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Report Highlights:

This report outlines Libyan government requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products for human and animal consumption. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters by providing an assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imposed on imports. There is no U.S. representation located inside Libya, and definitive regulatory information is limited.

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Executive Summary

The following report summarizes Libyan import regulations. While the report summarizes the various rules and standards applicable to agricultural trade, exports to Libya generally proceed as follows:

- 1) The Ministry of Economy will issue an import permit to the importer upon reception of complete supporting information as explained in section VI.
- 2) The exporter should confirm with his importer that the product meets Libyan labelling standards. (See section II).
- 3) The exporter should work with his importer to confirm that Libyan food safety standards are met. In the event that Libya has no known standard, Libya will generally accept the relevant CODEX standard.
- 4) Libya requires that all products meet halal standards. Libyan authorities report that halal is covered in voluntary standards set by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC). Importers report that all meat products must be accompanied by a certificate of halal slaughter, and that all pork and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- 5) A list of items prohibited for export is included in section VI.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. 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. FAS recommends 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. **Note: 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

Following the overthrow of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya's legal and governing landscape was thrown into uncertainty. However, food laws from the old regime carried over to the new interim government and were included in the 2011 interim constitution after Gaddafi's removal ([2011 Draft Constitution section 35](#)). Some of these policies are still being officially enforced or have been amended by national and local governing bodies to abide by Libya's interim constitution. The 2016 Draft Constitution, which has yet to be adopted, maintains a similar provision ([Draft Constitution 2016 Section 219](#)).

The main agency responsible for the creation of food safety regulations in Libya is the National Center for Standardization and Metrology (LNCSM). The LNCSM publishes a list of approved food specifications and regulations. This list of legislation sets the basis for Libya's national food standards, which are supplemented by voluntary standards developed by the Libyan arm of the [Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries](#) (SMIIC). While the SMIIC serves to unify standards of the Organization of Islamic Countries member states, the main task of LNCSM is to develop national standards (and/or adopt international standards). LNCSM also grants a voluntary Libyan Quality Mark and accredits inspection bodies. Finally, Libya is a member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and import regulations comply with the terms of this agreement.

SECTION II: Labeling Requirements

Libya requires imported food items to be labeled in Arabic. For foodstuffs, the date of manufacture, expiration date for human consumption and the conditions of storage and preservation should all be written in Arabic. Trademarks should be clearly shown.

Labels must include:

- Name and type of product.
- Net weight.
- Name and address of exporter.
- Name and contact information of local importer.
- Expiration date.
- Instructions for using and storage.
- List of all ingredients.

Public health requirements: Food products are subject to inspection by the Food and Drug Control Center (FDCC), the Libyan body for implementation and reinforcement of food safety regulations. <https://fdcc.ly/>

SECTION III: Packaging and Container Regulations

Interviews with officials in Libya's Food and Drug Control Center do not specify a regulation on packaging for agricultural and food products. However, FDCC officials state that packaging must be made of food-grade materials, the packaging must be appropriate and adapted to the concerned food product, and the packaging must be able to withstand extreme weather conditions including heat in the summer, humidity in winter, and long periods of storage in the open.

SECTION IV: Food Additive Regulations

Libya is not a member of CODEX, but LNCSM recognizes the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS general standards for food additives as a guide. The list of [CODEX](#) approved food additives is mostly accepted as safe for consumption so long as proper documentation is provided. LNCSM prohibits the import of potassium bromate.

For detailed information on whether Libyan standards for a specific food item align with the CODEX system, exporters should verify with their Libyan importer. Exporters, working with their importer, should be prepared to provide documentation that proves an additive is safe for human consumption prior to shipping to Libya. In the past, a laboratory analysis or approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been sufficient.

Requests for approval from the Libyan Food and Drug Control Center must include the following information:

- 1) Nature of the substance.
- 2) Commercial name of the substance.
- 3) Identity and purity.
- 4) Any other physical or chemical information.
- 5) Data on approval by the country of origin indicating its authorized use.

SECTION V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Resolution no. 76 (1989) of the Secretary of the General Popular Committee for Agrarian Reform (GPCAR) on pesticides, outlines the importation, regulation, and trade of pesticides not registered in Libya as well as maximum residue levels ([see website in Arabic](#)). This resolution was implemented by the Secretary of the GPCAR's resolution [no. 176](#) to supplement Law [No. 27](#) of 1968 on plant protection and Resolution No. 932 of the GPCAR.

There is no current list of approved chemical pesticides for use in Libya. However, approvals can be requested from the [Libyan Environmental Authority](#). Exporters should use the [CODEX list](#) of approved pesticides and maximum residue levels (MRL) as a guide. Exporters should work with their Libyan importer to verify any MRL concerns prior to shipping.

SECTION VI: Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures

Libya's [law no. 10](#) (website in Arabic) covers customs procedures and enforcement. Law no. 10 requires an import permit and prior approval from the Ministry of Economy for imports of most food commodities.

Imported food products must be registered with the Libyan Ministry of Economy before they can clear customs. An importer may apply for registration by submitting a request to the Ministry of Economy, with the following information:

- A detailed ingredients list, the production and control process, and type of product.
- An export certificate stating that the product is legally marketed for human use (i.e. a certificate of free sale).
- Laboratory analysis certificate provided by official authorities of the exporting country, including information on the ingredients, toxicological and bacteriological analysis.
- Reference to the relevant, prevailing regulations in the country of origin.
- A sample of the item to be marketed. Note that samples are not subject to the same import regulations or duties (Law no. 10).

All goods are subject to inspection by customs officials to verify their type, specifications, or conformity with the regulations in force. If goods are deemed to be unsafe or harmful to public health, they may be destroyed or re-exported at the concerned party's expense. Libyan Customs is responsible for levying taxes on goods, implementing customs policies, facilitating legitimate trade, and protecting consumers in Libya.

Prior to 2011, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Investment maintained a list of [prohibitions](#) on items for import. Following 2011, most import prohibitions were lifted, except for the following:

- Live pigs, pork and pork products including items that use pork fat as a preservative.
- Alcoholic beverages of all kinds.
- Bread improvers containing potassium bromate.
- Live poultry intended for slaughter (chickens and turkey).

NOTE: Trade contacts report that the list of prohibited items can change without notice. The Foreign Agricultural Service advises exporters to verify the list of prohibited items with their Libyan importer when determining a product's eligibility for export.

Libya has been sanctioned by the United States and the United Nations since 2011. It is prohibited to engage in certain economic activities, such as the import of arms or the smuggling of Libyan produced petroleum, or conduct business with [Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons](#). The export of food items and medicines to Libya are exempted from sanctions. Exporters should avoid any activity, economic or otherwise, that contributes to Libyan conflict or undermines local, regional, or national governing bodies (U.S. [Executive Order 13726](#), 2016). For further information on U.S. sanctions on Libya, exporters should consult the [U.S. Department of Treasury](#) and the [United Nations Libya Sanctions Committee](#).

SECTION VII: Other Specific Standards

Food products require halal certification in order to be imported. Exporters should work with their importer to identify a halal certification organization that can meet the importer's requirements.

Fresh egg imports must be stamped with the name of the exporting company and with the name of the country of origin and the date of production.

Pork and products containing pork (including fat) are prohibited for import. Exporters may be requested to supply analysis to verify that the product does not contain any prohibited imported product.

All grain shipments must be accompanied by a letter attesting that the shipment is free of products derived from genetic engineering.

SECTION VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Libya is a party to the [Universal Copyright Convention](#) of 1976, which requires a copyright length of 50 years. The main Libyan copyright protection laws are [Law No. 9](#) 1968, and the [Law of Commercial Trademarks no. 40](#) (1956). (Note all websites listed are in Arabic).

Trademarks, brand names, and copyrights must be registered at the Ministry of Economy. Exporters may be represented by a Libyan national who has right of attorney.

SECTION IX: Import Procedures

Libyan food importers face lengthy processes for documenting a consignment and preparing customs procedures. To facilitate customs procedures, import documents should be made available in Arabic.

1. Shipments must obtain provisional preclearance prior to berthing. Estimated time-in-wait for final clearance is 2 to 3 days.
2. Foodstuffs requiring health clearance may obtain temporary clearance upon arrival. Estimated time-in-wait for final clearance is 3 to 4 days.

Required Customs Documents:

1. Original bills of lading
2. Copies of all invoices
3. Health certificates
4. Packing list
5. Certificate of Origin

SECTION X: Trade Facilitation

There is no U.S. government representation currently located inside Libya, and trade facilitation information is minimal. FAS recommends that U.S. exporters verify import requirements with their Libyan customers prior to shipping any goods.

Attachments:

No Attachments.