**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution **Date:** June 30, 2023

**Report Number:** CS2023-0005

# **Report Name:** FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual

**Country:** Costa Rica

**Post:** San Jose

**Report Category:** FAIRS Country Report

**Prepared By:** Victor Gonzalez, Agricultural Specialist

**Approved By:** Evan Mangino

**Report Highlights:**

This report outlines the regulatory requirements and import procedures for food and agricultural products entering Costa Rica. Since the 2022 report, Costa Rica has taken steps to facilitate the registration of agricultural chemistry approved in the United States and other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries. There have been no significant changes to the import regulations for food products.

This report was prepared by the San José Office of Agricultural Affairs for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

# Table of Contents

## Executive Summary

As a result of the multiple trade agreements signed over time, international commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the accession process to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Costa Rica has increased its efforts to maintain good regulatory practices, so that the issuance of technical regulations is conducted under transparent and participatory processes involving the private and the public sectors.

Costa Rica was able to advance in the process of updating and modernizing its national regulatory framework starting with its first Technical Regulatory National Plan for the period 2007-2010, which had an emphasis on food products. More recent plans focused on agrochemicals, drugs, and construction. The latest Technical Regulatory Plan (2017-2021) focused on regulations for products that did not have a technical regulation, and on existing regulations that had to be updated. Examples of these technical regulations in the food and sectors agricultural include technical regulations for honey, avocadoes, rice, fresh poultry meat, roasted coffee, and processed meats, among others.

In addition to national technical regulations, many of Costa Rica's food and agricultural product regulations are the result of the harmonization process under the Central American Customs Union. The region is currently working on an RTCA for yogurt (the proposal is ready for public consultation and WTO notification), an RTCA for meat products (at the initial stages of discussion), and a RTCA for melted cheese (also at the initial point of discussion). Regional officials are also reviewing public comments to the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) on Registration and Sanitary Inscription of Food Products, they continue to work on the RTCA on Nutritional Labeling, and are evaluating a possible review of the general labeling regulation.

## Section I. Food Laws

The Costa Rican legislation dealing with food and agricultural imports has not undergone significant change over the last few years. However, the process of consolidation within the Central American Customs Union has resulted in changes to some regulations, such as the harmonization of registration and nutritional labeling requirements throughout the region as well as new microbiological criteria for food products. Additional regional regulations were harmonized in 2012, as Central American countries reached agreements on several regulations, including labeling of packaged foods, nutritional labeling of food products, and additives. Regional Technical Standards for different food products have also been introduced over time, and work on standards for specific food products continues in the region. It is therefore important for exporters to review the introduction of new regulations periodically. The Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Trade lists new regional regulations in chronological order on its website.[1] A comprehensive list of food regulations is available on the Ministry of Health's Food Product Regulations website.

[1] Please note that with the exception of U.S. Government and multilateral organization links, nearly all links in this report will take the reader to Spanish-language only content.

Several government institutions are involved in regulating food and agricultural imports into Costa Rica, including the Ministry of Health (MINSA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), and the Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Commerce (MEIC).

MAG has responsibility over imports of fresh plant and animal origin products, veterinary products, animal feed, and agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and pesticides. MINSA is responsible for the registration of processed food products and has oversight over food additive regulations. Labeling requirements are enforced by MEIC's Consumer Support Department, but the Ministry does not approve or reject labels. Instead, producers and importers face significant fines and other measures, such as removal of the product from the marketplace, for failure to comply with current labeling regulations.

Costa Rica, as part of the Central American Customs Union, also signed the RTCA on "Nutritional Labeling of Prepackaged Food Products for Human Consumption for the Population Older than 3 Years." This regulation was published in Costa Rica as Executive Decree 37100 COMEX-MEIC-S. This regulation requires listing nutrients such as total fat, saturated fat, carbohydrates, sodium, protein, and energetic value on prepackaged food product labels.

**Section II. Labeling Requirements**

According to the Central American Technical Regulation on General Labeling of Prepackaged Food Products (RTCA 67.01.07.10), published in Costa Rica as Executive Decree 37280-COMEX-MEIC-S, all imported food products must have labels in Spanish. MINSA has interpreted Executive Decree 37280 to allow importation of products labeled in English, so that importers may translate mandatory labeling content into Spanish in Costa Rica, print complementary labels and apply them to the imported products in Costa Rica, provided the product is properly labeled before reaching the point of sale.[2] Despite this language requirement, other languages may be used as well, as long as the required information is also included in Spanish. Spanish language sticker labels are acceptable. The information below must appear on the product label in Spanish, except when indicated otherwise by a national standard or by the *Codex Alimentarius*.

- Product name
- Net content and drained weight in metric units
- Artificial color and flavors (if any)
- Ministry of Health registration number
- Ingredients listed in decreasing order by weight
- Importer's name and address
- Lot number and expiration date
- Country of origin
- Preservation and use instructions

[2] For exports of USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) regulated products, please note that the current FSIS Export Library content explicitly states that for beef, pork, and poultry products, "labels must be in Spanish." FAS/San José is working with FSIS and MAG to update the Export Library to reflect the MINSA interpretation.

**Mandatory Labeling of Previously Packed Food Products**
The information below must be clearly shown on the label of prepackaged food products, as applicable to the product, except when otherwise stated by a national regulation or standard in the *Codex Alimentarius*:

**Food Product Name**
The product's name must clearly indicate the nature of that food product and, normally, it must be a specific, rather than a general, name. If one of several names for a food product has been established in Costa Rica's national standards or in a standard in the *Codex Alimentarius*, at least one of these names must be used. In the absence of these names, a common or usual name established by common use must be used as a descriptive term, in order to avoid deceiving or misleading consumers. A coined, imaginary, factory name, or trademark can be used, provided one of the names mentioned in the above standards is also used.

Traditionally, required words or phrases must appear on the label next to, or very near, the name of the food product. This is intended to avoid deceiving or misleading the consumer in relation to the nature and status of the product, including – but not limited to – type, presentation, status, and treatment of the product (e.g., dehydrated, concentrated, reconstituted, or smoke treated).

**Ingredients List**
Except in the case of single-ingredient food products, a list of the ingredients must appear on the product label. The term "Ingredients" must be written before the list or as the first word in the list. All ingredients must be listed in decreasing weight order at the time of production.

Whenever an ingredient is the result of the mix of two or more ingredients, it may be stated as an ingredient in the list, and it can be accompanied by a list (in parenthesis) of its components stated in decreasing weight order. This requirement does not apply to composite ingredients with a specific name in a national standard or in a standard in the *Codex Alimentarius*, accounting for less than 25 percent of the food product, except for food additives that play a technological role in the finished product.

Added water must be indicated in the list of ingredients, except when it is a part of an ingredient, such as brine, syrup, or broth used in a composite food product and stated as such in the list of ingredients. Volatile ingredients (such as water and others) used in the manufacturing process need not be stated.

As an alternative to general declarations in this section, in the case of condensed and dehydrated food products intended for reconstitution, ingredients can be stated in order of proportion in the reconstituted product, provided an indication such as this is included, "Product ingredients when prepared as per this label."

The following generic names can be used for each of the following types of ingredients:

| Generic names | Type of ingredients |
|---|---|
| All types of refined oils | Oil, together with the term “vegetable,” or “animal,” as modified by the term “partially hydrogenated” or “totally hydrogenated,” as applicable |
| Refined fats | Fats, together with the term “vegetable,” or “animal,” as applicable |
| Starch | Different types of starch; chemically-modified starch |
| Fish | All sorts of fish, whenever fish is an ingredient of another food product, provided the label and presentation of the product do not refer to a specific type of fish |
| Poultry | All sorts of poultry, whenever poultry is an ingredient of another food product, provided the label and the presentation of the product do not refer to a specific type of bird |
| Cheese | All sorts of cheese, whenever that cheese or mix of different types of cheese is an ingredient of another food product, provided the label and the presentation of the product do not refer to a specific type of cheese |
| Spices or spice mixes, as appropriate | All sorts of spices and spice extracts in amounts not above 2 percent of product weight, either alone or mixed in the product |
| Aromatic herbs or aromatic herbs mixes | All aromatic herbs or parts of aromatic herbs in amounts not above 2 percent of product weight, either alone or mixed in the product |
| Base gum | All sorts of gum mixes used to manufacture base gum for chewing gum manufacturing |
| Sugar, dextrose, or glucose | All sorts of sucrose, monohydrated dextrose, and anhydrous dextrose |
| Casein | All sorts of caseins |
| Cocoa butter | Cocoa butter obtained either through pressure, extraction, or refining |
| Candied fruit | All sorts of candied fruit in amounts not above 10 percent of product weight |

Despite what is stated in relation to generic names, “lard,” “shortening,” and “tallow” must always be stated by specific name. Additives used in food production must be those included in the current version of the Central American Technical Regulation on Food Additives and must be declared in the list of

ingredients with their specific name as well as their functional class. The generic names of additives included in the General Standard of Food Additives of Codex Alimentarius are also allowed. See the section on Food Additives for additional information and link to the regulation.

The following general titles can be used in the case of specific food additives listed as authorized additives in the national lists of food additives or in the *Codex Alimentarius*:

- Scents and aromatizing substances
- Modified starches
- The terms "scents" can be modified by other terms such as "natural," "natural-like," "man-made," or a combination of these

When a food product uses a raw material or other ingredient(s) which contain one or more additives which are transferred to the food in a quantity that is notable or sufficient to perform a technological function in the product, they should be declared in the list of ingredients.

**Hypersensitivity**
All food additives and ingredients that may cause an allergic or an undesired effect in people, such as skin irritation, inflammation of respiratory airways, among others, must be declared even though they may be present in the food product without forming an essential part of it. Examples of these products include: eggs and egg products; fish and fish products; gluten containing cereals; peanuts; and milk and milk products.

**Net Content and Drained Weight**
Net content must appear in the same visual field as the name of the product. Net content must be stated in metric units as follows:

- volume, for liquid food products (Ml, Liters, etc.)
- weight, for solid, semi-solid, or viscous food products (grams, kg, etc.)

In addition to stating net content, in the case of food packed in liquid, the drained weight of the product must be stated in metric units. For these purposes, "liquid" must be understood as water, water solutions of salt or sugar; fruit or vegetable juices; fruit and vegetable preserves; and vinegars, either pure or mixed.

**Name and Address**
The manufacturer's name and address as well as those for the packer, distributor, importer, exporter, or seller of the product must be stated. In the case of imported products, the name and address that should appear is that of the importer or local distributor.

**Country of Origin**
The name of the country of origin must be stated. For labeling purposes, whenever food products undergo a manufacturing process that changes the nature of the product in a second country, the country that conducted the transformation will serve as the product's country of origin.

**Lot ID**
The lot ID must appear on each package, either written in plain language or in code, printed in any manner, provided it is un-erasable. The product's expiration date can be used as lot ID.

**Expiration Date and Preservation Instructions**
Unless otherwise determined in a national standard or a standard in the *Codex Alimentarius*, the following dating procedures will be applied:

i. The expiration date must be stated.
ii. This will include, at least, month and day for products with minimum expiration dates not beyond three months. Month and year for products with minimum expiration dates beyond three months. In the case of December, only the year must be stated.
iii. The expiration date must be stated with "best before" to indicate a specific day, and "best before the last day of" in all other cases.
iv. The words stated in (iii) above must be accompanied by the date itself or a reference to the place where the date is printed.
v. Expiration date must be printed in day/month/year order (rather than the U.S. practice of month/day/year). The name of the month can be fully written.
vi. No indication is required for minimum expiration dates in the case of fortified wines, sparkling wine, aromatized wines, fruit wines, and sparkling fruit wines and alcoholic beverages with 10 percent alcohol or more per volume; bakery goods that, due to their nature, are intended for consumption at most 24 hours after manufacturing; vinegar, salt as food ingredient, or solid sugar; candy goods made of aromatized and colored sugar; chewing gum; and specific food products exempted by Product Committees, either national or from the *Codex Alimentarius*.

In addition to the expiration date, any special conditions required for preservation must be stated on the label, provided validity of the expiration dates depends on these conditions (e.g., 'refrigerate after opening' or 'keep frozen').

**Instructions for Use**
The product label must indicate all directions required for product use, including reconstitution, if needed, to ensure the appropriate use of the product.

## Additional Mandatory Requirements

**Labeling of Raw, Ground, Marinated and Tenderized Beef and Pork.**
Technical Regulation RTCR 400:2006 requires exporters of raw, ground, marinated, and tenderized beef and pork to include the information listed below on the product label:

- Name and number of the processing establishment
- Name and species of the cut; ground meat is exempt from indicating the type of cut

- Indicate if the meat is ground, marinated, seasoned, or tenderized
- Indicate the type of viscera
- Date of packing and expiration date
- Handling instructions
- List of ingredients, listing them in descending order by mass, at the time of production
    - This list shall be headed with the title "Ingredients"
    - The list must state added water in percentage terms
- Fat percentage for ground meat
    - If there is a mixture of different lots of ground meat, the expiration date should be indicated taking into consideration the date of the oldest lot
- Production code, lot, or shipping number that allows product traceability
    - The codes must be legible, indelible, and resistant to moisture
- Country of origin

**Ministry of Health Registration Number**
All products must have a Ministry of Health Registration Number, showing that the product was registered with the Ministry of Health.

**Exemptions from Mandatory Labeling Requirements**
Except in the case of spices and aromatic herbs, small units with package surface of less than 10 $cm^2$ can be exempted from requirements in the above subsections.

**Quality specifications**
Quality specifications (e.g., "100% durum wheat") must be easily understandable and must not be misleading.

## Presentation of Required Information

**Background**

- Labels applied to prepackaged food products must be placed so that they do not peel off easily from the original packaging.
- The data that must appear on the label, as per these regulations or as per any other standard, either national or from the *Codex Alimentarius*, must be written in clear, visible, un-erasable, easy-to-read characters, to be read by consumers in normal purchase and use circumstances.
- When the package is wrapped, the wrapping must contain all data required. Otherwise, the product label must be easily readable through the outer wrapping so that the label content is not obscured.
- The food product name and net content must be prominently stated so that they are easily visible.

**Language**

- The product label must be written in Spanish. Whenever the product label is not originally written in Spanish, a supplementary label can be applied to the package instead of a requiring new packaging be developed. In that case, the supplementary label must contain, in Spanish, all the information required.
- The information provided on new packaging or a supplementary label must fully and accurately reflect the information on the original product label/packaging.
- If a product's original label does not contain all the information required by the local regulations, the missing information should be included in the supplementary label.
- Multilingual labels are allowed as long as the information in other languages does not interfere with the information in the Spanish language.
- MINSA permits Spanish language labels to be applied in Costa Rica prior to the product reaching the point of sale.[3]

**Nutritional Labeling**

Nutritional information labeling is mandatory when statements about the nutritional properties of a product are made. The following are examples of these types of statements:

- Reduced in calories
- Fortified or enriched
- Calcium contributes to the development of teeth and bones
- Free of sodium
- Low fat content

When statements of that kind are included in the product's labeling, the label will have to comply with the RTCA 67.01.60:10 "Nutritional Labeling of Prepackaged Foods for Population older than 3 years," which was implemented in Costa Rica through Executive Decree 37100-COMEX-MEIC-S and amended by Executive Decree 37295-COMEX-MEIC-S. If a product does not highlight any nutritional properties, then nutritional labeling is not required. However, if the information is included voluntarily, the labeling will have to comply with the regulation.

MEIC provides answers to some of the most frequent questions regarding labeling of prepackaged food products in the following website: Frequent Questions.

**Complementary Nutritional Information**

Complementary nutritional information is information that aims to facilitate the consumer's understanding of the nutritional value of the food product and to help him/her interpret the statement

[3] For exports of USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) regulated products, please note that the current FSIS Export Library content explicitly states that for beef, pork, and poultry products, "labels must be in Spanish." FAS/San José is working with FSIS and MAG to update the Export Library to reflect the MINSA interpretation.

about the nutrient. There are several ways to present information that can be used in the labels of food products (e.g., graphs, tables, and others).

The use of complementary nutritional information on the label of food products is optional and supplements the declaration of the nutrients. Complementary nutritional information on the label should be accompanied by educational programs for the consumer to increase his/her understanding and to allow for better use of the information.

**Portion Labeling**

The label of a food product stating the number of portions contained must indicate immediately after the statement the net portion size (in terms of weight, volume, and number). It may be stated in different units (cups, tablespoons, etc.) as long as it does not lead to confusion. Whenever nutritional information is required, the statement of the net quantity of the portion must be constant; for instance: 10 portions of 1 cup (250 ml).

In order to determine the size of food portions not included in RTCA 67.01.60:10, the following information must be provided:

- Portion size used in dietetic guides recommended by the authorities
- Portion size recommended in the literature
- Portion size used in other countries

Since the reference quantity and the stated portion size on the label reflect the amount of food generally consumed, these should only be based on the edible part of the food, excluding bones, seeds, skin, and other non-edible parts. The reference quantity must also be based on the main use of the food. For example, milk as a beverage and not as added to cereal. The reference quantity for products commonly used as ingredients in other preparations, but which would be consumed directly (e.g., butter), must be based on the form in which the products are purchased.

The statement of nutrients must be made based on the food as it is packed, with the exception of foods canned in water, brine, or oil, and whose covering is not generally consumed (e.g., cherries, capers). In these cases, the statement of nutrients must be on the drained product.

**Optional Labeling**

Labels can show any information or graphic illustration as well as written, printed, or graphic content, provided these elements do not contradict mandatory requirements stated in the labeling regulations, including those related to statements of properties and deception, as established in the Labeling Regulation under General Principles, Section 4 Executive Decree 37280-COMEX-MEIC-S:

> Section 4 General Principles.
>
> 4.1. Prepackaged foods shall not be described or presented with a label that is false, erroneous, untruthful, or susceptible to creating in any way an erroneous perception of the nature of the product in any way.

4.2. Prepackaged foods shall not be described or presented with a label which uses words, labels, or other graphic representations which refer to or suggest, directly or indirectly, any other product which may be confused with the product in question, or in such a way that could induce the buyer or consumer to suppose that the food product is related in any way with the other product.

**Other Specific Labeling Requirements**

Costa Rica does not have specific labeling regulations for food products derived from biotechnology, for organic, halal or kosher products, for plant-based meat products, or for dairy alternatives at this time. In general, food products must be labeled according to the general labeling regulations described earlier in this section.

## Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations

**Size Requirements**

There are currently no specific packaging or container requirements with respect to size. Food service and warehouse-type importers sell their products in larger container sizes. Most retailers sell products in sizes that are more convenient for consumers in terms of price and volume.

**Packaging Sustainability Measures**

Law 8939 (Residue Management Law) is the main tool for regulating the generation, management, and final disposition of solid waste in the country. A 2019 amendment (Law 9703-S) and enacting 2021 regulation (Executive Decree 42833-S) banned the importation or use of expanded polystyrene containers or packages in commercial establishments in the country. The regulation establishes certain uses of the product exempted from the regulation and the process to request an exemption from the Ministry of Health. As this regulation restricts the use of expanded polystyrene products in the local market (mostly in the take-out restaurant sector), exporters should note that their use of expanded polystyrene packaging could also be restricted, unless specifically exempted by the law.

Law 9786 is intended to fight contamination from plastics and to protect the environment. Article 4 of this law prohibits giving plastic bags free of charge to the final consumer in supermarkets and commercial establishments. The law establishes certain exemptions, including plastic bags of specific sizes that can be reused or that are biodegradable, and that are certified by accredited entities as being of low environmental impact.

Article 5 of the same law covers the use of plastic bottles, indicating the requirements to be met by importers, producers, and distributors of single-use plastic bottles.

Article 6 of the law restricts government entities from buying single-use plastic products, including plates, forks, knifes, spoons, and others used for consumption of food products.

Article 10 establishes that commercial establishments should incentivize their clients to carry the products they purchase in their own packaging, bags, boxes, or containers that can be reutilized.

**Section IV. Food Additives Regulations**

Central American Technical Regulation 67.04.54.10 "Processed Foods and Beverages, Food Additives" (published in Costa Rica as Executive Decree 37294-MEIC-COMEX-S) is an adaptation of the *Codex* Standard 192-1995 (Rev. 6-2005) General Standard on Food Additives. RTCA 67.04.54:18, an update of RTCA 64.04.54:10, entered into effect on June 5, 2020, for Central American Customs Union members.

The additive regulation allows the use of flavors and aromas, of aromatic substances, or mixtures of substances, obtained from physical or chemical processes of isolation, or natural forms of synthesis, accepted by any of the following internationally recognized entities: JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives), FDA, FEMA (Flavor Extract Manufacturers Association), or the European Union.

The list of additives included in the CODEX STAN 192-1995 will be automatically updated according to the revisions approved by the CODEX Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The list in Annex A of the RTCA applies for additives with references different from those of CODEX STAN 192-1995. The regulation created a Central American Food Additive Commission in charge of updating the lists of additives included in the regulation. Enforcement of this regulation in Costa Rica is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

**Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for regulating agricultural chemical residues in foodstuffs. Pesticides residues are regulated by Decree #35301-MAG-MEIC-S, applying Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) approved by the *Codex Alimentarius*. In the absence of a *Codex* MRL, MAG uses U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or European Union MRLs, whichever has a higher nominal value. The list of pesticide MRLs can be consulted on the MAG website. MRL testing and enforcement is conducted by MAG through the National Phytosanitary Service (SFE).

The legal grounds to control pesticides, fertilizers, raw materials, and related substances for agricultural use are provided by the following acts and decrees:

- Ley de Protección Fitosanitaria (Plant Health Protection Act) 7664 del 8 abril de 1997
- Decree 26921-MAG: Reglamento a la Ley de Protección Fitosanitaria. (Regulations of the Plant Health Protection Act)
- Decree 43838-MAG-S-MINAE, Regulation on Registration of Pesticides
- Decree 36549-MAG-MINAET-S, Creation of a Single Window for Pesticide Registration

- Decree 39733-COMEX-MEIC-MAG, RTCA 65.05.54.15 Fertilizantes y Enmiendas de Tipo Agrícola, Requisitos para el Registro, effective 05/04/2016 (Central American Technical Regulation on Registration Requirements for Fertilizers and Amendments of Agricultural Type)
- Decree 27973-MAG-MEIC-S RTCR 318: 1998 Laboratorio para el análisis de sustancias químicas, biológicas de uso en la agricultura (Laboratory for the Analysis of chemical and biological substances used in agriculture)
- Decree 27041-MAG-MEIC Norma 176: 1991 Agroquímicos, Toma de muestra (Standard 176: 1991, Sampling of agrochemicals)
- Decree 27037-MAG-MEIC (Equipment)

**Agricultural Input Registration**

Every chemical, biological, biochemical, or related substance for agricultural use must be registered with MAG's Department of Agricultural Inputs Control (Departamento de Control de Insumos Agrícolas) and also at MINSA's Department of Toxic Substances (Departamento de Sustancias Tóxicas). Registration in accordance with the requirements listed in the Regulation on Registration, Use, and Control of Agricultural Chemicals is required for import, export, manufacture, preparation, storage, distribution, transportation, repackaging, advertising, manipulation, mixing, sale, or use of chemical, biological, or similar substances for agricultural use. Registration requirements may be waived for products in transit, products used in research, and products used to fight specific plant health problems, but please note that waivers are not commonly approved.

The procedures and requirements for registration, import, export, production, storage, distribution, transportation, repackaging, mixing, research, sale, and use of these substances are described in the technical regulations for each type of agricultural input, including pesticides, fertilizers, biological and biochemical substances, and related agricultural substances (see list of technical regulations above). Costa Rican pesticide regulations are based primarily on EPA and *Codex* regulations. A list of approved pesticides can be obtained from the Department of Agricultural Inputs Control (Departamento de Control de Insumos Agrícolas); see contact information in Appendix I.

The registration process will determine whether to register an agricultural chemical based upon physical and chemical properties – both of the active ingredient and of the prepared product – the analytical methods used to determine the active ingredient and the analysis of residues in crops, toxicological studies of the product, agronomic use based on biological effectiveness tests, effects upon the environment, tolerance or maximum limits for residues in each crop and appropriate labeling of the product. Proof of effectiveness will be required whenever necessary. Product information will be evaluated on the basis of international toxicology and environmental performance standards.

Every legal entity or person engaged in importing, exporting, registering, and repackaging chemical and/or biological substances or application equipment for agricultural use must be registered with SFE.

**Pesticide Registration**
The registration process is under the authority of MAG's SFE. MINSA and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) also participate in the process, although SFE manages the inter-agency process.

Pesticide registration is a complex process regulated by Executive Decree 43838 MAG-S-MINAE "Agricultural Inputs. Synthetic Formulated Pesticides, Technical Grade Active Ingredients, Adjuvants and Related Substances for Agricultural Use. Registration, Use and Control." Specific procedures and requirements are listed in the decree and may also be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Inputs Registration Department (see contact information in Appendix I). SFE provides a guide (SFE GUÍA) for registrants.

Executive Decree 42769 MAG-S-MINAE "Regulation to opt for Registration of Technical Grade Active Ingredients through recognition of the evaluation of technical studies approved by the Regulating Authorities of OECD member countries" issued on January 26, 2021, was repealed by Executive Decree 43838 on February 1, 2023. Executive Decree 43838 allows product registration under different modalities, for instance, by the presentation of complete product data; by presentation of the registration of the Technical Grade Active Ingredient (TGAI) in other OECD member countries; and by presentation of the registration of formulated products under other specific situations.

According to SFE, Executive Decree 43838 has already facilitated at least two new product approvals. An article in the regulation allows for the temporary renewal of existing registrations. According to SFE, of more than 300 renewal requests pending from 2019, 152 have already been processed. SFE has provided training to pesticide company representatives in the country about the new regulation. Additional information regarding the pesticide registration process and required forms may be reviewed at this MAG website.

**Chemical Products Registration**
To register agricultural chemicals, technical, and support products, the interested party must submit a registration application, plus two copies signed by that party and the company's manager. The application form must include:

- Name and address of the party seeking to register a product and company's registration number
- Manager's name and address
- Generic and trade names, kind, type, and composition of products to be registered, as well as the name of the manufacturing company
- Credit note covering the cost for two analyses of the product, in order to determine its identity and quality
- Material, type, and size of product package, to ensure that packaging material can resist the chemical and physical effects from the product
- Name and address of the resident manager's office, in the case of corporate registrants

**Fertilizer Registration**
In the case of fertilizers, registration is based on RTCA 65.05.54:15. To register a product, a new file containing all data required is developed. As in the case of pesticides, the file is submitted to the Input Department Registration Unit for review, approval, and registration, after the required fees are paid. The registration application must be submitted on standard paper to MINSA, with a copy signed by the company's legal representative.

**Agricultural Input Application Equipment Registration**
The registration of equipment used to apply chemical, biological, biochemical, or similar substances for agricultural purposes is intended to ensure the quality and the characteristics of the product as claimed by manufacturers. It applies to the import, manufacturing, distribution, marketing, and use of equipment in land and air applications, in addition to provision of spare parts and service.

**Agricultural Import Procedures**
An official permit is required for imports and customs clearance of all kinds of pesticides, fertilizers, raw materials, and related substances for agricultural use. An application for this permit is submitted to and is issued by MAG's Single Foreign Trade Window (Ventanilla Única de Comercio Exterior.)

The import permit application must include the following:

- Signature of the manager of the importing firm (indicating registration number)
- Signature of the representative of the importing firm
- MAG registration number
- Production lot number
- Photocopy of the invoice
- Bill of lading – the air bill of lading or trucking bill of lading, depending on the means of transportation used

**Agricultural Input Product Sample Imports**
A special permit may be issued for research or evaluation purposes, for the company's exclusive use, to deal with emergencies, and to exempt the product from compliance with MAG-MEIC Decree #24037 and from product labeling requirements. To apply for the permit, a firm must:

1. Submit the customs clearance authorization form approved by the Agricultural Inputs Registration Department and signed by the company's manager and the company's legal representative;
2. Add a copy of the invoice; and
3. Complete a questionnaire (in the case of fertilizers and pesticides), as required.

The following must be added to the above-mentioned questionnaire:

- An application form indicating the name, address, capacities, legal domicile, ID card number, phone number, and postal office box number or legal address of the applicant;

- The goal of the research as well as the name of the professionals involved and their membership number in the appropriate association; and
- A complete description of the research to be carried out.

A product label must be submitted with the questionnaire and approved to obtain authorization for the product's authorized use in Costa Rica after customs clearance. This procedure must be carried out prior to the product's arrival in the country to avoid customs clearance difficulties. Prior to starting the procedure, the requirements stated in 1 and 2 above must be complied with, and the application form plus the description must be submitted to the Registration Office or to the International Trade Promotion agency (PROCOMER) Single Foreign Trade Window (Ventanilla Única de Comercio Exterior).

Upon request of the interested party and upon submission of all documents required, that party will be allowed to:

1. Change or expand the country (or countries) of origin
2. Change the brand name
3. Transfer the registration or recall registration
4. Make other changes that will not result in an alteration of the structural and functional nature of the registered good

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Department (Departamento de Abonos and Plaguicidas) is located in Sabana Sur, San José, and is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Phone: +506 2549-3400.

**Residue Testing**

Testing is conducted according to regulation AE-RES-PO-04 "Muestreo de los productos vegetales no procesados en los puntos de ingreso" (Sampling of non-processed plant products at the point of entry). To see the regulation, visit SFE Procedures, then "Agroquímicos y residuos" then "Control de Residuos de Agroquímicos," and look for the regulation's name under this folder. The regulation requires sampling of the first six shipments of a product. The regulation also indicates MAG has the right to sample when they consider there is a need to do so, for instance, if there are conditions in the shipment that lead them to believe that there could be a need to sample, such as unusual odors or visibly decomposing product.

According to the regulation, if after six consecutive sampling procedures there is no detection of the presence of residues above the limit, the product will be classified in the corresponding group, according to the criteria set forth in Annex 3 of the regulation. In the case of fresh fruit, it would require sampling every 10 shipments. Annex 1 indicates the number of primary samples to be taken according to the weight of the shipment. For example, for shipments greater than 500 kg, a minimum of 10 samples would be collected. The importers have the right to appeal within three days of the notification of residue findings.

## Other Contaminants

### Aflatoxin

Aflatoxin levels in grains are regulated in Costa Rica by Executive Decree 27980-S. The Decree indicates that the maximum level of aflatoxins allowed in corn, rice, beans, wheat, and other cereals is 20 µg/kg, based on the *Codex Alimentarius*. According to Executive Decree 27964, the maximum level of aflatoxins allowed in peanuts is 15 µg/kg. Aflatoxin tests are conducted on behalf of the Government by the University of Costa Rica's Center for Grains and Seed Research CIGRAS.

## Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

### Health Product Statements

A statement regarding health products is defined as any implicit or explicit assertion written on the label of a food product, including dietetic supplements, which includes reference from third parties, written declarations (trademarks including terms such as "heart"), symbols (a heart symbol), or illustrations which characterize the relation of any substance with a disease or health condition. Implicit health declarations include those declarations, symbols, illustrations, or other forms of communication which suggest, within the context in which they are presented, that a relation exists between the presence or the level of a substance in the food and a health-related condition. These statements are allowed within certain limits and must comply with the regulations of Appendix A in the General Guidance on the Declaration of Properties of the General Labeling Regulation Decree 26012.

### Irradiated Food Products

All food products treated with ionizing radiation must indicate the treatment, in writing, close to the product name. The use of the international symbol indicating the product was irradiated (see below) is optional, but when used, it must be placed close to the product name.

Use of irradiated products as ingredients must be stated in the list of ingredients. Whenever a single-ingredient product is manufactured using irradiated raw material, the product label must contain a statement indicating the treatment.

### Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages have specific labeling regulations that complement some of the requirements of the general labeling regulation. Executive Decree 38413-COMEX-MEIC-S implemented Central American Technical Regulation 67.01.05.11 "Alcoholic Beverages. Fermented Alcoholic Beverages. Labeling Requirements", and 67.01.06.11 "Alcoholic Beverages. Distilled Alcoholic Beverages. Labeling Requirements."

**Facility Registration**
With the exception of dairy, seafood, and lamb, Costa Rica does not require facility registration. Dairy products, seafood, and lamb exporters should register their plant(s) with the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture's National Animal Health Service (SENASA). The registration of egg products and processed egg products processing plants is currently under discussion. The facility registration process (which does not require physical audits or inspections) is handled by SENASA's Quarantine Department and takes up to 90 business days (about 5 months). U.S. companies interested in exporting the products mentioned above should contact FAS/San Jose (see Appendix I: Government Regulatory Agency Contacts for contact information) for information regarding the registration process. We recommend exporters review the FAS/San José Best Practices Guide for Facility Registration when considering facility registration.

**Product Registration**
Prior to importation, imported food products – including conventional food products, additives, and raw materials – must be registered with the MINSA Registration and Control Department (Dirección de Registros y Controles). Registration is valid for five years and products are usually registered by importers; a registrant must itself be registered with MINSA as an importer. However, once a product is registered it may be imported by a company other than the one which originally registered it. For this reason, importers sometimes ask suppliers to share in the costs for the registration process. If a company wants to import a product that has already been registered, the company must still pay the full registration fee, which is currently set at $100 per product.

If MINSA denies the registration application, the importer is informed of the reason(s), for instance, missing information, and is allowed to submit the required documentation. MINSA has 30 calendar days to process the registration request after all required documentation is submitted. However, because of the large number of registration requests, the registration process may take longer to complete; recent reports suggest closer to 60 calendar days for product registration. According to industry sources, the registration process for new products currently varies from one to two months, with waiting times increasing during peak periods (near Easter Week, or in the months prior to year-end).

The registration, renewal, and update processes for products under MINSA supervision – including drugs, processed food products, cosmetics, bio-medical equipment, and natural products – use an online system introduced in 2014. Although the digital system has simplified the process, a lack of MINSA personnel to review applications continues to cause significant delays, according to importers.

According to the General Health Law, if a product claims to have health-related benefits, the products would be classified as a medicine or drug and the registration process may differ from that described below.

To register a product, the following documents must be submitted:

- Registration request form signed by the legal representative of the company (typically the importer).

- Free sale certificate, issued by the health or other appropriate authority of the country of origin, indicating the product is allowed for free sale and consumption in the country of origin. The free sale certificate requires an apostille issued by the Department of State from the state where the free sale certificate was issued. The document may include one or several products and must be less than two years old. If the document is written in a language other than Spanish, it must be accompanied by an official translation.
- Original label of the product. If the label is in a language other than Spanish, an official translation of the label must also be attached. If the label is printed directly on the container, an image of the original container and a copy of the label must be submitted.
- Paid receipt of the registration fee, which according to current regulations is $100 per product.

On October 1, 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stopped issuing certificates of free sale for most U.S. food products, including conventional foods, food additives and substances that are in contact with infant food. FDA instead issues a "Certificate to a Foreign Government" or an "Export Certificate" for food products under its jurisdiction, and MINSA accepts these certificates (with apostille) in lieu of state-issued certificates of free sale. FDA will continue issuing the certificate of free sale for dietary supplements, medical foods, and foods for special dietary use.

**Additional Information**
Certificates of free sale must be submitted in Spanish. If they are submitted in another language, an official translation from the Ministry of Foreign Relations must accompany the certificate. Official translation rates are approximately $25 per page.

Additional information on the registration process as well as specific forms to be filled out may be obtained by contacting the MINSA Services Platform at the phone number listed in the contacts section in Appendix I.

In February 2016, the Costa Rican Government issued Executive Decree 39471-S which reduced the registration time for low-risk food products to five working days after the interested party submits all the required documentation through the "Registrelo" system. The Decree applies to 59 product categories, including vegetable oils, frozen packaged fruits, dehydrated fruits, dried seeds, jellies, chocolates, chewing gum, pastas, cookies, spices, condiments, and alcoholic beverages. In September, 2017, the Government issued another Executive Decree adding 17 additional product categories to the list of low-risk products, including hot sauces, popcorn, frozen vegetables, granola, and fruit and vegetable juices.

**Renewing Imported Food Product Registration**
Registration must be renewed every five years. The same requirements listed above apply to registration renewal requests.

**Importation of Processed Foods for Exhibition or Tasting Purposes**
Costa Rica uses the process described in RTCA 67.01.32:06 (see text) for the importation of products for tasting and exhibition purposes. According to this regulation, the importer must fill out a form

indicating the name, brand, quantity, and origin of the products to be imported. The form also asks whether the products are for exhibition or tasting, where the activity is going to be held, and the dates of the event. The products must be labeled with a sticker indicating, "Prohibida su venta" (Not for sale). Products imported for tasting and exhibition cannot be sold. The products imported under this procedure must comply with any sanitary or phytosanitary requirements that apply to the specific product. The import authorization will be resolved by the Ministry of Health within 10 business days.

**Animal Feed Registration**

Animal feed has to be registered with the National Animal Health Department (SENASA). The following items must be provided for the registration of new national or imported animal feed products:

a. Letter requesting the type of registration.
b. Two forms for product registration, DAA-PG-001-RE-01 and DAA-PG-002-RE-01.
c. Copy of the (current) Veterinary Operation Certificate of the company.
d. For imported products, in addition to the previous requirements:
    1. a Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practices;
    2. an original Certificate of Free Sale, issued by the Competent Authority of the country of origin; and
    3. a power of attorney from the manufacturer allowing the registrant to conduct such actions (registration) before the Competent Authority.
e. Product renewal must be presented to the Competent Authority three months before the expiration of the registration.
f. Submit the Manual of Good Manufacturing Practices.
g. The company must have a technical person in charge or registrant in Costa Rica.
h. Guaranteed analysis with the information expressed in metric units on an original document signed and sealed by the manufacturer's technician in charge or from a quality control laboratory.
i. List of ingredients, including the raw materials used, and the formulation with common or generic names, including additives, drugs, or vehicles on an original document signed and sealed by the company technician.
j. Complete qualitative and quantitative composition, issued by the technician in charge at the manufacturer, including the name of the product.
k. Internationally recognized or validated physical, chemical, and biological quality control method, when the method is validated by the producer.
l. Production process, including a flowchart (with temperatures, times, pressure, and others), on an original document signed and sealed by the company technician in charge.
m. Original certificate of analysis (signed and sealed by the technician in charge) of a commercial lot of the product to be registered, issued by the manufacturer or by a quality control laboratory.
n. Producer's statement of shelf life, indicating under which storage conditions will the product remain stable for a specific period of time, expressed in days, weeks, months or years.

o. When a product used as animal feed is produced by a company different from the holder of the registration, a legal document or contract between the parties must be presented.
p. Two label drafts/samples to be approved by the Competent Authority.
q. Analytical standard for medicated feeds, as required by the Competent Authority.

Registration is valid for 5 years. For the renewal of the registration only items a, b, and c are required for national products; items a, b, c, and d are required to renew imported product registrations.

**Personal Importation of Meat Products**
SENASA issued a guide in December 2016, indicating that tourists and travelers may bring up to 5 kilograms of beef, pork, poultry, fish or cooked or cured processed meats from the United States as part of their baggage. Certain requirements apply, including the following: the product must be declared in the customs form issued to travelers, the product must come from a federally inspected processing plant, the product label must be legible, and the product must be carried in an appropriate container (e.g., a cooler for chilled/frozen products). However, to prevent African Swine Fever from entering the country, SENASA has temporarily suspended the importation of pork and pork products by incoming travelers. Also, as a result of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in the United States, travelers are advised to check for restricted areas. For more information check the country information on the USDA/APHIS IREGS and/or SENASA websites.

**Certification Requirements**
Costa Rica's certification requirements are described in the FAIRS Export Certification Report and are specifically related to the importation of live animals, animal genetics, and fresh products of plant or animal origin.

## Section VII. Other Specific Standards

**Dietetic Foods**
Under the General Health Act, MINSA requires dietetic food products be registered at the Drug Control Department rather than at the Food Control Department. This is based on Article 104 of that Act, which defines all kinds of dietetic foods, foods with any kind of medical substances added, and foods or products claiming health benefits as 'medicine.'

The definition for dietetic foods (as defined by the General Health Act, Article 104) includes, "those products used to treat abnormal physical states and to reestablish or modify the individual's organic functions. Foods with medical substances added are included in this definition."

The definition of dietetic foods does not include 'lite' or 'light' products, low-cholesterol products or high-fiber content products, products which do not have medical substances added, products that are not used to reestablish an individual's organic functions and so are not restricted in their consumption. 'Light' products such as light fruit cocktails, low-fat milk, and light butter are not considered dietetic

foods. Products labeled salt-free, sugar-free, or with vitamins or minerals added, are not considered dietetic foods according to MINSA criteria.

Before registering a dietetic product, the importer must register the U.S. laboratory manufacturing the product with MINSA, a lengthy process than can be quite costly. Foods used for nutritional treatments recommending maximum daily dosages or whose consumption must be restricted in order for the product to achieve its purpose, must also be registered at the Drug Control Department. Additional specific standards may be found on the MEIC website.

**Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws**

Costa Rica's legal structure for protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) is quite strong, but enforcement is sporadic and does not always get the attention and resources required to be effective. As a result, infringement of IPR is relatively common in both physical and online markets. Costa Rica is a signatory to many major international agreements and conventions regarding intellectual property. Building on the existent regulatory and legal framework, CAFTA-DR required Costa Rica to further strengthen and clarify its IPR regime, with several new IPR laws enacted in 2008. Prior to that, the GATT agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) took effect in Costa Rica on January 1, 2000.

COMEX and Costa Rica's National Registry agreed in 2017 to amend the country's treatment of geographic indicators (GI) to require registered GIs only include generic terms as part of a compound name comprised of a generic term and a location. Costa Rica's updated GI decree entered into force in 2019 through Executive Decree 41572-JP-COMEX.

For additional information about treaty obligations and points of contact at local IP offices, please see the Costa Rica country profile on the World Intellectual Property Organization website.

**Section IX. Import Procedures**

Costa Rica generally requires only invoices, bills of lading, and air waybills to import goods. Mail shipments require only postal documentation. For specific certification requirements, please see the FAS/San José Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report. Most processed food products (canned, boxed, and pre-cooked goods) do not require plant health or animal health certificates, but exporters should check with their importers, who are ultimately responsible for knowing local regulations.

Food products must be registered prior to importation. Labeling, according to regulations listed earlier in this report, may take place once the product enters the country, but the product must be appropriately labeled before it reaches the point of sale. To avoid delays at the port of entry, it is recommended that exporters coordinate with importers regarding labeling requirements. Violations of documentation laws can lead to heavy fines, and great care must be taken to avoid errors and violations.

Imports of toxic substances, pesticides, and agricultural chemicals require an import permit from the Costa Rican Ministry of Health as well as registration with the Ministry of Agriculture. The permit will be issued upon approval of quantitative/qualitative analysis certificates and free-sale certificates, which must be provided by the exporter. These certificates must be authenticated by a Costa Rican consul in the United States or other country of origin or Apostilled.

Costa Rican customs procedures are generally complex and bureaucratic, but "one stop" import and export windows have significantly reduced the time required for customs processing.

**Basic Import Procedure Steps**

- Register product with Ministry of Health and/or Ministry of Agriculture, depending on the product.
    a. Allow at least 30 days for registration process; MINSA registration closer to 2-3 months, SENASA registration closer to 5 months.
    b. Registration fee is $100 per product.
- Obtain Certificate of Free Sale issued by
    a. For wines and liquor: Department of the Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.
    b. For other agricultural products: FDA's Certificate to a Foreign Government, State Departments of Agriculture or State Departments of Health. For processed meat products, Costa Rica accepts FSIS Form 9060-5 "Export Certificate of Wholesomeness" as equivalent to the Free Sale Certificate.
    c. The Certificate of Free Sale must have an Apostille from the Department of State of the State that issued the certificate.
- Send documentation to the importer.
- Importer submits documents to the Ministry of Foreign Relations for translation into Spanish.
- Importer provides the Customs Agent with the following documents: commercial invoice, bill of lading or air waybill (depending on the transportation means to be used), and a copy of the importer's identification document (passport, cedula (local identification document), or legal documentation in the case of a business entity).
- Customs Agent determines, and requests on behalf of the importer, the type of import permits required – may include country of origin, certificate of analysis, fisheries certificate, fumigation certificate, health certificate, phytosanitary certificate, and/or inspection certificate.
- After receiving necessary permits, the Customs Agent completes a Customs Import Form to submit to the Customs Office where the product will enter the country.
- Product may be subject to a random sampling physical inspection procedure upon arrival.
- Customs Agent pays import duties.
- The product is cleared to enter the country and the importer may retrieve the product.

## Section X. Trade Facilitation

Currently, Costa Rica does not have any preclearance programs in place for products coming from the United States. Costa Rica accepts e-certificates for plant-origin products through the Global e-phyto hub created by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Port fees vary by port of entry. Information on the Port of Caldera, the main port in the Pacific coast, is available here. Caldera is the primary entry point for bulk cargo. Information on the Port of Moín on the Atlantic side, where most processed food products arrive, is available here.

Release times for products vary depending on the type of product and whether the product requires laboratory testing of some type. Grains, such as rice, may take a few days to clear since the product is subject to different types of testing (pests, residues, and quality). In general, fresh produce takes longer to clear customs than a container of processed food products. Importers of fresh fruits sometimes report delays related to residue testing. Importers of meats and dairy products occasionally report delays due to incorrect product labeling. When this happens, importers are generally allowed to relabel the product, with the associated cost and time delay involved. Incorrect documentation can also result in delays; a mismatch between processing plant information on the export certificate and the plant number listed on dairy product labels, for instance.

## Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

### U.S. Government

**Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA/FAS)**
Office of Agricultural Affairs, San José, Costa Rica
Telephone: (011-506) 2519-2333, 2334, 2028, 2285, 2288
Tel-Embassy: (011-506) 2519-2000
Fax: (011-506) 2519-2475
Email-FAS: AgSanJose@usda.gov

**Mailing Address**
Office of Agricultural Affairs
FAS/San Jose
Unit 2507
APO, AA 34020-2507

**Physical Location**
Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Frente al Centro Comercial de Pavas
San Jose, Costa Rica

**In-Country Mailing Address**
Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Apartado 920-1200, Pavas
San Jose, Costa Rica

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS)**
Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Apartado 920-1200, Pavas
Telephone: (011-506) 2519-2237

## Government of Costa Rica

**Guidelines for the Labeling of Food Products**
Dirección de Mejora Reguladora y Reglamentación Técnica, Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio (MEIC)
Apartado 10216-1000, San José, Costa Rica
Telephone: (506) 2549-1400
http://www.meic.go.cr

**Registration of Agrochemicals**
Registro de Insumos Agrícolas del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia
Apartado 70-3006, Barreal, Heredia, Costa Rica
Telephone: (506) 2549-3502
http://www.sfe.go.cr

**Registration of Food Products**
Dirección de Atención al Cliente, Plataforma de Servicios, Ministerio de Salud
Apartado 10123-1000, San José, Costa Rica
Telephone: (506) 2257-7821
Fax: (506) 2299-4815
https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr

**Imports of Processed Food Products**
PROCOMER
Autoridad Sanitaria del Ministerio de Salud
Ventanilla Unica del Comercio Exterior (VUCE)
Telephone: (506) 2299-4815
Fax: (506) 2233-4962
http://www.procomer.com

For information on plant product requirements please contact:

**Departamento de Cuarentena Vegetal**
Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado (SFE)
Phone: (506) 2549-3400
Fax: (506) 2260-8296
http://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Importacion/InicioImportaciones.aspx

**Departamento de Control de Insumos Agrícolas**
Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado (SFE)
Phone: (506) 2549-3816
Fax: (506) 2258-3383
http://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Registrodesustancias/Inicio-Registro-sustancias.aspx

For information on import requirements for live animals, meats, and other products of animal origin (including dairy products) please contact:

**Servicio Nacional de Salud de Animal (SENASA)**
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Phone: (506) 2587-1600 / 2260-9046
Fax: (506) 2296-2976 / 2260-9046
http://www.senasa.go.cr

## Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

**CINDE**
**Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency**
Tel: (506) 2201-2800
http://www.cinde.org/en/complementary-services/logistics
[Note: the CINDE website contains lots of helpful content about Costa Rica and its economy in English, unlike most Government of Costa Rica websites linked in this report.]

**Asociación de Agentes de Aduana de Costa Rica**
Tel: (506) 2258-6869
Fax: (506) 2223-9329
E-mail: info@agentesaduaneros.com, aduanero@racsa.co.cr

**Compañía de Registros Internacionales, S.A.**
Phone: (506) 2257-9914
Fax: (506) 2221-8279
http://www.reinsa.com

**Conutra: Consultores en Nutricion y Alimentos**
Phone: (506) 2291-77411
E-mail: servicialcliente@conutra.com
http://www.conutra.com

**Attachments:**

No Attachments