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Report Name: Egypt Continues to Relax Shelf-Life Requirements for Frozen Fish and Beef Liver

Country: Egypt

Post: Cairo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, Fishery Products, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On December 30, 2020, Egypt's Minister of Trade and Industry (MTI) signed Decree No. 653/2020. The decree renewed an earlier decision that extended the shelf-life validity period for imported frozen fish from six to nine months and of frozen beef liver from seven to 10 months. The decree valid until June 30, 2021(see APPENDIX I – Unofficial English Translation).
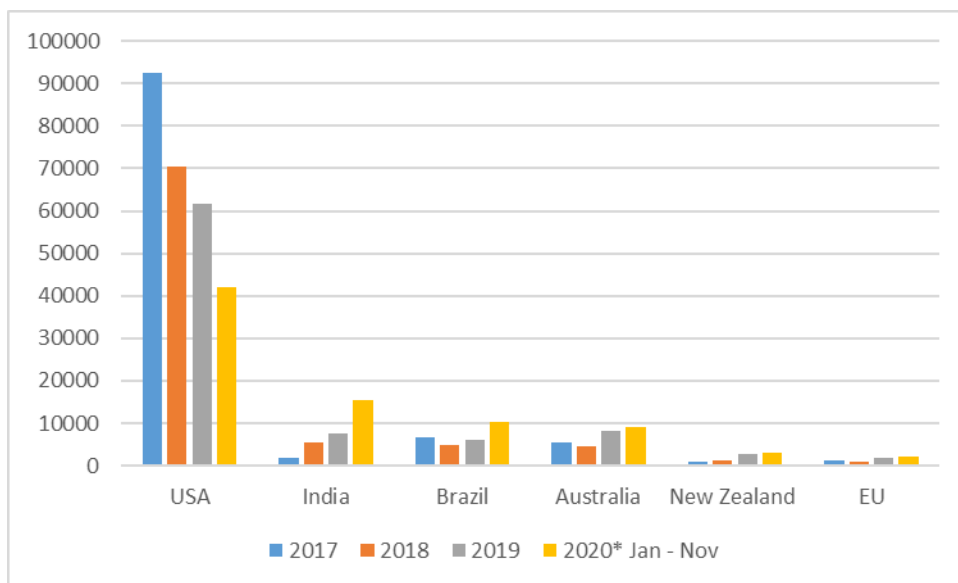
GENERAL INFORMATION

The initial decision to extend the shelf-life period for these products was taken in April, 2020 to support food supply availability and facilitate trade amid the COVID-19 pandemic. (see: GAIN Report Number: EG2020-0020 Egypt Relaxes Shelf-Life Requirements for Frozen Fish and Beef Liver)

The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS), remains the agency responsible for the determination of shelf-life periods in Egypt.

In calendar year 2019 (January-December), Egypt imported over 90,000 metric tons (MT) of beef offal (see figure 1). The United States supplies about 45,000 MT of beef offal, of which roughly 42,000 MT were beef livers.

FIGURE 1: Egypt, Major Beef Offal Suppliers, 2017/2020 Jan - Nov (Metric Tons)

Source: Trade Data Monitor, USDA-FAS BICO, and FAS Cairo office research.

APPENDIX I – Unofficial English Translation

Minister of Trade and Industry, Decree No. 653/2020

Reviewing Law No. 2/1957, for Standardization, and Premised on:

- Law No, 21/1958, for Regulating, Fomenting and Modifying Industry
- Presidential Resolution No. 392/1979, for Regulating the Egyptian general organization for standardization and quality of production
- Presidential Resolution No. 83/2005, for amending the title of the Egyptian General Organization for Standardization and Quality of Production to become the Egyptian General Organization for Standards and Quality
- Presidential Resolution No. 420/2005, for the Organization of the Ministry
- Presidential Resolution No. 269/2018, for Government formation and amendment
- Ministerial Decree No. 179/1996, Committing Production to Egyptian Standards
- Ministerial Decree No. 515/2005, Committing Production to Egyptian Standards and Other Related Decisions
- Ministerial Decree No. 385/2006
- Ministerial Decree No. 434/2008
- Ministerial Decree No. 209/2020
- Minster of Supply letter No. 23151 dated December 13, 2020
- Director of the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality; letter date December 27, 2020

Resolve:

Article (1):

Pertaining to the validity date (shelf-life) of frozen fish and frozen (beef) liver, imported as per Egyptian Standard No. 2,613-2/2008, its duration, and enforced through Decrees Nos. 285/2006 and 434//2008, it is determined that the duration for frozen fish is to be nine months and for frozen liver to be 10 months from slaughter.

Article (2):

This decree is valid from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Article (3):

This decree is to be published in the official gazette, entering into force on the date of its publication.

Issued on December 30, 2020
Minster of Trade and Industry, Neveen Gamea

Attachments:

No Attachments.