

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Denmark

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report gives an overview of food laws currently in force in Denmark. For information on the general EU level, please refer to the USEU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report available at www.useu.be/agri/usda.html as well as at www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp. Updates have been made in the following sections: Section IV. Food Additives Regulations and Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants.

Section I. Food Laws:

The Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries provides assistance to the Minister regarding policy development for agriculture and fisheries, including EU policies. The main objectives of the ministry are to promote profitable production and sales in the sectors pertaining to the Ministry.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration administers Danish food legislation by providing information, counseling and inspection. The Administration is also designed to protect consumers against misinformation, ensure equal conditions for retailers and producers, and promote healthy food habits. The Administration is the head office of 3 Regional offices posted in different parts of Denmark, 10 local district control-offices, 3 inspection districts and 3 laboratories.

The Danish Plant Directorate is responsible for the quality of vegetable products, environmental regulation of agricultural production, and control of EU agricultural subsidy schemes.

The Danish Directorate for Fisheries carries out management and control of EC regulations and national rules in the fisheries sector. It also performs quality inspections in companies and in import/export transactions in order to ensure healthy food products.

Denmark is a member of the European Union (EU) and Danish national food legislation is harmonized with the EU's food legislation. This report provides an overview of Danish food legislation where it differs from EU legislation. For information on EU legislation, please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report available at www.useu.be/agri/usda.html as well as at www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on labeling requirements specific for Denmark is given below.

Small Packages

Denmark applies specific labeling requirements for sample-size and institutional packed products in small packages where the biggest surface is less than 10 square cm. For these, it is sufficient to state product designation, net weight and durability (and Lot no. if durability does not include the date). For products in bigger packages all requirements must be fulfilled.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on regulations specific for Denmark is given below.

Food in Plastic and Ceramic Containers.

Danish rules require that manufacturers and wholesalers of plastics or ceramics intended to come into contact with food are able to provide relevant documentation of the quality of their products. In addition to this, the certificates that must accompany these products when imported into Denmark now have to contain even greater detailed information.

If food products are imported into Denmark in plastic containers, the deliveries must be accompanied by certificates which contain detailed information whereby the employed materials and substances in the plastic product can be identified. This includes information on the name and address of the business operator who manufactures or imports the plastic materials.

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on regulations specific for Denmark is given below.

Products fortified with vitamins and minerals have to be approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration before marketed in Denmark. In addition to the required pre-approval, any fortification with vitamins, minerals and other substances needs to comply with Regulation (EC) No. 1925/2006.

Regulation (EC) No. 1925/2006 does not at this stage specify any maximum levels for addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to food. Until maximum amounts are specified in the regulation, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration will follow the national authorization procedure.

Nitrite: In May 2010, the EU accepted the Danish request to extend its derogation allowing lower maximum levels for nitrate in meat products. This exception is valid for five years.

Enzymes. In Denmark all enzymes have to be approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration prior to use in production of foods or as ingredients. A guideline concerning the data requested is printed as an appendix to the food additives regulations.

Microorganisms. In Denmark all bacteria, yeast and fungi cultures have to be approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration prior to use in production of foods or as ingredients. A guideline concerning the data requested is printed as an appendix to the food additives regulations.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on regulations specific for Denmark is given below.

Trans Fatty Acids

Effective January 1, 2004, Denmark introduced maximum levels of trans fatty acids in food to the ultimate consumer, such as cookies, biscuits, chocolate bars and popcorn for micro wave ovens. The maximum level for trans fatty acids is 2 grams per 100-gram oil/fat in all products sold to consumers. In products labeled “free of trans fatty acid” the maximum content is 1 gram per 100 gram of each single oil or single fat in the final product.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

A. Genetically Modified Foods (GMOs)

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

B. Novel Foods

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

C. Dietetic or Special Use Food

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on regulations specific for Denmark is given below.

Slimming foods (VLCD and LCD diets)

Very Low Calorie Diets are subject to a national registration procedure. The regulations cover standards and requirements regarding composition, labeling and warnings.

D. Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

E. Organic Foods

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on organic food standards specific for Denmark is given below.

The national Danish logo for organic products controlled by the Danish district offices can only be used for labeling purposes, if a part of the food production is carried out in Denmark (e.g. packaging process).

F. Vertical Legislation (Breakfast Directives)

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

G. Animal Products

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

H. Frozen Foodstuffs

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

I. Ionizing Radiation

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

J. Fruits and Vegetables

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

K. Seafood

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report.

L. Health foods and Dietary supplements.

Vitamins and minerals

Vitamin and mineral supplements can be classified as food supplements as well as drugs (medicine) depending on their strength. A list of maximum value for each nutrient as dietary supplement exists. If the value exceeds the limit on the list, the product will be classified as a drug. If only one nutrient in a combined product is over its limit, the product is a drug. Until detailed EC legislation is developed on this area it is possible to get a dispensation from the Danish Authorities.

Vitamins and minerals as drugs: Products must be authorized by the Danish Medicines Agency according to a national application with efficacy and safety based on published scientific data. Only recognized nutrients are allowed as active substances, and it is not possible to mix with herbals or other substances.

Vitamins and minerals as food supplements: Only recognized nutrients and certain specified sources of them are accepted. Products have to be notified and approved by the food authorities. A guiding minimum value for each nutrient exists, because the addition of a nutrient has to be nutritionally relevant. It is possible to mix with herbals and other food ingredients (e.g. fish oils).

Herbal products

These components can be classified as drugs (Danish Medicines Agency authorization) or as food supplements (no registration necessary) depending on the degree of safety data, well established use, efficacy documentation and claims used. Normally no health or functional claims are allowed for food supplements.

Special labeling requirements and mandatory warnings exist.

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:

Please refer to the USEU FAIRS Report. Information on trademarks specific for Denmark is given below.

Registration of a trademark in Denmark may be obtained through the filing of an application with the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Helgeshoej Alle 81, DK-2630 Taastrup. Tel: +45 4350 8000. Fax: +45 4350 8001/ E-mail: pvs@dkpto.dk. Web: www.dkpto.dk. A trademark registration may be obtained for distinctive marks, which may be reproduced by graphic means.

The Office will examine whether the trademark complies with registration conditions, such as if the mark lacks distinctiveness, is illegal or misleading. If the mark is confusingly similar to an existing registered trademark or a trademark applied for, a company name or a name of a person, the applicant will be notified of these rights. The applicant may then choose to either make amendments to the application or let the Office register the trademark. The registration of the trademark will be published in the Danish Trademarks Gazette. Opposition may be filed against the registration within 2 months after the publication. The applicant will receive the result of the examination performed by the Office within 2 to 3 months.

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Please be referred to the USEU FAIRS report.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

SECTIONS II, IV, V and VII:

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Moerkhoej Bygade 19
DK-2860 Soeborg
Tel: +45 33 95 60 00
E-mail: fvst@fvst.dk

Publications:
IT- og Telestyrelsen
Holsteinsgade 63
DK-2100 Copenhagen O
Tel: +45 33 45 00 00
E-mail: itst@itst.dk

SECTION V:

The Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
DK-2800 Lyngby
Tel: +45 45 26 36 00
E-mail: pdir@pdir.dk

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency
Strandgade 29
DK-1401 Copenhagen K
Tel: +45 32 66 01 00
E-mail: mst@mst.dk

SECTION VII:

The Danish Agency for Trade and Industry
Langelinje Alle 17
DK-2100 Copenhagen O
Tel: +45 35 46 60 00
Fax: +45 35 46 60 01

The Danish Medicines Agency
Axel Heides Gade 1
DK-2300 Copenhagen S
Tel: +45 44 88 95 95
Fax: +45 44 88 95 99
E-mail: dkma@dkma.dk

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, regional offices (responsible for import control and inspection):

Food Region North
Sonderskovvej 5
DK-8520 Lystrup
Tel: +45 72 27 50 00
Fax: +45 72 27 50 01
Region.nord@fvst.dk

Food Region South
Tysklandsvej 7
DK-7100 Vejle
Tel: +45 72 27 55 00
Fax: +45 72 27 55 01
Region.syd@fvst.dk

Food Region Oest
Sondervej 4
DK-4100 Ringsted
Tel: +45 72 27 60 00
Fax: +45 72 27 60 01
Region.oest@fvst.dk

U.S. Embassy in Stockholm:

U.S. Embassy
Foreign Agricultural Service
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115 89 Stockholm
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