, in a presentation or in an advertisement of the health claims of the foodstuff *are allowed* if:

- the product is consumed as food or food supplement
- the product has the claimed effect at normal consumption level
- the alcohol content of the product is below 1.2 percent
- the product contains three of the following requirements at the same time:
 - maximum sodium amount is 120 mg/100kcal
 - maximum 8 percent of energy value comes from saturated fatty acids
 - maximum 10 percent of energy comes from added sugar
 - minimum 55mg/100kcal calcium inheritably

Claims are *not* allowed are those which refer to:

- negative effects on health unless foodstuffs is consumed
- weight loss amount or rate
- advices of doctors or other medical persons

To see the whole group of health claims and their requirements allowed by the Regulation, please visit

the web site at <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Mevzuat.aspx> in Turkish language.

Some examples of health claims under specified conditions which *are allowed* are as follows:

- “This foodstuff contains probiotic microorganism. Probiotic microorganisms help to regulate digestive system and support immune system”
- “This foodstuff contains omega 3 fatty acids EPA and/or DHA. EPA and/or DHA help(s) to protect your heart and vein health.”
- “This foodstuff contains low sodium. Low sodium helps to reduce the risk of high blood pressure and protect your vein and heart health.”

To see the whole group of health claims and their requirements allowed by the Regulation, please visit the web site at <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Mevzuat.aspx> in Turkish language.

C. Labeling for Food Additives

Labeling rules for food additives are indicated in the Regulation on Food Additives which was published in the Official Gazette no. 28693, dated 06/30/2013 and it was amended once in 2014. In this Regulation, in addition to compulsory information, there are specific labeling requirements for food additives which will be sold to consumers, as opposed to those which will be used in processing.

D. Labeling for Food and Feed containing, consisting of, or deriving from GMOs

In addition to general labelling rules, specific labeling rules for food and feed containing, consisting or deriving from GMOs are set in the Regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms and its Products published in Official Gazette no. 27671, dated 08/13/2010 and amended once in 2012. Currently, there are no GMO events approved for food use in Turkey. There are 25 corn events and 7 soybean events approved for feed use only. Imported feed into Turkey must be labeled “contains GMO” if it contains approved GMO content over 0.9 percent within a given shipment.

These regulations are available at the website:

<http://www.tbddm.gov.tr/Home/RegulationsHome/NationalRegulationsDetails.aspx?CntCatID=Yonetmelik> in Turkish language

Section VI. Other Specific Standards

MinFAL has followed a dual approach in preparation of food regulations: "horizontal" legislation that covers aspects which are common to all foodstuffs such as additives, contaminants, labeling, hygiene, official controls, etc., and "vertical" legislation on specific products such as food supplements, wine, spirit drinks, meat and meat products, infant and follow-on formulas, honey, fruit juices, etc.

Please see below some of horizontal regulations accessible at

<http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Mevzuat/Yonetmelikler> in Turkish language:

Name of the Regulation	Important articles
Official import	-Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law:

controls of plant originated food and feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Importers should get an electronic username and password for pre-notification -Importers should electronically fill attached-pre-notification form (form is attached to the regulation) for plant origin food; feed and food contact material and attached copies of certificate, ingredient list, and other documents which will be determined by MINFAL. -Border Inspection Post or provincial directorates provide a date of inspection -Frequency of analysis is determined by risk analysis -If there is non-compliance, importers can either use special treatment, declare change in intent of use, send it back, or confiscate the product -If there is a protocol between two countries, electronic certificate will be accepted -Turkish translated labeling should be done before actual import control carried out.
Measurements to monitor certain substances and their residue on live animals and animal products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 96/23/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 97/747/EC -If inspectors detect residue on imported animals or animal products they will increase the frequency of analysis from the same country of origin
Food hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 852/2004/EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law: -Defines general hygiene criteria for premises including HACCP criteria and good management practices
Plant Quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law - Includes the determination of harmful organisms hindering import and the issues that plants, plant products and other substances shall be subject to in terms of plant health in the entry and exit procedures into our Country and also the official controls. - Products those are brought into free zones from abroad, those imported into Turkey from free zones and those dispatched to outside the customs line of Turkey from free zones are subject to the provisions of this Regulation. -Determines the rules for official control, entry-exit gates, import controls, transit controls, list of plants, plant products and other substances banned for entry, list of harmful organisms that are banned to enter into Turkey, special conditions that plants, plant products and other substances are subjected, and Phytosanitary Certificates
Food establishments registration and approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Defines which establishments requires registration and define criteria of how they should register
Official controls of food and feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law: -MinFAL is now ready to delegate some of their control and inspection

	<p>authority to accredited private food control offices or some NGOs. Import and export controls are excluded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MinFAL decided to publish the list of approved establishments, approvals suspended premises, approvals cancelled establishments, it will increase transparency. -Defined traceability, responsibility, general requirements for imports and exports -Establishing rapid alert system
Pre-notification and veterinary checks of animal and animal products entering to the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 282/2004/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 136/2004/EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law: -Pre-notification of imports of animals and animal products -Veterinarians responsibilities to check and sign forms
Specific rules for animal products official inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 854/2004/EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Approval of premises -General hygiene rules -Raw meat inspections -Role and duties of official veterinarian and his/her assistant -Live animal inspections and animal welfare
Veterinary checks on products entering to the country	<p>EU harmonization regulation, 97/78/EC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law: -Pre-notification and veterinary checks at the border inspection post -Issuance of veterinary entry document electronically or by using the other communication tools. -Frequency of veterinary controls - Frequency of veterinary controls
Veterinary checks on live animals entering to the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation 97/794/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -One day before arrival, importers should inform amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection -Veterinary controls should contain documentary checks, as well as physical checks -First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts
Veterinary checks on animal products entering to the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -One day before arrival, importers should inform amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection -Veterinary controls should contain documentary checks and physical checks -First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts
Animal hospital regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Criteria to setup animal hospital including staff qualifications

Animal and animal products entering the country are to be subjected to veterinary controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC - EU harmonization regulation, 2007/275//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Attached list of regulation classifies which products are animal and animal products
Animal welfare regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Defines criteria of animal farms including barns, cages for chickens etc.
Criteria of livestock markets registration, inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law
Animal welfare during animal transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Criteria of animal transportation vehicles including ships and trucks -Responsibilities, training, inspections and reports
Animal byproducts that are not intended for human consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation 1069/2009/EC -Categorization of byproducts -Collection and transportation criteria
Semen, ovum and embryo production center establishments regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Registration, approval and certification of centers
Special hygiene regulation for animal products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 853/2004//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Defines criteria for animal slaughtering and animal products processing facilities
Feed hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 183/2005//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Registration and approval of feed premises
Placing on the market and use of feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -Principles of labeling and presentation
Methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law

Turkish food codex on maximum residue limits of pesticides	-Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law
Turkish food codex on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties	-EU harmonization regulation, 1337/2008//EC -EU harmonization regulation, 2065/2003//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law
Turkish food codex on food additives	EU harmonization regulation, 1333/2008//EC -Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law
Turkish food codex on Microbiological criteria for foodstuff	-Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -EU harmonization regulation, 2073/2005//EC
Turkish food codex on labeling	-Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -EU harmonization regulation, 2000/13/,/79/112/,2002/67/,/608/2004/,/90/496,87/250,1924/2006 EEC
Turkish food codex on contaminants	-Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -EU harmonization regulation,1881/2006/EC
Turkish food codex on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food	Based on 5996 law, veterinary services, plant health, food and feed law -EU harmonization regulation,1935/2004/EC
Turkish food codex on composition and labeling of foodstuffs suitable for people intolerant to gluten	-EU harmonization regulation, 41/2009/EC
Turkish food codex on sampling, testing method for dioxin and similar products	-EU harmonization regulation, 1881/2006/EC

Some food products are regulated by MinFAL, as vertical legislation through individual Communiqués to meet special requirements. The production, processing, storage, transportation and placing on the market, product criteria and specific labelling requirements are set in these Communiqués.

Please see below the list of some vertical Communiqués under Turkish Codex Regulation:

Communiqué on Aromatized Wines
Communiqué on Wine
Communiqué on Spirit Drinks (hard alcohol)
Communiqué on Energy Drinks
Communiqué on Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Communiqué on Fruit Juices and Similar products
Communiqué on Coffee and Coffee Extracts
Communiqué on Chocolate and Chocolate Products
Communiqué on Food Supplements
Communiqué on Fermented Milk
Communiqué on Infant Formulas
Communiqué on Follow-on Formulas
Communiqué on Cereal-based Supplementary Baby Foods for Infants and Young Children
Communiqué on Foods for Athletes (ie energy bars, isotonic/protein/carbohydrate drinks, etc)
Communiqué on Black Tea
Communiqué on Chewing gum
Cocoa and ~~other~~ chocolate products
Communiqué on Frozen Food
Communiqué on Gluten-Free Foods
Communiqué on Ice cream
Communiqué on Jams marmalades jelly
Communiqué on Lentils
Communiqué on Pasta
Communiqué on Rice
Communiqué on Salt
Communiqué on Sugar
Communiqué on Vegetable Oils
Communiqué on Olive
Communiqué on Egg and Egg Products
Communiqué on Meat and Meat Products
Communiqué on Wheat Flour
Communiqué on Honey

A complete list of Communiqués is accessible in Turkish language at:
<http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Mevzuat/Turk-Gida-Kodeksi>

Section VI. Facility and Product Registration Requirements

Turkey gradually is implementing approval requirements of facilities in exporting countries. There is no general approval process for these facilities. For animal-origin food products for human consumption, if the model export certificate requires facility approval number, then the facility must have an approval number from the U.S. related agencies.

For animal byproducts, if the facility is already on the EU-approved list, there is no need to conduct

approval procedure and the facility is directly accepted as approved by MinFAL.

If the facility is not in the EU-approved list, then approval by MinFAL is required. It has been started with hides and skins and MinFAL published the approval process and questionnaire for hides and skin in Turkish and English language, accessible at the [link](#) here.

If no EU approval number, hides and skin facilities should contact relevant U.S. agencies for the approval procedures to be started. Then the U.S. agencies would need to inspect the facility according to Turkey's relevant requirements and guarantee that the facility in compliance with the relevant Turkish requirements in place. MinFAL may prefer to inspect the facility itself to find out the compliance of the facility with Turkish requirements. In this case, as a first step, MinFAL sends a questionnaire to the U.S. relevant agencies for the exporting facility. Therefore communication between two governments is crucial in this process. After getting the filled/completed questionnaire by U.S. relevant agencies, MinFAL visits the exporting facility to make an audit and meets with the US relevant agencies.

For bovine semen: the facility must be in the EU approved establishment list.

For live cattle: the assembly center, if any, must fulfil the conditions for its approval determined by the competent authority in the United States.

Once the facility is approved and no new problems arise,, there is no expiration date for registration/approval for that facility. There is no cost or fee for the by exporting facility/country for the approval process. MinFAL's list of approved establishments is accessible at the link: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Konular/Veteriner-Hizmetleri/Ihracat-Ithalat/Ithalat>

For plant-origin food products, upon the importer's request, MinFAL may register/approve the facility of the exporting country for the purpose of decreasing the frequency of the physical checks (taking samples of the product at Turkey's border). As a first step of the approval procedure, MinFAL sends the questionnaire (Questionnaire for Pre-export checks of mission in order to approve the establishment of the exporting country) to the importer. Importer delivers the questionnaire to the exporter and the exporter provides all necessary information related to competent authority of exporting country, legislation, facility information, and product information which is requested in the questionnaire. MinFAL then reviews the filled-out questionnaire and visits the facility to make an inspection and meets with the relevant U.S. agency which is responsible for the official controls of that facility. After the visit, MinFAL prepares an evaluation report and if the results of the visit comply with the Turkish requirements, then facility is approved about within two months. Once a facility is approved, the products exported from this facility are subjected to decreased rate of physical checks (samples for analysis taken at the border by Turkish Customs). Analysis frequencies may be decreased to the levels 3 - 5 percent after the approval. Approval is valid for 3 years if all conditions remain same. There is no cost or fee which will be covered by exporting facility/country for this approval process.

There is no product registration or approval procedure in place for the animal or plant originated products except food supplements.

Food supplements require product approval to be imported into the Turkey. Food business operator (importer, producer, seller, etc.) should make an application for each product to MinFAL with the

required documents given below:

- trade name or brand of product,
- name and address of the company
- ingredient list of product in percent,
- specification document of product,
- recommended daily intake dose
- if applicable, HACCP and or GMP documentation
- if product contains herb(s) as an ingredient, botanical and Latin names of the herb(s), part used
- fee payment document
- other documents where MinFAL requests

Food supplement applications are made to the provincial directorates of MinFAL. Evaluations and approvals of the products for consumers other than 2-4 years old child are made by provincial directorates of MinFAL. The products for 2-4 years old child are evaluated and approved by the Committee established under the GDFC. Applicant should pay an approval fee for each product approval and fee amount is updated each year. There is no expiration date for approval once get unless conditions are changed.

Section VIII. Other Certification and Testing Requirements

Imports of food products into Turkey are allowed only if they comply with the regulations related to import controls and Turkish Food Codex. Turkey is harmonizing its food import regulations and Turkish Food Codex Regulation with those of the EU. If the product in question is not covered by the Turkish Food Codex, officials can refer to the international regulations such as International Standardization for Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius or relevant EU Directives if it is not harmonized yet, on case-by-case basis.

For the import of animal, animal products and certain plant materials for production such as seed, seedling, sapling and flower bulbs, “Control Certificate” which is considered as pre-import permission that states whether or not the product is eligible for import is required. Please see Appendix I-HS codes of commodities which require Control Certificate prior to import.

According to import control regulations; food and feed of plant origin and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food do not require Control Certificate approval to be imported. Instead, there is a pre-notification system in place for these commodities. The importer should register the required information for each product in the electronic system which is called Food Safety Information System (FSIS) of GDFC, which is accessible by importer. Required information contains product name, product category, country of origin, name of importer, name of exporter or manufacturer, ingredient list and label of product. This information is evaluated and approved by the authorized Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorate (PAD) if it complies with the legislation in force. Later, the importer notifies the PAD about shipment details by filling the “shipment notification form” through FSIS and uploads the certificate related to product to be imported within minimum 3 days and maximum 20 days before the arrival of the commodity. When the product arrives at port/Turkish Customs, import procedures are started. Please see details in the Section IX on import procedures.

For certain plant materials for production such as seeds, seedlings, saplings and flower bulbs, as HS codes are given in Appendix-I, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by GDFC or authorized PADs according to the type of the products prior to import. Once issued, Control Certificate is valid for six months and this time period cannot be extended. An individual preliminary permit application is required for each Control Certificate. For the approval of a Control Certificate, the following documents are mainly required;

- a. Letter of Application
- b. Control Certificate Form
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro forma invoice:
 1. Invoice/Proforma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months);
 2. Type and variety of seed to be imported;
 3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported;
 4. Name, authorized signature and seal of importer;
 5. Contact details of exporter.
- d. A document certifying that respective seed is not a GMO. This must contain point 1, and also either point 2 or 3)
 1. Letter of Commitment given by importer.
 2. Exporter can declare it on pro forma invoice or with an individual document. In case such document is a copy, it must be approved by importer.
 3. Unless documented by exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is free from GMO shall be required.
- e. Preliminary import permit; bank receipt evidencing that application fee has been paid.
- f. Other documents where MinFAL requests

For animal and animal originated/sourced products, as HS codes are given in the Appendix-I, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by GDFC or authorized PADs according to the type of the products. The importer should make an application with the following documents for the approval of Control Certificate:

1. Filled Control Certificate Form
2. Proforma invoice or invoice
3. Sample veterinary health certificate (This is not required for live cattle intended for slaughtering, feeder and breeding and sheep/goat)
4. Document of Country of origin (It is not required if the veterinary health certificate includes the origin of the products)
5. Ingredient List
6. For food supplements, food for special dietary purposes and for products and feed where national legislation does not exist, specification document
7. Label/draft label
8. Commercial Activity Certificate or Trade Registry Gazette where importer is registered

9. Other documents, where MinFAL requests, according to the nature of the commodity to be imported

After approval of Control Certificate, it is registered to Turkey's Food Safety Information System for animal sourced food products. Once issued, Control Certificate is valid for a period of four and twelve months depending on the product. After receiving a Control Certificate, the importer should inform the border inspection post and/or PAD about the arrival of the shipment at least one working day before arrival of the commodity by filling and submitting the Veterinary Entrance Document. When the commodity arrives at port/Turkish Customs, then import procedures are started. Please see details in the Section IX on import procedures.

While many U.S. foods are imported into Turkey without problems, some U.S. companies have encountered difficulty complying with demands from import officials for certificates that are not normally issued in the United States. Requirements and standards for some imported foods may be stricter than both those currently applied in the EU and those applied to domestically produced products.

MinFAL might implement an exemption for the import controls of food and feed which is not for commercial use if:

- it is for scientific purposes, for exhibition, for sportive or cultural activities
- it is for consular or diplomatic representatives' own use
- it is for sample purposes only
- it is donated in crisis time

Requirements for sending samples are slightly different than for products intended for consumption. For the importation of samples, there is no pre-permission or Control Certificate required. Technically, there are no documentation requirements if the sample is for an exhibition or scientific research.

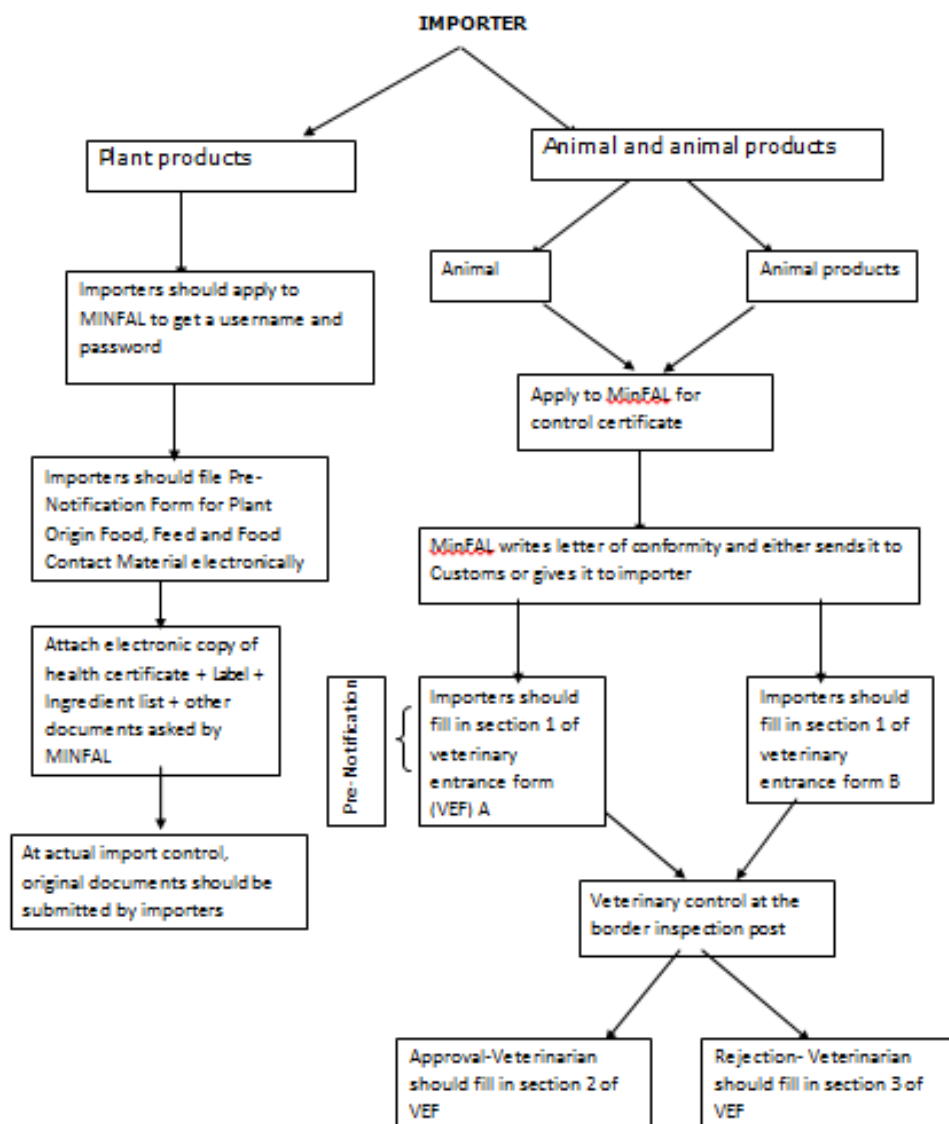
For commercial samples, the importer needs to fill out a special form supplied by PAD and provide a copy of the pro-forma invoice (if it is free of charge, just state that on the invoice). Once the PAD gets back that form as filled, they prepare a letter to relevant customs office to notify them to release the sample. Note - there is no health certificate requirement.

Section IX. Import Procedures

For food and feed of plant origin, other plant-origin agricultural products and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, the importer notifies the PAD about shipment details by filling the "Shipment Notification Form" through the Food Safety Information System (FSIS) and uploads the certificate(s) related to product to be imported within minimum 3 days and maximum 20 days before arrival of the commodity. When the product arrives at port/Turkish custom, import procedures are started. The importer should present the approved Control Certificate (if required for that commodity) together with originals of invoice, ingredient list, certificate of origin, plant health certificate or free sale certificate or health certificate, as well as other import documentation such as the bill of lading etc. After the identity and document checks, where required, PAD inspectors carry out physical checks, which means taking samples of the product according to the analysis frequency requirement which is already set by PAD. If sample is taken, it is sent to the MinFAL's official laboratory or a private laboratory authorized by GDPC for physical, chemical and microbiological analysis. In addition, if the

product is a bulk or semi-processed commodity, it is checked by plant quarantine inspectors for consistency with the legislation in place. The process normally takes up to one week depending on the type of analysis. Import of the product is allowed if the results of the checks and analysis are found to be acceptable and consistent with related regulations. If the inspection results do not comply with Turkish legislation requirements, the importer may request secondary sample tests within seven days. In the case that the secondary test results show that the product is not complying with Turkish import requirements, the shipment is rejected by PAD. Then, the shipment may be sent back to the exporting country or a third country with the demand and agreement of the importer.

For animal and animal-sourced products, importer should inform the Border Inspection Post about the arrival of the shipment at least one working day before the arrival of the commodity by filling and submitting the Veterinary Entrance Document. When the commodity arrives at port, the importer fills out an application with the Control Certificate and the originals of documents which were approved before import stage. Official inspectors carry out the veterinary checks (documentary, identity and physical checks if needed). If the result of these checks is positive, then, the products are released. For live animals, once documentary and identity checks are carried out at the border then they are sent to quarantine place (which might be at the importer`s farm) and the tests are carried out by taking samples from the animals for the diseases which the health certificate includes. Frequency of taking sample is determined by GDFC according to the risk assessment or national monitoring plans. If the results of analysis comply with legislation, then Border Inspection Post sends conformity letter to custom to release the product in question. The process normally takes up to one week depending on the type of analysis. Analyses are carried out by official control laboratories and private laboratories which are authorized by GDFC.



Section X. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Companies must apply to the Turkish Patent and Trademark Institute for trademark registration. A separate application is required for each brand name. After the initial inspection and check, the trademark is announced in the Official Trademark Gazette for three months. If there are no objections during this period, the trademark can be registered. The process takes about four months.

APPENDIX I - HS Codes of commodities which require obtaining a Control Certificate

Animal and animal sourced/originated products: HS CODES

01.01	04.05	1603.00
01.02	04.06	16.04
01.03	0407.00	16.05
01.04	04.08	1702.11
01.05	0409.00	19.01
01.06	0410.00	19.02
02.01	05.06	1904.90.10.10.00
02.02	05.07	1904.90.10.90.00
02.03	0510.00	19.05
02.04	05.11	20.04
0205.00	15.01	20.05
02.06	15.02	2103.90.90
02.07	1503.00	21.04
02.08	15.04	2105.00
0209.00	1506.00	21.06
02.10	1516.10	2202.90
03.01	15.17	23.01
03.02	1518.00	23.01
03.03	1601.00	2835.25.00.00.00
03.04	16.02	2835.26.00.00.00
03.05	1603.00	30.01
03.06	16.04	30.02
03.07	16.05	3503.00
03.08	1702.11	3822.00
04.01	19.01	3825.10.00.00.00
04.02	19.02	38.26
04.03	1601.00	3013.90
04.04	16.02	

HS Codes of commodities which require obtaining a Control Certificate:

Seed, seedlings, saplings and flower bulbs: HS Codes

0601.10.10.00.00	0602.90.91.00.00	1005.10.90.00.00
0601.10.20.00.00	0602.90.99.00.00	1006.10.10.00.00
0601.10.30.00.00	0701.10.00.00.00	1007.10.10.00.00
0601.10.40.00.00	0703.10.11.00.00	1007.10.90.00.00
0601.10.90.10.00	0703.20.00.00.12	1008.21.00.00.11
0601.10.90.90.00	0712.90.11.00.00	1008.21.00.00.12
0601.20.30.00.11	0713.10.10.00.11	1008.50.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.12	0713.10.10.00.19	1008.60.00.00.11
0601.20.30.00.13	0713.20.00.00.11	1202.30.00.00.00

0601.20.30.00.14	0713.31.00.00.11	1204.00.10.00.00
0601.20.90.10.11	0713.32.00.00.11	1205.10.10.00.00
0601.20.90.10.19	0713.33.10.00.11	1205.90.00.00.00
0601.20.90.90.00	0713.33.10.00.19	1206.00.10.00.00
0602.10.10.00.00	0713.34.00.00.11	1207.10.00.00.00
0602.10.90.00.00	0713.35.00.00.11	1207.21.00.00.00
0602.20.10.00.00	0713.39.00.00.11	1207.30.00.00.00
0602.20.20.00.00	0713.40.00.00.11	1207.40.10.00.00
0602.20.30.00.00	0713.50.00.00.11	1207.50.10.00.00
0602.20.80.00.19	0713.60.00.00.11	1207.60.00.00.00
0602.30.00.00.00	0713.90.00.00.13	1207.70.00.00.00
0602.40.00.00.00	1001.11.00.00.00	1207.91.10.00.00
0602.90.30.00.00	1001.91.10.00.00	1207.99.20.00.00
0602.90.45.00.11	1001.91.20.00.11	1207.99.91.00.00
0602.90.45.00.12	1002.10.00.00.00	12.09
0602.90.46.00.00	1003.10.00.00.11	1212.99.41.00.00
0602.90.47.00.00	1003.10.00.00.19	1212.99.49.00.00
0602.90.48.00.00	1004.10.00.00.00	
0602.90.50.00.00	1005.10.13.00.00	
0602.90.70.00.11	1005.10.15.00.00	
0602.90.70.00.12	1005.10.18.00.00	

APPENDIX II - Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

General Directorate of Food and Control (GDPC) Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL)

Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: (312) 287 33 60

Fax : (312) 286 39 64

The Main Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authorities:

Istanbul Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Bağdat Cad. No.333, Kadıkoy

Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: (90-216) 467 57 34

Fax: (90-216) 369 81 51

Izmir Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Universite Cad. No: 47 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey

Phone: (90-232) 462 60 33

Fax: (90-232) 462 24 93

Mersin Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Gazi Mah. Mersin, Turkey
Phone: (90-324) 326 40 13
Fax: (90-324) 326 40 12

There are 41 provincial food and feed control laboratories, the four largest being:

- 1) **National Food Reference Laboratory - Ankara, Turkey**
Phone: (90 312) 315-0089 or 315-8709
Fax: (90 312) 315 7934
- 2) **Ankara Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Ankara, Turkey**
Phone: (90 312) 315-0089 or 315-8709
Fax: (90 312) 315 7934 2)
- 3) **Istanbul Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Istanbul, Turkey**
Phone: (90 212) 663-3961 or 663-3959
Fax: (90 212) 663-4296
- 4) **Izmir Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate - Izmir, Turkey**
Phone: (90 232) 435-1481 or 435-6637
Fax: (90 232)-462 4197

Turkish Patent Institute

Hipodrom Caddesi No:115 (06330) Yenimahalle / ANKARA
Phone: (90 312) 303 10 00; Fax: (90 312) 303 11 73

Main Food Traders Associations Contact List

Turkish Food and Drink Industry Association Federation

Chairman: Semsi Kopuz
General Secretary: Ersin Taranoglu
Address: Altunizade Mah.Kısıklı Cad. Tekin Ak İş Merkezi No:3 Kat:2 Daire:7 34662 Bağlarbaşı-Üsküdar İSTANBUL
Phone: 00 90 216 651 86 81; Fax: 00 90 216 651 86 83
E-Mail: tgdf@tgdf.org.tr
Web: <http://www.tgdf.org.tr/english/>

All Food Importers Association

Chairman: Mustafa Manav
General Secretary: Melehat Ozkan
Address: Büyükdere Cad.Somer Apt.No:64 Kat:5 D:13 Mecidiyeköy - İSTANBUL
Phone: 0212 347 72 22; Fax: 0212 347 25 70
E-Mail: tugider@tugider.org.tr
Web: <http://www.tugider.org.tr/>

Turkish Feed Manufacturers Association

Chairman: Murat Ulku Karakus

General Secretary : Nizamettin Senkoynu

Address: Oveçler Mah. Cetin Emec Bulvari 2. Cadde No:38/7 Çankaya- ANKARA

Phone: 0312 472 83 20 (pbx); Fax: 0312 472 83 23

E-mail: info@yem.org.tr

Web: <http://www.yem.org.tr>

APPENDIX III - Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

U.S. exporters are advised to contact the FAS offices in Ankara or Istanbul for additional information and/or a list of private sector firms which can provide assistance with customs clearance and import regulation issues. In most cases, the importing company or agent should be familiar with (and ultimately responsible for) existing regulations.

Foreign Agricultural Service Offices in Turkey:

American Embassy

110 Ataturk Blvd.

Kavaklıdere, Ankara

Tel: +90-312-455 55 55

Fax: +90-312-467 00 56

Email: agankara@fas.usda.gov

American Consulate, Istanbul

Kaplıcalar Mevki Sokak

Istinye, 334460 Istanbul

Tel: +90-212-335-9000

Fax: +90-212-335-9077

Email: agistanbul@fas.usda.gov

APPENDIX IV – Abbreviations

DD: District Directorates

EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

EU: European Union

EPPPO: European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

FSIS: Food Safety Information System

GDFC: General Directorate of Food and Control

GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms

GMP: Good Manufacturing Practice

HACCP: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points

ISO: International Standardization for Standardization

MinFAL: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

MoH: Ministry of Health

MRLs: Maximum Residue Limits

OIE: World Organization for Animal Health

PAD: Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates

PVMS: Product Verification Monitoring System

WTO: World Trade Organization