

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 16, 2024

**Report Number:** TO2024-0011

**Report Name:** FAIRS Country Report Annual

**Country:** Togo

**Post:** Accra

**Report Category:** FAIRS Country Report

**Prepared By:** Isaac Yao

**Approved By:** Russell Nicely

**Report Highlights:**

This report marks the first annual update on Togo’s food and feed regulations, detailing the government regulatory bodies and enforcement mechanisms. It provides comprehensive information and guidance on import requirements, procedures, and documentation necessary for compliance.

## Contents

Executive Summary:.....	3
Section I. Food Laws.....	3
A. Food Safety Regulatory Bodies .....	4
Section II. Labeling Requirements.....	5
A. General Requirements.....	5
B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements.....	5
Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations .....	5
Section IV. Food Additive Regulations .....	5
Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants .....	6
Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures .....	6
Section VII. Other Specific Standards.....	7
A- Vitamin- and mineral-enrichment requirements .....	7
B- Other Standards.....	7
Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights.....	7
Section IX. Import Procedures .....	8
Section X. Trade Facilitation.....	9
Appendix I. Key Government Regulatory or Agency Contacts.....	11
Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts.....	12

**Disclaimer:** This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire 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 TOGOLESE IMPORTING’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## Executive Summary:

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Togo has encountered significant challenges. These include the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, resulting in higher energy and food prices, as well as reduced external demand, tighter financing conditions, and regional instability. Although economic growth remained robust in 2023, estimated at 5.2 percent, it moderated from the 5.8 percent recorded in 2022 as the government transitioned from an expansionary fiscal policy stance to a more restrictive one. According to the World Bank, trade openness and the attraction of foreign investment are crucial factors for Togo's development, but both have declined in recent years. The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the mobilization of funds to support Togo's climate objectives present significant opportunities for accelerating investment, fostering economic growth, and generating employment opportunities.

For calendar year (CY) 2023, Togo imported \$4.4 million of food and agricultural products from the United States. The top U.S. exported products to the country are rice (13 percent), soybeans (16 percent), soybean oil (6 percent), bakery goods, cereals and pasta (12 percent), poultry meat (13 percent), soup and other food preparations (21 percent) and distilled spirits (11 percent).

This report serves as a synopsis to assist American exporters who are exploring opportunities in the Togolese market. It provides an annual overview of Togo's regulations on food and feed, along with information on the pertinent governmental regulatory bodies and their enforcement protocols. Additionally, it offers guidance and information on import requirements, procedures, and documentation. An accompanying report, FAIRS Export Certificate Report, will be forth coming soon.

## Section I. Food Laws

Regarding food regulation, the country is governed by the following regulations:

- [ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.21/11/10](#), which aims to harmonize the structural framework and operational rules for the sanitary safety of plants, animals, and food within the ECOWAS region;
- [UEMOA Regulation No. 007/2007/CM](#) of April 7, 2007, addressing the sanitary safety of plants, animals, and food within the UEMOA;
- [Law No. 99-011](#) of December 28, 1999, organizing competition in Togo;
- Decree No. 2001-2007/PR establishing the modalities for the implementation of Law No. 99-011 of December 28, 1999, on the organization of competition in Togo;
- [Law No. 2009-007](#) of May 15, 2009, establishing the Public Health Code of the Togolese Republic;
- [Law No. 2009-016](#) of August 12, 2009, organizing the national scheme for the harmonization of activities related to standardization, certification, accreditation, metrology, environment, and quality promotion in Togo;
- [Law No. 2010-004](#) of June 14, 2010, establishing the Water Code;
- Law No. 2001-002 of January 23, 2001, on medicine and pharmacy;
- Decree No. 2012-031/PR of May 23, 2012, creating, assigning responsibilities, and defining the functioning of the national committee on sanitary and phytosanitary measures;

- Decree No. 2012-010 of March 7, 2012, regarding the enrichment of refined oils and wheat flour with micronutrients;
- Interministerial Order No. 008/MCIA/MEFP of July 27, 2006, concerning quality control on the importation of edible oils;
- Interministerial Order [No. 003/MDPRCPSP/MS/MAEP](#) of April 10, 2009, relating to the marketing of foodstuffs;
- Interministerial Order No. 133/2013/MS/MCPSP/MIZFIT of August 27, 2013, defining the conditions for the application of Decree No. 2012/PR regarding the enrichment of refined oils and wheat flour with micronutrients.

Togo's legal framework for phytosanitary measures is defined by Law 97-007 of 1996. This law covers plant protection, the sale of plant products, pest and disease control, and the approval and sale of phytosanitary products. The authority responsible for overseeing plant health is the Plant Protection Directorate.

The phytosanitary legislation in Togo conforms to international standards established by the IPPC. It regulates the importation of plants, plant products, and other living organisms to prevent the introduction of pests and foreign diseases. It's important to highlight that the legislation does not address matters related to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

The Veterinary Services are responsible for implementing activities related to animal health, animal production, animal welfare, the sanitary safety of animal-origin foods, and the trade of animals, animal products, and by-products. Practical modalities within the governance of veterinary services are defined by regulations and decrees:

- [Decree No. 2001-067/PR](#) of March 9, 2001, establishing sanitary rules governing the production and marketing of fishery products;
- [Order No. 21/MAEP/SG/DEP](#) creating, attributing, organizing, and functioning of an epidemiological surveillance network for animal diseases in Togo;
- Order No. 22/MAEP/CAB/SG/DEP establishing the national technical committee for the prevention and control of avian influenza;
- Order No. 046/MAEP/CAB/SG/DEP on the sanitary inspection of animal products and products of animal origin;
- Order No. 048/MAEP/CAB/SG/DEP on official controls of animal products and products of animal origin;
- Order No. 45/MAEP/SC/DEP on veterinary medicines.

#### A. Food Safety Regulatory Bodies

In Togo, the oversight of food safety involves a network of organizations, each with specific roles within various ministerial departments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Hydraulics (MAEH) play a central role, encompassing entities like the Livestock Directorate, the Plant Protection Directorate, the Togolese Institute of Agronomic Research, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate, and the Water Resources Directorate. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection oversees food security through branches such as the Directorate of Hygiene and Basic Sanitation. This supervision operates within the country through the Division of Control and Sanitary Inspection (DCIS) and at land and air borders

through the Division of Public Hygiene (DHP). The Ministry of Commerce is also involved, with such entities as the Quality and Metrology Directorate, the Internal Trade and Competition Directorate, the Industry Directorate, and the Tourism Directorate. Additionally, the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Development Planning plays a crucial role with the General Customs Directorate. Lastly, the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources actively contributes through the Forest Resources Directorate, the Environmental Directorate, and the National Environmental Management Agency.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements**

### **A. General Requirements**

These products must have French labeling with the following information:

- Name and address of manufacturer or its local distributor or importer;
- Food name, list of ingredients, product designation, net contents and drained weight (must use the metric system), batch identification;
- Country of origin;
- Instructions for use;
- Manufacturing date specifying day, month, and year (DD/MM/YY);
- The expiration date should be marked in the same manner as the date of manufacturing. This should be preceded by an ingredient list and a “Best Before” notice: “*A consommer de preference avant le DD/MM/YY.*” ;
- If a food product is irradiated, this should be mentioned next to the product name, including the percentage and list of ingredients, as well as the weight or volume.

### **B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements**

There are no other specific labelling requirements.

## **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations**

Togo's legislation, Law 2011-003 PR dated January 5, 2011, explicitly prohibits the import and marketing of non-biodegradable plastic bags and packaging within the country. Conversely, this law permits the production, import, marketing, use, collection, and recycling of biodegradable plastic bags and packaging.

## **Section IV. Food Additive Regulations**

As per Togolese regulations outlined in [Order 76-MSP-MCPT dated May 1996](#), all salt designated for human and animal consumption must undergo iodization. Consequently, the import and commercialization of non-iodine edible salt are strictly forbidden in the country. Iodized salt is defined as any salt fortified with iodine through potassium iodate, adhering to hygienic conditions stipulated by national standards or, at a minimum, those recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD).

## **Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants**

As of December 2019, Togolese regulations, as per [Order 183/19/MAPAH/Cab/SG/DPV](#), have explicitly prohibited the importation, marketing, and usage of glyphosate or any product containing glyphosate within the country. Additionally, the importation, marketing, and usage of products containing specific active ingredients, including Endosulfan, Lindane, Paraquat, Fipronil, Carbosulfan, Carbofuran, Atrazine, Triazophos, Acetochlor, and Hexazinone, are also strictly prohibited. It is crucial to note that these regulations are reinforced by the community regulations of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regarding phytosanitary control and pesticide management.

To import pesticides, a special import agreement must be obtained, along with an import permit. The services of the Plant Protection Directorate conduct analyses on a sample of the product, and subsequent approval by the Ministry of Agriculture is necessary. For each new importation of the pesticide, an import permit is mandatory.

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

In Togo, the government requires the submission of import certificates or other forms of certification/accreditation for various categories, including processed food, animal products, live animals, plants and plant products, fish and seafood products, and feed. Products entering the Togolese market are subjected to inspections conducted by the relevant ministry. To import any foodstuffs into the country, a certificate of importation must be obtained and duly signed by the Ministry of Trade.

In addition to the certificate of importation, the importation of plants, seeds, and plant material requires prior authorization and a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries. A sample is sent to the Laboratory of Quality Control of Food at ITRA for analysis, ensuring that the products are free of any parasites. Upon successful analysis, the phytosanitary certificate is issued. Importing plants, seeds, and plant material also necessitates a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin.

Any marketing activity involving food products of animal or fisheries origin requires approval from the Ministry of Agriculture, valid for one year. Prior authorization from the ministry is essential for importing live animals and food products of animal origin. Specifically, imports intended for breeding necessitate prior authorization from the national veterinary authority and must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate from an official veterinarian in the exporting country.

Establishments engaged in the import of food products of animal or fishery origin must have a sanitary agreement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries. Additionally, the Togolese government mandates prior authorization from the same ministry for every importation of live animals and food products of animal origin. Importing food products of animal or fishery origin requires a sanitary certificate from the country of origin.

The importation and marketing of sensitive products in Togo necessitate a prior declaration to the Ministry of Commerce. Sensitive products, as listed in Interministerial Order 031/MCIDSPPCL/MEF/MAPAH, include live animals, live fish, juveniles of fish or aquatic animals,

beers, carbonated drinks, energy drinks, mineral water, wheat flour, vegetable oils, meat products, rice, and food products of plant, animal, and fishery origin.

According to Order 050/17/MAEH/Cab/SG/DE, the nationwide import, storage, and distribution of poultry by-products, such as heads, legs, backs, intestines, livers, rumps, and wing tips, in any form, are prohibited.

The importation and marketing of by-products from slaughter animals, including heads, feet, skins, masks, sinews, tendons, and guts, in all forms, are prohibited. Authorization from the Minister of Livestock is required for the importation of other parts of poultry and meat. However, since January 2024, the Togolese government has temporarily banned the import of poultry to support the local poultry sector.

The importation, storage, and distribution of turkey tails in all forms are prohibited across the Togolese territory. Additionally, the importation, holding for sale, offering for sale, sale, display, and free distribution of wild or farmed tilapia fish, whether alive in the form of eggs, juveniles, breeders, or dead tilapia fish in frozen or derived forms, are prohibited within the national territory. Fishery products and their authorized derivatives must be accompanied by documents indicating their origin and a veterinary certificate duly endorsed by an official veterinarian of the country of origin.

## **Section VII. Other Specific Standards**

### **A- Vitamin- and mineral-enrichment requirements**

Togolese regulations are in alignment with the ECOWAS requirements regarding vitamin and mineral enrichment. The country requires that all imported cooking oils for local consumption be enriched with vitamin A. Similarly, any imported wheat flour into Togo must be mandatory enriched with iron and folic acid.

### **B- Other Standards**

There are no other standards noticeable.

## **Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

Togo, as a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), adheres to various WIPO Treaties. Intellectual property rights (IPRs) are overseen by the National Institute for Industrial Property and Technology (INPIT) for industrial property and the Togolese Copyright Bureau (BUTODRA) for copyright matters. INPIT plays a central role in receiving and forwarding applications for industrial property rights to OAPI and serves as the national liaison structure.

BUTODRA is responsible for managing copyright and related rights, operating under the regulatory framework of Law No. 91-12 of June 10, 1991. Togo's copyright legislation often stipulates protection terms shorter than those in the revised Bangui Agreement, but in practice, Togo aligns with the provisions of the revised Bangui Agreement. The institutional framework includes the National Intellectual Property Council, an advisory body supporting the activities of INPIT and BUTODRA.

## **Section IX. Import Procedures**

The import and export of plants, seeds, and plant material require obtaining prior authorization (a permit) and a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The permit is valid for six months. Importation of phytosanitary products and related equipment requires authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, a permit from the Ministry of Commerce is necessary for any importation of food products. This permit grants the operator a six-month period to complete the importation. Microbiological and physico-chemical analyses are conducted upon arrival of the goods, and marketing is only authorized if the analysis results indicate that the products meet food safety standards.

It is highly advisable to find a reliable importer/distributor to assist with the import clearance process. Please consult with your importer/agent to determine if specific export certificates or other documentation are necessary for the importation.

To engage in trade in Togo, mandatory registration with the Ministry of Trade is required. The import/export card is issued upon completion of this registration, facilitating certain commercial activities such as wholesale trade.

For the import verification program implemented in Togo, the submission of an Import Declaration to the authorized inspection company's liaison office is necessary. Ideally, this submission should take place before the goods depart the country of origin. The validity of this document is six months, with the option of extension for an additional six months. Amendments are also acceptable if reported to the liaison office.

Shipments arriving at or departing from the Port of Lomé, under any customs regime, and regardless of their origin/destination, should ideally be equipped with an Electronic Cargo Tracking Note (ECTN), validated by the Togolese National Shippers' Council (CNCT). According to Togolese authorities, in practice, the ECTN is only required for the import of goods intended for consumption in Togo. This document is needed for each bill of lading, and the same ECTN can be used for a maximum of five containers or 300 metric tons of bulk cargo. For issuance, the CNCT charges 30 U.S. dollars per ECTN for departures from Europe and 115 U.S. dollars per ECTN for departures from the rest of the world. Traders are required to create an electronic account and make a minimum deposit of 175 U.S. dollars.

Since January 1, 2008, Togo has adopted a simplified customs procedure, following the ECOWAS standard model. The necessary documents for customs processes include the importer/exporter and shipper's card, bill of lading, purchase invoice, freight invoice, insurance certificate, and, if applicable, the verification certificate, cargo tracking note, certificate of origin, or phytosanitary certificate. Additional documents like the certificate of origin and the sanitary and phytosanitary certificate may be required if deemed necessary. Goods brought into Togo for local consumption must be insured by a Togolese insurance company.

As per UEMOA regulations, declarants have the option to choose the removal credit procedure, enabling the deferred payment of actual duties and taxes. In such cases, the owed amount is increased by 0.25 percent. The removal credit is granted along with a bank guarantee, up to the amount of the guarantee.



Products brought into Togo for local consumption, excluding those from the ECOWAS region, are still subject to a verification program that has been assigned to Cotecna since 1995. Togo hasn't officially communicated its legislative and administrative processes regarding this to the WTO. In 2006, the mandatory pre-shipment inspection of goods shifted to destination-based control. The initiation thresholds for this control remain unchanged: a free on board (f.o.b.) value of at least 1,500,000 CFA francs (for air or sea imports) and a minimum of 1,000,000 CFA francs (for land imports). For inspection purposes, land-imported goods are brought, under transit status, to the customs office at Lomé Port for the necessary clearance procedures.

**Import procedure for meat and meat products and plant and plant products:**

The importation into Togo of meat and meat product is subject to an import and unloading authorization issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery. All request addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery shall be able to be replied after a delay of 72 hours.

However, according to the Order 17/MAEP/SG/DEP, the import, storage and distribution of turkey tail is strictly prohibited within the country's borders.

**Import procedure for fish and seafood products (includes processed fish and seafood products):**

The importation into Togo of seafood product is subject to an import and unloading authorization issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery. All request addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery shall be able to be replied after a delay of 72 hours.

However, according to the Order 069/18/MAEP/MCPSP, the import, possession for the purpose of selling, offering for sale, sale, display, or free distribution of wild or farmed tilapia fish, whether they are alive, in the form of eggs, young fish, breeding stock, or frozen or processed tilapia fish, is strictly prohibited within the country's borders. Import permits for other fish products and their by-products can only be granted with the approval of the national veterinary authority.

**Import procedure for processed foods (excludes processed fish and seafood products):**

The importation into Togo of processed foods is subject to an import permit issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery and requires a prior authorization issued by the Ministry of Trade.

**Import procedure for feed, feed ingredients or additives:**

The importation into Togo of feed, feed ingredients or additives is subject to an import permit issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery and requires a prior authorization issued by the Ministry of Trade.

**Section X. Trade Facilitation**

Togo upholds its program for examining goods destined for consumption, which is overseen by the company COTECNA. The contract with COTECNA was prolonged in 2016 for an extra year. Under this system, operators must submit an Import Declaration to COTECNA before the goods arrive. The inspection encompasses assessing import eligibility, validating export prices, estimating customs value

and classification, and electronically monitoring goods (for those in transit). The minimum thresholds to initiate this process are established at \$1635 for land imports and \$2460 for air or sea imports.

In general, Togo acknowledges the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation, but its effective implementation poses ongoing challenges. Essential products like pasta, vegetable oils, canned tomatoes, and detergent products are subject to minimum values to ensure affordability for consumers.

Since January 2015, Togo has been adhering to the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) and other community duties and taxes. Togo does not impose the import adjustment tax, supplementary protection tax, or conjunctural import tax. Apart from these community levies, imports under the common consumption regime are liable to the following charges: a fee for financing the destination inspection program for goods (0.75 percent of the FOB value of imports); a tax for the protection and maintenance of infrastructure (2,000 FCFA per ton of goods); and a customs information fee (5,000 FCFA per customs declaration submission). For imports from outside the ECOWAS region, these levies and taxes contribute to an additional charge of at least 3.25% to the FOB value, alongside customs duties.

Togo has streamlined customs duties on 845 tariff lines, predominantly affecting agricultural products, to a flat rate of 80 percent. This consolidation encompasses around 15 percent of tariff lines, with less than 1 percent relating to non-agricultural products. Additionally, Togo has unified other duties and taxes, including the statistical tax (consolidated at 3 percent), the toll tax on maritime freight (consolidated at 200 FCFA per indivisible ton), and the customs stamp duty (4 percent).

In line with other UEMOA countries, Togo enforces a value-added tax (VAT) at a rate of 18 percent on the supply of goods and services under the community regime. A reduced rate of 10 percent was introduced in 2017 for specific items such as cooking oils, sugars, cereal flours (corn, wheat, fonio, millet, sorghum, rice), pasta, manufactured milk, livestock and poultry feed, day-old chicks, and agricultural equipment.

Togo also levies excise duties on various products as per community regulations. Excise duty rates for alcoholic beverages remained unchanged during the reviewed period: non-alcoholic beverages excluding water (2 percent); alcoholic beverages (45 percent, 15 percent for beers); wheat flour (1 percent); edible oils and fats (1 percent); coffee (10 percent); and tea (5 percent).

## **Appendix I. Key Government Regulatory or Agency Contacts**

Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de la Consommation Locale/Direction du Commerce Extérieur

Téléphone : +228 90 29 25 72

Adresse : BP: 383

Place des Martyrs

Lomé Togo

E-mail : [batchassi.k@gmail.com](mailto:batchassi.k@gmail.com)

Site web: [www.commerce.gouv.tg](http://www.commerce.gouv.tg)

### [Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de la Consommation Locale/Direction de l'Industrie](#)

Téléphone : +228 22 21 22 89

B.P: 383 Lomé, Togo

E-mail : [feouluciano@yahoo.fr](mailto:feouluciano@yahoo.fr) ; [directionindustrietogo@gmail.com](mailto:directionindustrietogo@gmail.com)

Site web: [www.commerce.gouv.tg](http://www.commerce.gouv.tg)

<http://togochem.ccit.tg/togochem/#/INSCRIPTION>

### [Port Autonome de Lomé](#)

Numéros verts pour les clients :

80.00.18.18 ; 80.00.00.18

Radiotéléphonie PAL pour les navires canaux VHF : 12 ; 14 ; 16

Base marine, canal VHF: 10

## **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA)  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
American Embassy  
Cantonments, Accra, Ghana  
Tel: +233 302741000  
Email: [AgAccra@usda.gov](mailto:AgAccra@usda.gov)

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.

End of Report