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Report Highlights:

This report outlines the import requirements and regulations for food and agricultural commodities destined for mainland Tanzania. It details the Tanzania Bureau of Standards rules and other relevant regulations for U.S. exports. The Government of Tanzania has categorized genetically engineered (GE) products as restricted items. Importation of GE products is allowed only with import permits, certificates, or other authorizations issued by the appropriate regulatory agencies before entry into the country. The island of Zanzibar maintains its own regulatory structures which may differ from those described here.

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Disclaimer:

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Dar es Salaam for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While all possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the 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. Please note that 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.

Executive Summary:

U.S. exporters to Tanzania should consult the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) website, the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), and the Tanzania National Business Portal for regulations. TBS and TAEC handle most importation and inspection matters. Exporters must submit all documents through appointed clearing and forwarding agents at least seven days before shipment arrival. Products shipped to Tanzania require a Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC). Importers must apply for a FIRC for each product, ensuring it meets Tanzania's standards as evaluated by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards. For more details, refer to the 2024 FAIRS Export Certificate Report.

Section I: Food Laws.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards is the national authority that sets food standards on the Tanzania mainland. The Tanzania Bureau of Standards is responsible for ensuring quality measures for all food products and promoting standardization in both industry and commerce. The primary regulations that TBS uses to evaluate U.S. exports are available on their website and include the following: Food Safety Standards; Quality Control Measures; Labeling Requirements; Packaging Standards; Import Documentation and Compliance. For detailed information, you can visit the [TBS website](#) directly.

The main regulations against which TBS evaluates U.S. exports are available on the [TBS website](#) and are listed below:

1. [The Standards \(Certification\) Regulations, 2009.](#)

The Standards (Certification) Regulations, 2009 of Tanzania, established under the Standards Act (No. 2 of 2009), ensure that products and processes meet specific quality and safety standards. A license from the TBS is required to apply a standards mark, with applications detailing inspection and testing schemes. Tanzania Bureau of Standards has the authority to inspect, test, and enforce compliance. Unauthorized use of a standards mark is prohibited and considered an offense. These regulations maintain high standards for consumer safety and product quality in Tanzania.

2. [The Standards \(Tested Products\) \(Amendments\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

The Standards (Tested Products) (Amendments) Regulations, 2021 update the Standards (Tested Products) Regulations, 2009. Key changes include modifications to definitions, procedures for obtaining a Tested Product Certificate, and the inclusion of new regulations for pre-packaged food, cosmetics, and premises registration. These amendments aim to streamline and modernize the certification process for tested products in Tanzania.

3. [The Standards \(Compulsory Batch Certification of Imports\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

The Standards (Compulsory Batch Certification of Imports) Regulations, 2021 require importers to apply for a batch certificate at least one week before the shipment arrives, ensuring that products meet Tanzania's standards. The regulations include pre-shipment verification, allowing conditional release certificates for customs, and the use of third-party testing bodies. Penalties apply for non-compliance, maintaining the quality and safety of imported goods in Tanzania.

4. [The Finance Act, 2024.](#)

The Finance Act, 2024 of Tanzania imposes and alters certain taxes, duties, levies, and fees, amending various laws related to the collection and management of public revenues. It includes amendments to acts like the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, the Income Tax Act, the Land Act, among others. Effective from July 1, 2024, the Act introduces significant changes impacting agricultural and food imports. These changes include an Industrial Development Levy on imported goods, centralized sugar importation under the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), support for the cashew industry by remitting export levies to the Cashewnuts Board, a 10 percent export tax on crude sunflower oil and sunflower seeds to promote local processing, and new plant health inspection fees for imported and exported plant products. These measures aim to foster local industry growth, stabilize the sugar market, and ensure the quality and safety of agricultural imports.

5. [The Standards \(Recall, Seizure and Disposal of Product\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

The Standards (Recall, Seizure and Disposal of Product) Regulations, 2021 focus on ensuring that food imports in Tanzania meet safety standards. Suppliers and manufacturers must notify the Tanzania Bureau of Standards of any defective or risky food products. Tanzania Bureau of Standards investigates and, if necessary, mandates recall and ceases sales of such products. Unsafe food imports can be seized by authorities and must be disposed of safely, adhering to strict disposal guidelines. Violations of these regulations result in penalties, protecting consumers from unsafe food products.

6. [The Standards \(Fees\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

The Standards (Fees) Regulations, 2021 outline fees related to various services provided by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards. For food importation, these include charges for obtaining batch certificates, which certify that imported food products meet Tanzanian standards. The fees ensure that food importers comply with quality and safety regulations, covering services like inspections, testing, and certifications to protect consumer health.

Other laws that affect U.S. food and agricultural exports to Tanzania include:

1. [The Cereal and Other Produce Act, 2009.](#)
2. [The Seeds Act \(No.1\), 2003.](#)
3. [The Coffee Industry Act, 2001.](#)
4. [The Crops Laws Act, 2009.](#)
5. [The Protection of New Plant Varieties \(Plant Breeders' Rights\) Act, 2012.](#)
6. [The Cereals and Other Produce Regulations, 2011.](#)
7. [The National Biotechnology Policy of 2010.](#)
8. [The National Environmental Policy of 2021.](#)
9. [The National Trade Policy of 2003.](#)
10. [The Fisheries Act of 2003.](#)
11. [The Plant Health Regulations of 2023.](#)
12. [The Plant Health \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2024.](#)

While TBS has primary responsibility for matters relating to the import of food products, other Tanzania agencies also play a role. The table below lists relevant government agencies and their corresponding responsibilities:

Table 1: While TBS primarily handles the import of food products, several other Tanzanian agencies also play important roles. A broad overview of the agencies with equities follows below.

Agency	Responsibility
Tanzania Bureau of Standards	Sets and enforces food safety and quality standards.
Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC)	Oversees radiation safety, especially for products involving radiation processing.
Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)	Regulates food safety, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices.
Ministry of Agriculture	Manages agricultural policies and import regulations for agricultural commodities.
Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)	Facilitates the import process through ports, ensuring compliance with regulations.
The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides	TPHPA provides research, training, and other services

Agency	Responsibility
Authority (TPHPA)	regarding pests, pesticides, biodiversity, and sustainability.
Tanzania Meat Board (TMB)	The Tanzania Meat Board regulates the meat industry regarding management and quality issues.
Director of Veterinary Services (DVS)	DVS controls livestock diseases, safeguards livestock health, and promotes safe trade in livestock and livestock products.

Source: Tanzania Trade Portal

These agencies work together to ensure all imported food products meet Tanzania's standards for safety and quality.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards ensures food labeling compliance with [domestic regulations and Codex standard 1-1985](#). Labels must be affixed to all manufactured, processed, prepacked, or repacked food products and must not be false, misleading, or deceptive. They should not refer to other products that could cause confusion, and stick-on labels are prohibited.

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) requires the main panel to display the brand or trade name, common name, net contents, manufacture and expiry dates, and additional information like food colorings, preservatives, artificial flavorings, ingredients, and manufacturer details. Labels must be in Kiswahili, English, or both, and clearly indicate any added or abstracted substances or repacking. Labeling information must not appear at the bottom of containers, and pictorial or grade information must be relevant and not misleading. Foods treated with ionizing radiation must be indicated, and multi-component ingredients must list all components.

Imported food must state the country of origin, and if processing in a second country changes the food's nature, that country is considered the origin. Labels must not reference the Labeling Act or Commission, and foods with saccharin must identify the sweetener. Non-compliance can result in fines up to 500,000 shillings (approximately \$200 USD) or imprisonment for up to five years.

The Government of Tanzania does not have specific labeling requirements for plant-based meat and dairy alternatives.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) defines packing comprehensively to include handling, storage, sale, and delivery. Detailed information can be found under [Tanzania Standard \(TZS 538-1991\)](#). The GoT accepts a variety of packaging materials including:

- Metal cans and metal-ended composite containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Molded, rigid, and semi-rigid plastic containers
- Metal and plastic collapsible tubes
- Folding and rigid paper-based boxes and cartons
- Molded paper containers
- Flexible packaging such as papers, films, aluminum foil, and cloth or vegetable fibers

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards regulates food additives under [Section 130 of the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009](#). In the absence of specific GoT regulations or when an additive is not listed, TBS adheres to Codex guidelines. Tanzania maintains both positive and negative lists for food additives, which are accessible upon request from regional and national TBS offices. Tanzania Bureau of Standards restricts the use of additives in baby food.

Labeling requirements for food additives are detailed in [Tanzania Standard TZS 538](#). All food additives must comply with the following labeling requirements:

1. Each food additive must be listed by name as specified in [Tanzania Standard TZS 115](#).
2. If multiple food additives are present, they must be listed in descending order by content along with other ingredients.
3. Food additives with a shelf life of less than 18 months must display the expiration date using phrases such as "will keep until at least...."
4. The phrase "For food use" or a similar statement must be prominently displayed.
5. Each container must be marked to identify the producing factory and product lot.

Section V: Pesticides and Contaminants

Act No. 04 of 2020 established the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to enhance coordination and eliminate regulatory duplication. TPHPA oversees pesticide registration and maintains lists of registered, restricted, and banned pesticides. It operates under the Plant and Health Regulations of 2023. The TPHPA Pesticide Stock Management System provides a list of registered pesticides. Generally, TPHPA follows Codex standards for tolerance levels.

Table 2: Identified Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Tanzania

HHPs (active substance)	HHP Properties
Boric Acid 50% w/v	Toxic to reproduction, Cat.1B per FAO standard
Diflubenzuron, 250g/Kg	Metabolite: genotoxic carcinogen 4- chloroaniline (PCA) from animal carcinogenicity studies:
Quizalofop-P-tefuryl 4%	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil 225g/l+ MCPA 225g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 225g/l + MCPA 225g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 327.5g/L + MCPA 351g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Bromoxynil Octanoate 327.5g/L + MCPA + 2- ethyl hexyl ester 351g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Glufosinate Ammonium 200g/l	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Linuron 480g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Linuron 500g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1 B per FAO standard
Benomyl 50g/kg	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Carbendazim 500 g/l	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Epoxiconazole 125g/L + Carbendazim 25g/L	Mutagen toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard

Fluconazole	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Iprodione 500g/L	Carcinogen
Propiconazole 250g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard
Triadimefon 25% + Carbendazim 35%	Toxic to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Triadimenol 250g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per FAO standard
Triflumizole 480g/L	Toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard
Thiophanate Methyl +Triadimenol 240g/L	Mutagenic toxicity to reproduction, Cat. 1B per EU standard

Source: The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority

Other government institutions enforcing pesticide and contaminant regulations include:

- The Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority monitors and analyzes pesticide residues in their accredited laboratory.
- Tanzania Bureau of Standards sets standards and monitors compliance.
- The Tanzania Veterinary Service (TVS) and Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) monitor pesticide residues in animal products, feed, and veterinary drugs.
- The Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) checks the maximum residue limit for radioactivity.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

Importers must register their business with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards using Form No. 1, as outlined in the second schedule of the Import Registration and Batch Certification Standard Regulations of 2021.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards/ Laws

Goods exported to Tanzania require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) to verify that they meet Tanzanian standards. To obtain a CoC, products must undergo pre-shipment verification of conformity (PVoC). Tanzania Bureau of Standards has contracted SGS, TUV-Rheinland, Bureau Veritas, CCIC, and Intertek International to conduct PVoC inspections and issue CoCs. The PVoC process may include physical inspection before shipment, laboratory sampling, production process audits, and documentary reviews. Shipments arriving in Tanzania without a CoC are subject to fines and rejections. More information on Tanzania's PVoC requirements can be found on the TBS website: [Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity](#).

Tanzania is developing draft standards which would apply to halal food products. The standards are based on Malaysia Standard 1500:2019 and are [available online](#).

Section VIII: Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights is weak in Tanzania, making it challenging for exporters to protect their intellectual property. The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act of 1999 (Act No. 7 of 1999) regulates copyrights, with the Copyright Society of Tanzania overseeing copyright registration. The Trade and Service Marks Act (Act No. 12 of 1986) governs trademarks, while the Business

Registration and Licensing Agency handles the registration of trademarks and patents. Trademark registrations are valid for seven years and can be renewed for additional ten-year periods indefinitely. Tanzania is a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Section IX: Import Procedures

Exporters need import permits to ship food and agricultural products to Tanzania. The East African Community Customs Management Act of 2004 guides the import permit process. To obtain a permit, applicants must:

- Register importers and imported food products online at: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>
- Complete an application for importation online via the TBS import and export portal: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>
- Ensure non-perishable goods have a shelf life of more than six months upon entering Tanzania.

Applications for import permits from TBS should include:

- A proforma invoice from the supplier
- Certificate of analysis from the manufacturer in the exporting country
- A health certificate from the competent regulatory body in the exporting country
- A phytosanitary certificate for unprocessed cereals or plant-origin products
- A radiation-free certificate, if applicable
- A Zoo-sanitary certificate for non-processed foods of animal origin
- Certificates from relevant bodies for specific food products (e.g., sugar boards or dairy boards)
- A bill of lading or airway bill
- A certificate of origin
- Copies of previous Tanzania import permits showing inspection at the port of entry, if applicable

Specific commodities may have additional requirements for import permits. For instance, meat and poultry products require an import permit from Director of Veterinary Services. More information is available on the Tanzania Revenue Authority website or the Tanzania National Business Portal. Imported foods are inspected at the point of entry before distribution. Non-compliant foods are returned to the country of origin or destroyed at the importer's expense. Importers must appoint a licensed clearing and forwarding agent to clear incoming goods. Importers should complete and submit all supporting documents through the Tanzania Customs Integrated System at least 7 days before the arrival of goods.

Documents for submission include:

- Final invoice
- An agent's authorization letter from the importer
- Import permits from Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania Shipping Agency, Director of Veterinary Services, Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission, and Tanzania Meat Board as necessary
- Exemption documents, if applicable
- Packing lists
- Transport documents such as a bill of lading, an airway bill, or a road consignment note
- Cross-border declarations of currency and bearer negotiable instruments

The clearance system automatically rejects incomplete declarations or those with insufficient descriptions through an Integrated Query System. Tanzania has special requirements for meat products. Importers of meat products must register with the Tanzania Meat Board, meeting the following criteria:

- Possess a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and register as a Tanzania company under the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency
- Provide proof of physical address
- Obtain a positive inspection report of the business location, demonstrating compliance with the Meat Industry Act

To import meat products or livestock, stakeholders must:

- Confirm that the type of meat or meat products intended for import is not sufficiently available in the domestic market
- Have certified registration from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards
- Obtain a clearance certificate from the Tanzania Meat Board
- Pay a duty equal to two percent of the FOB value of imported meat products charged per consignment

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Tanzania ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement on April 8, 2020, leading to a more efficient import process. The Government of Tanzania has adopted various information and communication technology systems to simplify goods clearance. These systems have improved clearance procedures by:

- Expediting release time
- Applying customs law uniformly
- Implementing effective risk management
- Efficiently collecting revenue

Electronic cargo tracking is now used to monitor high-risk cargo, and customs documentation submission is electronic and centralized. Tanzania's system connects to banks to facilitate quick payment of customs fees and duties. Since ratifying the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the minimum average release time of goods is now 18 days, with a maximum of 29 days. The estimated minimum cost of clearing customs for one shipment through Dar Es Salaam can be found on the Tanzania Trade Portal.

Table 3: Average Release Time for Goods:

	Minimum	Maximum
Total time (sum):	18 days	29 days
<u>of which:</u>		
Waiting time in queue:	40 minutes	6 hours and 25minutes
Attention at the counter:	6 hours	1 day
Waiting time until the next step:	17 days	27 days

Source: Tanzania Trade Portal

Tanzania has an informal procedure for advance rulings on customs classifications. These rulings are issued by letter upon request by importers but are not tracked in a central database or disclosed to the public. Tanzania may also issue advance rulings on origin matters. For more on advance rulings see Tax Administration Act, 2024 ('TAA 2024') and the Tanzania Trade Portal.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

Tanzania Bureau of Standards

Ubungo Area, Morogoro Road / Sam Nujoma Road

P.O. Box 9524, Dar es Salaam

Tell: +255 22 245 0298 | +255 22 245 0206 | +255 22 245 0949

Telefax: +255 22 245 0959

E-mail: info@tbs.go.tz

Website: <https://www.tbs.go.tz/>

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA)

PSSSF Building, 10th Floor, Makole Road,

P.O. Box 1253, Dodoma, Tanzania.

Telephone: +255 22 2450512 / 2450751 / 2452108

Fax: +255 22 2450793

Email Address: info@tmda.or.tz

Website: <https://www.tmda.go.tz/>

Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)

Permanent Secretary

Waterfront Building, Sokoine Drive

P. O. Box 9503 Dar es Salaam.

Tel: +255-22-2127898/97

Fax: +255-22-2125832

E-mail: ps@mit.go.tz

Website: <https://www.viwanda.go.tz/>

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

Permanent Secretary

Veterinary Complex, 131 Nelson Mandela Rd,

P.O. Box 9152 Dar es Salaam

Livestock Sector

Phone: +255 26 2322612

Fax: +255 (0)22 2861908, P.O. Box 2870

Email Address: ps@mifugo.go.tz

Fisheries Sector

Phone: +255 26 2322610

Fax: +255 (0)22 2861908, P.O. Box 2847

Email Address: ps@uvuvi.go.tz

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)

Commissioner General

Samora Avenue P. O. Box 11491

Dar es Salaam

Website: <https://www.tra.go.tz/>

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)

Director-General

P. O. Box 9184 Dar es Salaam

Tel (255) 22-22110401-5. 22110371-5. 21137630-5

Fax: (255) 22-2130390

E-mail: dg@tanzaniaports.com

Website: <http://ports.go.tz/index.php/en/>

Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority

Director-General

P.O. Box 3024, Arusha - Tanzania

Nairobi Rd, Ngaramtoni Area

Fax: +255 272970468

Telephone: +255 272970467 / 64

Email: dg@tphpa.go.tz

Website: <https://www.tphpa.go.tz/>

Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC)

Director-General

P.O. Box 743, Block J, Plot No. 216, Njiro, Arusha

Telephone: +255 272 970050 / 51 / 52 / 53

Mobile: +255 754 361221 (DG)

Fax: +255 272 970054

E-mail: dg@taec.go.tz

Website: <https://taec.go.tz/>

Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA)

Chief Executive Officer

P.O. Box 9254 Dar es Salaam

Tel. +255 – 22 2863 104,

Fax. +255 – 22 -286 43 69,

E-mail: info@tvlatz.org

Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC)

Address: P.O. Box 977

Dar Es Salaam

Email: tfnc@muchs.ac.tz

Ministry of Agriculture

Permanent Secretary

P.O. Box 2182 40487 Dodoma

Telegram: "Kilimo Dodoma"

Tel: +255 (026) 2321407/ 2320035

Fax: +255 (026) 2320037

Email: ps@kilimo.go.tz

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:

Tanzania Trade Development Authority(TanTrade)

P.O. Box 5402, Dar es Salaam,
Phone: +255 733-002-014, +255 733-002-014
Fax: +255 222850239/539
Email: info@tantrade.go.tz

Cereals and Other Produce Regulatory Authority

P.O. Box 2780, Dodoma
Email: info@copra.go.tz
Phone: +255 (026) 2310225
Website: <https://www.copra.go.tz/>

Weights and Measures Agency

P.O BOX 313, Dar es Salaam,
Phone: +255 (022) 2928158
Email : info@wma.go.tz
Website: <https://www.wma.go.tz/>

Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association

Phone : +255(0) 22 211 8153
Email: info@taffa.or.tz
Website: <https://taffa.or.tz/>

Tanzania Investment Centre

P.O. Box 938, Dar es Salaam
Email Address: info@tic.go.tz
Website: <https://www.tic.go.tz/>
Telephone: +255 734989469, +255 734989470

Tanzania Invest

Website: <https://www.tanzaniainvest.com/>

Tanzania National Business Council

P.O.BOX 3478 Dar es salaam
Email: es@tnbc.go.tz
Phone +255 22 2122984/6
Website: <https://www.tnbc.go.tz/>

Attachments:

No Attachments