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Report Highlights:

This report reflects some changes from the June 2023 report, including Food Additives Regulations Section IV, Pesticides and Contaminants Section V, Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures Section VI, Other Specific Standard Section VII and Import Procedures Section IX.

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Executive Summary

Notably, the Burmese Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in the process of updating provisions of the new National Food Law, published the [Labeling Order for Prepackaged Foods](#), kept [draft guidelines on nutrition labeling and nutrition claims for prepackaged foods](#) in 2022 as draft, and also released [food category specifications](#) in February 2023 following CODEX specifications. On May 9, 2024 Burma FDA announced the [Food Product Notification](#) to improve food safety and traceability and also released the [Food Product Notification \(PN\) User Guide](#) on May 14.

The Burmese government has made several changes to import protocols and the utilization of foreign currency in country in an effort to control the supply of U.S. dollars and reduce its trade deficit. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the exchange rate at 2,100 Myanmar kyats per one U.S. dollar and mandates that all trade and non-trade income be converted into Myanmar kyat within one working day. However, the CBM allowed importers and exporters to have bank accounts in Chinese yuan, Thai baht and Indian rupee at Authorized Dealer Licensed (AD) banks in order to facilitate border trade. The Burmese government requires all importers to apply for an import license through [Tradenet 2.0](#). The Department of Trade (DOT) revised the number of goods qualifying for automatic licensing and the automatic licensing system is only available in sea trade licenses. Burma delays issuing import licenses for non-essential goods and also limits the quota of the import.

The DOT will no longer accept applications for import licenses and permits for products that have already arrived at port. The importers must have the necessary licenses and permits before products leave the exporting port. The requirement of obtaining the import licenses and permits before a shipment leaves the port of the exporting country has made it difficult for importers to plan shipments. Difficulties in obtaining an import license have encouraged importers to import from neighboring countries over land.

Import licenses and permits are valid for three months with an option to extend for an additional three months. Starting in May 2024, Importers can renew the Import Certificate (IC) for plant and plant products if it is expired. The Myanmar Customs Departments published the [Myanmar Customs Tariff 2022](#) in October 2022, which increased the Import Tariff for some foods (Table 7).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, and the Department of Food and Drug Administration did not set up any new law in FY 2023/24, meanwhile DOT, under the Ministry of Agriculture, released a series of notifications, advancements, and a newsletter related to trade and export earnings.

Disclaimer:

The Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agriculture Service in Rangoon, Burma prepared this report for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every 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. Post uses reference exchange rate with 2,100 Myanmar Kyat per one USD in this report. 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.

Section I: General Food Laws

The Burmese government enacted the National Food Law in 1997 and made minor amendments in 2013. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) then started developing a new food law in 2015. In 2017, the Burmese FDA submitted the draft food law to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Attorney General for review. However, the 2017 draft never became law, and the Burmese FDA began drafting a new and expanded National Food Law with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2018. The Burmese FDA reformed the Food Law Drafting Committee in 2019 and then again in 2023. The Burmese FDA aims to expand the new National Food Law to cover activities from farm to table and link it to other existing laws such as the [Plant Pest Quarantine Law](#), [Animal Health and Livestock Development Law](#), [Consumer Protection Law](#), FDA notifications, and the minimum requirements for food manufacturing. The Burmese FDA, however, has suspended the processes of drafting the new National Food Law and instead published the [Labeling Order for Prepackaged Food](#) and released [draft guidelines on nutrition labeling and nutrition claims for prepackaged foods which are parts of National Food Law](#). Burma announced the [National Food Safety Policy](#) on April 27, 2022. The main objective of the National Food Safety Policy is to promote consumer protection while facilitating trade. The National Food Safety Policy promotes a harmonized, integrated, risk-based approach to food safety regulations throughout the food chain, from farm to fork. The policy includes the following seven operational goals of implementation:

- 1) strengthen the national food control system;
- 2) enhance commitment of food businesses to only place safe food on the market;
- 3) implement a national integrated risk-based Food Safety Framework;
- 4) manage food safety information;
- 5) improve resources and competencies;
- 6) clarify legal powers and provisions; and
- 7) facilitate equivalence, mutual recognition, and harmonization.

The National Food Safety Policy also includes detailed requirements for the management of food safety inspections for domestic and imported food. The government actively participates in the harmonization of food safety control measures to facilitate trade within ASEAN member states.

The Myanmar Food Authority will review the National Food Safety Policy periodically and update it as required. The Myanmar Food Authority, chaired by a Union level representative, oversees food safety enforcement activities and facilitates the cooperation and collaboration of official food safety control across government bodies. The Myanmar Food Authority will set the national strategic food safety objectives and the national food safety control plan. The following ministries and city committees make up the Myanmar Food Authority.

1. Ministry of Health (MOH)
2. Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI)
3. Ministry of Commerce (MOC)
4. Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF)
5. Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
6. Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)
7. Ministry of Legal Affairs
8. City Development Committee (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay) (NCDC, YCDC, MCDC)

Section II: Labeling Requirements

Burma published a new [Labeling Order for Prepackaged Food](#) (official translation) on January 20, 2022. The new requirements mostly follow Codex guidelines and ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements. The new labeling requirements went into effect on January 20, 2023, one year after the publication. The order specifies what information prepackaged foods must have on their labels and that the labels must be in Burmese. The new labeling order requires companies to include the following information on the label of all prepacked foods:

- a) name of food;
- b) list of ingredients;
- c) net content, quantity and drained weight;
- d) name and address;
- e) country of origin;
- f) lot identification;
- g) date marking; and
- h) instructions for use.

The new labeling order also stipulates that relevant labeling requirement from government ministries, departments, or organizations for public health (e.g., claims and warnings relating to nutrients, fortified foods, genetically modified foods, non-communicable disease prevention and control) must also be on the label. Nutritional claims (e.g., vitamins, minerals, and amino acids) and terms that denote quality (e.g., natural, genuine, pure, fresh, homemade, organic, and biologically) must be in line with Burmese standards, CODEX standards, or nutritional considerations in orders, directives issued by the relevant department or organization. Food labels may contain religious preparation claims (e.g., halal and kosher) so long as it conforms to the requirements of the respective religious or ritual authorities.

The Burmese FDA released directive 2/2022 on food ingredients and food additives that must be on food labels on January 26, 2022. The following table provides the definitions of food ingredients.

Table 1: Food Ingredient Definitions

Food Ingredient	Definition
Oil (together with either the term vegetable or animal, qualified by the term hydrogenated or partially - hydrogenated, as appropriate)	Refined oil except olive oil
Fat (together with either the term vegetable or animal, as appropriate)	Refined fat
Starch	Starch except artificial starch
Fish	Any fish that does not have a specific species in the diet
Poultry meat	Any poultry meat that does not have a specific species in the diet
Cheese	Any Cheese and mixed Cheese that is not usually specify the types in the diet
Spice or Spices or mixed spices, as appropriate	Any spice or mixed herbs that does not exceed 2 percent of total weight
Herbs or Mixed Herb, as appropriate	Any Herbs or mixed herbs that does not exceed 2 percent of total weight
Gum base	Basic ingredients to produce chewing gum
Sugar	All sucrose
Dextrose or Glucose	Dextrose powder and dextrose monohydrate
Caseinates	All Casein
Milk Protein	milk product which includes at least 50 percent of dry protein
Cocoa butter	Compressed, oiled and leached Cocoa butter
Crystalized fruit	Crystalized fruit not more than 10 percent of food weight

The following food additive functional classes must be described with the specific name or code number according to international numbering system for food additives ([CXG 36-1989](#)) of the products used.

- Acidity Regulator
- Anticaking Agent
- Antifoaming Agent
- Antioxidant
- Bleaching Agent
- Bulking Agent
- Carbonating Agent
- Color
- Color Retention Agent
- Emulsifier
- Emulsifying Salt
- Firming Agent
- Flour Treatment Agent
- Flavor enhancer
- Foaming Agent
- Gelling Agent
- Glazing Agent
- Humectant
- Preservative
- Propellant
- Sequestrant
- Stabilizer
- Sweetener

2.1 Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling and Nutritional Claims for Prepackaged Foods

The Burmese FDA released [draft guidelines on nutrition labeling and nutrition claims for prepackaged foods](#) (Burmese version) that are based on Codex Alimentarius Commission Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2 - 1985) and Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997). The draft guidelines include instructions on how to label the following topics related to nutrition:

- a. Listing of Nutrients
 - i. calculation of energy value
 - ii. calculation of protein
 - iii. describing of nutrients value
 - iv. nutrient reference values – requirements (NRVs-R)
 - v. nutrient reference values – non-communicable disease (NRVs-NCD)
 - vi. nutrition facts display box
- b. Nutritional Claims
- c. Nutrient Content Claims
 - i. conditions for nutrient content claims
- d. Comparative Claims
- e. Non-Addition Claims
 - i. non-addition claims
 - ii. non-addition of sodium salts

The guidelines also require that the following nutrient values be on the label:

- a. energy value;
- b. protein;
- c. available carbohydrate (i.e., dietary carbohydrate excluding dietary fiber);
- d. fat;
- e. saturated fat;
- f. sodium; and
- g. total sugars.

The draft guidelines also required the conversion factors and calculations for energy values, protein, vitamin equivalents, and nutrient reference values be on the label in the nutritional information panel.

2.2 Food Category

The Burma FDA released draft food category specifications on February 28, 2023, for public comments (<https://www.fda.gov.mm/?p=5750>). The specifications are a direct translation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission's food category specifications with two additions. The Codex food category specifications contain 16 food categories. Burma added the Food Additives and Medical Health Supplements categories to the country's food category specifications (see Table 3).

Burmese FDA Draft Food Category Specifications by FDA, Burma

1. Dairy products and analogues
2. Fats and oils, and fat emulsions

3. Edible ices, including sherbet and sorbet
4. Fruits and vegetables (including mushrooms and fungi, roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, and aloe vera), seaweeds, and nuts and seeds
5. Confectionery
6. Cereals and cereal products, derived from cereal grains, from roots and tubers, pulses, legumes and pith or soft core of palm tree
7. Bakery wares
8. Meat and meat products, including poultry and game
9. Fish and fish products, including mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms
10. Eggs and egg products
11. Sweeteners, including honey
12. Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products
13. Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses
14. Beverages, excluding dairy products
15. Ready-to-eat savorys
16. Prepared foods
17. Food Additives
18. Medical Health Supplements

Source: [FDA web site \(Burmese version\)](#)

On May 9, 2024 Burma FDA announced the [Food Product Notification](#) (Registration) to improve food safety and traceability. All locally produced prepackaged food must apply for registration. Imported foods have already received [import certificate \(IC\)](#) and [import health certificate \(IHC\)](#) and there is no need to apply for product registration again. On May 14, FDA released the [Food Product Notification \(PN\) User Guide](#) on how to register under FDA online service portal at <https://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/>.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

There are no specific regulations on the size or weight of imported food containers. Burma follows food grade container regulations according to ASEAN and Codex guidelines. The procedures for the importation of food additives are the same as food importation.

Section IV: Food Additives Regulations

The Burmese FDA has not approved any food additives in food despite being responsible for regulating food additives. The Burmese FDA, instead, defers to Codex standards for food additives, [Codex STAN 192-1995](#). Burma bans the following food additives in Table 3. The procedures for importation of food additives are the same as food import, except the size of sample. Only 200 gm of sample must be submitted to FDA while applying Import health Certificate.

Table 2: Banned List for Food Additives (Negative List)

Food Colorings	Food Preservatives
Sudan II	Formalin
Rhodamin B	Borax
Auramine O	Sodium Hydrosulphite
Orange II	Salicylic Acid

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

The FDA specified the maximum level of certain food additives in different food categories in the Standard Operation Procedures for food importation and exportation (below). These food additives are allowed to be imported.

Table 3: Maximum Level of Cyclamate in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Milk Drink/Dairy based desserts/Breakfast cereals/Alcoholic beverages	250 mg/kg
Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks	300 mg/kg
Energy drinks	350 mg/kg
Fruit and vegetables juice/concentrates/nectar	400 mg/kg
Confectionery/Processed meat/Processed fish and fish products/Sauces and like Products	500 mg/kg
Canned or bottled (pasteurized fruit)/Jams, Jellies, Marmalades	1000 mg/kg
Food supplements	1250 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Table 4: Maximum Level of Sorbate in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Wines/Processed meat	200 mg/kg
Energy drinks/ Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks/ Alcoholic beverages/ Dried Fruit	500 mg/kg
Milk Drink/ Dairy based desserts/ Fruit in vinegar, oil or brine/Jams, Jellies, Marmalades, Fermented fruit products/ Herbs, spices, seasonings and condiments/ Soup and broth/ Sauces and like products/ Fruit and vegetables, juice, concentrates, nectar/ Wine other than grapes	1000 mg/kg
Confectionery	1500 mg/kg
Noodle and pasta/ Processed fish and fish products/ Food supplements	2000 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Table 5: Maximum Level of Benzoate in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Energy drinks	250 mg/kg
Dairy based desserts	300 mg/kg
Soup and broth	500 mg/kg
Dried Fruit	800 mg/kg
Fruit in vinegar, oil or brine/ Jams, Jellies, Marmalades/ Fermented fruit products/ Noodle and pasta/ Processed meat/ Herbs, spices, seasonings and condiments/ Vinegars/ Sauces and like products/ Fruit and vegetables juice, concentrates, nectar/ Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks/ Wines/ Alcoholic beverages	1000 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Table 6: Maximum Level of Aspartame in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Dairy based desserts	100 mg/kg
Processed fish and fish products	300 mg/kg
Sauces and like products	350 mg/kg
Milk Drink/Fruit and vegetables juice, concentrates, nectar/Energy drinks/ Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks/ Alcoholic beverages	600 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Table 7: Maximum Level of Saccharin in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Milk Drink/Fruit and vegetables juice, concentrates, nectar/ Alcoholic beverages	80 mg/kg
Dairy based desserts/Breakfast cereals	100 mg/kg
Soup and broth	110 mg/kg
Fruit in vinegar, oil or brine/ Fermented fruit products/ Sauces and like products	160 mg/kg
Canned or bottled (pasteurized) fruit/ Jams, Jellies, Marmalades/ Confectionery/ Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks	200 mg/kg
Energy drinks/ Vinegars	300 mg/kg
Confectionery/ Processed meat/ Processed fish and fish products	500 mg/kg
Food supplements	1200 mg/kg
Herbs, spices, seasonings and condiments	1500 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Table 8: Maximum Level of Sulfite in Different Food Categories

Kind of Food	Maximum Level
Noodle and pasta	20 mg/kg
Food supplements/ Fruit and vegetables juice, concentrates, nectar/ Carbonated and non-carbonated drinks	50 mg/kg
Energy drinks	70 mg/kg
Jams, Jellies, Marmalades/ Fermented fruit products/ Vinegars	100 mg/kg
Processed fish and fish products/ Herbs, spices, seasonings and condiments	150 mg/kg
Wines other than grapes	200 mg/kg
Alcoholic beverages	250 mg/kg
Sauces and like products	300 mg/kg
Wines	350 mg/kg
Dried Fruit	1000 mg/kg

Source: Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation, FDA, Myanmar

Section V: Pesticides and Contaminants

Burma defers to ASEAN and Codex maximum residue levels (MRL) standards for pesticide residues in food and contaminants. Importers will often request that the government test imported products so that they can label the imported products as being safe for human consumption, especially for mycotoxins and aflatoxins. Imported products generally do not undergo pesticide residue testing. On July 1, 2021, Burma pesticides registration board published the list of 55 Active Ingredient (AI) which are not allowed to import and use in Burma (Table 10).

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) banned the use of chlorpyrifos in Burma on July 1, 2021. The DOA stopped issuing import certificates (IC) for this pesticide on December 31, 2020. However, imported plant and plant products may still contain residues of chlorpyrifos so long as the residues do not exceed Codex MRLs for chlorpyrifos.

Table 9: [List of Prohibited Active Ingredients in Burma](#)

Sr.	Name of AI (Active Ingredient)	Description	Usage
1	Aldrin	Carcinogenicity, Hazard to wild life, Bioaccumulation, Chronic effects	Insecticide
2	Aldicarb	Highly Acute Toxicity	Insecticide
3	Alachlor	Carcinogenicity	Herbicide
4	Alpha Hexa-chlorocyclohexane	Adverse Liver, Fetotoxic and Reproductive Effects, Tumors in Animals	Insecticide
5	Arsenic Compound	Carcinogenicity, Neurotoxicity, Highly Acute Toxicity	Rodenticide

6	Beta- Hexa chlorocyclohexane (BHC)	Oncogenecity, Carcinogenicity	Insecticide
7	Binapacryl	Carcinogenicity Fetotoxicity	Fungicide, Acaricide
8	Captafol	Oncogenecity, Carcinogenicity	Fungicide
9	Chlordimeform	Oncogenecity, Carcinogenicity	Insecticide
10	Chlordane	Carcinogenicity, Long Residual Effect, Hazard to Living Organism	Insecticide
11	Chlordecone	Carcinogenicity	Insecticide
12	Chlorobenzilate	Carcinogenicity, Adverse Testicular Effects	Insecticide, Acaricide
13	Cyhexatin	Teratogenecity, High Risk to the Environment	Acaricide
14	Dieldrin	Carcinogenicity, Bioaccumulation, Hazard to wild life, Other Chronic effect, Long Residual effect, Bioaccumulation	Insecticide
15	Dinoseb	Teratogenicity, Reproductive Effects, Acute Effects, Carcinogenicity, Possible Teratogenicity	Herbicide
16	DNOC	Highly Acute Toxicity	Insecticide, Acaricide
17	Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	Oncogenecity, Mutagenecity, Reproductive Effects, Carcinogenicity, Fetotoxicity	Insecticide, Nematicide
18	Ethylene Dichloride	Neurotoxicity, Persistent In Environment, Chronic Toxicity	Insecticide, (Fumigant)
19	Endosulfan	Volatile and Persistent, Bioaccumulation in Fatty Tissues	Insecticide,
20	Endrin	Oncogenecity, Teratogenecity, Reduction in Endangered and non- Target Species, Long Residual Effects	Insecticide,
21	EPN	Neurotoxicity, Hazard to Aquatic Organisms, Cholinesterase Inhibitor, Dermal Toxicity	Insecticide, Acaricide
22	Ethylene Oxide	Carcinogenicity, Mutagenecity	Co-Formulant
23	Fluoroacetamide	Highly Acute Toxicity	Rodenticide
24	Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	Carcinogenicity, Persistent in Environment	Fungicide
25	Heptachlor	Long Residual Effect, Bioaccumulation	Insecticide
26	Lindane(Gama Hexa-chlorocyclohexane)	Persistent in Environment, Bioaccumulation, Carcinogenic Potential	Insecticide
27	Methomyl	Acute Toxicity- humans, Cholinesterase Inhibitor, Highly Toxic- crustaceans, Moderate Toxic to Fish	Insecticide, Acaricide
28	Mercury Compounds	Highly Acute Toxicity, Persistent in Environment, Toxic to Aquatic Organisms	Fungicide
29	Methamidophos	Highly Acute Toxicity	Insecticide, Acaricide
30	Methyl Parathion	Highly Acute Toxicity, Dermal Toxicity	Insecticide

31	Monocrotophos	High Acute Toxicity, Cholinesterase Inhibitor	Insecticide, Acaricide
32	Mirex	Carcinogenicity, Persistent in Environment, Biomagnifications in Food Chain	Insecticide,
33	Parathion Ethyl	Toxic to Aquatic Organisms, Highly Acute Toxicity	Insecticide,
34	Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	Highly Acute Toxicity, Persistent in Environment	Insecticide, Fungicide, Herbicide
35	Phosphamidon	Highly Acute Toxicity	Insecticide,
36	Strobane (Polychloroterpenes)	Oncogenecity, Persistent In Environment, Bioaccumulation, Carcinogenicity	Insecticide,
37	2,4,5 -T and 2,4,5- TP	Oncogenecity, Carcinogenicity, Fetotoxicity, Long Residual Effect	Herbicide
38	Toxaphene	Oncogenecity, Acute Toxicity to Aquatic Organism, Chronic Effects to Wildlife, Carcinogenicity, Long Residual Effect	Insecticide, Acaricide
39	Tributyltin	Highly toxic to Aquatic Organism, Highly Acute Toxicity, Fetotoxicity, Bioaccumulation	Fungicide
40	Trichlorfon	Cholinesterase Inhibitor, Reproductive Effects, Carcinogenicity, Highly Acute Toxicity,	Insecticide
41	D.D.T (Dichloro-diphenyl- trichloroethane)	Bioaccumulation, Persistent in Environment, Carcinogenicity	Insecticide
42	Tridemorph	Reproductive Effects, Highly Acute Toxicity,	Fungicide
43	Triflumizole	Reproductive Effects, Highly Acute Toxicity,	Fungicide
44	Diafenthiuron	Persistent in Environment, Bioaccumulation	Insecticide
45	Terbufos	Highly Acute Toxicity, Inhibition of Brain Cholinesterase, Reproductive Effects	Insecticide
46	Borax Decahydrate	Reproductive Effects, Fetotoxicity, Possible Liver Carcinogen	Insecticide
47	Hydramethylnon	Reproductive Effects, Highly Acute Toxicity, Possible Human Carcinogen	Insecticide
48	Metaflumizone	PBT, Neurotoxicity (Block the sodium channel of the Nervous System causing Paralysis	Insecticide
49	Mineral oil	Carcinogenicity, Skin Burning, Dermal Toxicity	Insecticide
50	Boric acid	Reproductive Effects, Chronic Effect, Kidney Damage,	Insecticide
51	Carbofuran	Highest Acute toxicities to humans, Cholinesterase inhibitor, Neurotoxin, Highly toxic to Vertebrates and Birds,	Insecticide
52	Carbendazim	Mutagenecity, Reproductive Effects, Teratogenicity, Hepatocellular dysfunction, Endocrine-disrupting, Disruption of Haematological functions, Disrupted the various ecosystems	Fungicide
53	Benomyl	Mutagenecity, Reproductive Effects, Skin irritation, Damage liver occurred Cirrhosis, Possible Carcinogen	Fungicide

		in liver tumours	
54	Glufosinate-ammonium	Reproductive Effects, Neurotoxicity Cardiovascular and CNS Adverse Effects, Inhibits Glutamine synthetase, Persistent through soil	Herbicide
55	Chlorpyrifos	Reproductive Effects, Neurotoxicity Cardiovascular and Blood Toxicant Adverse Effects, Highly Toxic by ingestion, Possible risks of exposure when spraying activity	Insecticide

5.1 Pesticide Registration

The Pesticide Law of January 2016 is the main legislation governing pesticides in Burma: https://mairs.doa.gov.mm/gwt_assets/files/Pesticide-Law-Eng.pdf. The Pesticide Law directs the DOA to manage the Registration Board. The Board's role is to evaluate pesticide labeling claims as well as their efficacy on crops. Applicants wanting to register new pesticides in Burma must submit an application form to the Registration Board specifying which of the following permits is sought: experimental registration, provisional registration, full registration, or special use permit. The Registration Board then issues a registration certificate that mandates pesticide labels include instructions on use, restriction on use, period of pesticide application before harvesting, MRLs, and amount of ingredients and fats.

The experimental registration fee is 1,000,000 Myanmar kyats (\$476) with a validity of two years. The provisional registration fee is 2,000,000 Myanmar kyats (\$952) for five years, and the full registration fee is 5,000,000 Myanmar kyats (\$2,381) for 10 years. The DOA introduced the Myanmar Agricultural Inputs Registration System on January 27, 2021, allowing applicants to submit pesticide, fertilizer, and seed registration applications via <https://mairs.doa.gov.mm/>. Burma does not set its own MRLs, and instead requires imported products to meet MRLs established by Codex and ASEAN guidelines. The procedure for obtaining a pesticide registration certificate is at the following link: <https://myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/48>.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures

Phytosanitary certificates must accompany the shipment of plant and plants products, including seeds for planting. The Plant Protection Division (PPD) from MOALI's Department of Agriculture is responsible for the importation of plant, plant products, and seeds. PPD tests plants and plant products upon arrival. Seeds also require pre-shipment testing and submission of non-GMO certificates. Except for planting seeds, the PPD does not require pre-shipment samples for plant and plant products. Please visit the [Myanmar National Seed Portal](#) site for more information about the registration of new plant varieties and required documents.

[The Livestock, Breeding, and Veterinary Department \(LBVD\)](#) within MOALI is responsible for the importation of feed ingredients, animals, and animal products. Imports of feed ingredients, animals, and animal products must have either GMP Certificate plus HACCP or ISO 22000 certification. Feed ingredients also need a certificate of analysis (COA), and animal and animal products require a health certificate. LBVD tests animals and animal product samples on arrival. Feed ingredients, however,

require pre-shipment samples. LBVD tests for nutrition value, and aflatoxin and confirms the tests results are the same as the COA from the importer.

The Department of Fisheries (DOF) within MOALI is responsible for the importation of raw fish, fish products, and fish meal. DOF officials skip test on samples of imported products upon arrival to confirm the product is free from pathogens or harmful diseases according to health certificate issued by the oversea competent authority. The required documents and the application of Import procedures for Fish and Fishery Products can be found in [Myanmar National Trade Portal](#).

The Burmese FDA within the MOH is responsible for the importation of packaged food and beverage products. Imported products must arrive with a COA and have a GMP Certificate plus HACCP or ISO 22000 certification. Importers do not need to submit pre-shipment samples. The Burmese FDA will test the products on arrival. For additional information on product testing requirements, please see Section 9.3. For certification requirements for each product category, please see FAS Burma’s 2022 FAIRS Certification Report.

6.1 Facility Registration

The Myanmar FDA is responsible for registering production facilities for domestic production. Burma, however, does not have facility registration requirements for imported products.

6.2 Product Registration

Importers must apply for an [import recommendation \(IR\)](#), which acts as a product registration and is valid for three years once granted. Please see the process and timeline for the IR application in the flow chart in Section 9.3. Importers of new seed or plant varieties must register them at the DOA. The application, validity, and lab test fees are described in Section IX.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

FDA released the terms and conditions to be followed for applying for import certificate for Food/Health Supplements in February 2020. <https://www.fda.gov.mm/?p=2616> 9 (Burmese version).

The DOT released the national standards for the imported palm oil, sesame oil, peanut oil, sunflower oil, and soybean oil in April and October 2022.

Table 10: Quality and Standard for Imported Palm Oil (released on April 21, 2022)

Parameters	Specifications
Cloud Point (C.P), °C	8°C (max)
Iodine Value (I.V)	58.0 (min)
Color (5 ¼ ", Lovibond)	3R (max:)
Relative density (x°C/water at 20° C)	0.899-0.920
Free Fatty Acid (F.F.A)	0.1% (max)
Saponification Value (mg KOH/g oil)	194-202
Unsaponification Matter	13 (g/kg) (or) 1% (max)
Peroxide Value (P.V) meq O2/kg oil	4.0 (max)
Rancidity	Negative
Moisture and Volatile Matter (105° C)	0.1% (max)

Refractive - index (ND 40°C)	1.458 9-1.4592
Insoluble Impurities	0.05 % (max)

Table 11: Quality and Standard for Imported Edible Oil (released on October 26, 2022)

Parameters	Peanut oil	Sesame oil	Sunflower Oil	Soybean oil
Iodine Value (I.V)	86-107	104-120	118-141	124-139
Relative Density (2·0 C / water at 2·0 ° C)	0.909-0.920	0.915-0.924	0.918-0.923	0.919-0.925
Free Fatty Acid (F.F.A)	2% (max)	2% (max)	0.1% (max)	0.05% (max)
Saponification Value (mg KOH/g oil)	187-196	186-195	188-194	189-195
Unsaponification Matter	≤ 10	≤20	≤15	≤ 15
Peroxide Value (P.V) meq O2/kg oil	< 5	< 5	2 (at factory) <5 (at port)	2 (at factory) <5 (at port)
Rancidity	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Moisture and Volatile Matter (105°C}	0.1% (max)	0.1% (max)	0.1% (max)	0.1% (max)
Refractive - index (ND 40°C)	1.460-1.465	1.465-1.469	1.451- 1.468	1.461- 1.470
Insoluble Impurities	0.05-% (max)	0.05-% (max)	0.05-% (max)	0.05-% (max)

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

Burma enacted the Trademark Law on January 30, 2019, which established the Intellectual Property Rights Central Committee and the Intellectual Property Rights Agency under the MOC. The effective date of the Trademark Law has not been announced. The Trademark Law requires applicants to register a mark and include the following information in the application:

- 1) [Application for registration](#);
- 2) name and address of the person or legally formed organization applying for registration;
- 3) name, Myanmar “National Registered Card” for citizens’ national ID number, and address of the agent or representative if the applicant entrusts an agent or representative with this matter;
- 4) clear and complete description of the mark; and
- 5) name and type of goods and/or services for which a request for registration is made and the category of international mark classification to which it belongs.

In addition to the above requirements, the following must be attached to the application, if applicable :

- 1) If the application is made for a legally formed organization, the registration number, type, and country of said organization.
- 2) If the applicant requests the right of priority, an [application for the right of priority](#) together with sufficient evidence proving that the applicant has the right of priority and description.
- 3) If the applicant requests the right of priority for trade exhibitions, an [application for the right of priority for trade exhibitions](#) together with sufficient evidence proving the applicant has the right of priority for trade exhibitions and description.

- 4) If the mark is registered at the document's registration office, documentary evidence proving such registration.
- 5) Other requirements that may be announced.

Foreigners must appoint a local agent if their ordinary residence or principal place of business is outside of Burma. The term of registration will be ten years from the filing date of the application for registration, and the protection is renewable every ten years. Burma also passed a new Industrial Design Law on January 30, 2019, a new Patent Law in March 2019, and the [Copyright Law](#) on May 24, 2019. With the new Industrial Design and Patent law, commercial production and trading in goods is not possible without permission of the people/companies who hold the patent or design rights outside of Burma. According to the Patent Law, special exemption the protection of pharmaceutical patents is in place until January 1, 2033, and the protection of chemical products used in agricultural, food, and microbiological products was in place until July 1, 2021.

Section IX: Import Procedures

Import procedures for food and agricultural products are managed by several government agencies and private association, such as, but not limited to, the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce; the Burmese Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health; the Plant Protection Division, the Seed Division, the Livestock, Breeding, and Veterinary Department, and the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation; the Myanmar Livestock Federation; and the Myanmar Fishery Federation; and the Central Bank of Myanmar. Importers must seek approval from the relevant government agency before applying for an import license. Details for each are below and visit to Myanmar National Trade Portal to see guide to import

9.1 Import License

The Department of Trade (DOT) is responsible for issuing import licenses for both agricultural and non-agricultural items. The DOT introduced an online license application system - Myanmar [Tradenet 2.0](#) - in November 2020. The DOT required all importers and exporters to use Tradenet 2.0 when applying for import/export licenses and permits by May 1, 2021. The validity of most import license is three months. Importers can request extensions through Tradenet 2.0 but are limited to two extensions and then must pay an extension fee, which is the same amount as the original license. The first extension is valid for two months, while the second extension is valid for one month. The State Administration Council (SAC) instructed all stakeholders not to import products that compete with domestically produced products as much as possible. The SAC seeks to reduce the trade deficit, to control the utilization of the U.S dollar and prevent the devaluation of Myanmar kyat by discouraging imports.

The DOT announced that it will require importers to obtain an import license on all imported goods starting on June 1, 2023. The DOT reduced the number of lines for the goods qualifying for automatic licensing, from 3,075 to 1,525 with export/import [newsletter 9/2023](#) (Burmese) dated 21 June 2023. Furthermore, the automatic licensing system is now only available in sea trade. In border trade, the import of all goods is subject to non-automatic licensing. The process remains the same for the rest of the goods (10,324 HS codes) for which importers previously had to get a license to import.

The CBM revised the new reference exchange rate from 1,850 to 2,100 Myanmar kyat per one U.S. dollar on August 5, 2022. On December 5, the [CBM partially abolished the official exchange rate](#) and

instructed the private banks to convert foreign currency freely with the market rate. The next day the regime notified exporter to exchange 35 percent of export earnings with official exchange rate 2,100 and 65 percent of export earnings with CBM online trading platform rate. However, the Myanmar kyat continues to weaken with the average market exchange rate (4,800-4,850 MMK/USD in July 23 2024) about 91 percent higher than the reference rate.

The DOT announced that it will no longer accept applications for import licenses and permits for products that have already arrived at port and notified importers that they cannot begin shipment without receiving an import license. The DOT issued Export/Import Bulletin 6/2022 on April 5, 2022, that re-enforced previous notifications that require importers to have the necessary licenses and permits before products leave the exporting port. Please see more information at the following GAIN report: [Burmese Government Tightens Enforcement of Import License Procedures](#).

The requirement of obtaining import licenses and permits before a shipment leaves the port of the exporting country has made it difficult for importers to plan shipments. Transit times of shipments are hard to predict given the current logistical challenges and uncertainties that importers face. In November 2022, the CMB required importers to use earnings from exports to pay for imports. Some importers have had to start exporting to have the credit to import. The CMB's foreign currency controls have limited the ability of importers to secure foreign currency to purchase goods. The Department of Consumer Affairs directed all private associations in April 2023 not to import goods that are available domestically in order to avoid a trade deficit.

The Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee (FESC) reviews the applications of import licenses and issues import licenses at its weekly meeting. The FESC limits the amount of import licenses it issues each week based on the total U.S. dollar amount. Once the limit is reached, the FESC is likely to suspend issuing import licenses, and all pending requests have to wait until the next meeting. The FESC meeting is weekly and meeting notes are not shared publicly.

Importers are reporting significant delays when requesting an import license for sea freight (1-5 months) compared to cross border trade (1-2 weeks). The delays in obtaining an import license have caused some goods to sit at port for months waiting for the MOC to approve the license, often resulting in products expiring while waiting or are about to expire by the time they enter the country. Importers are unable to anticipate when they might receive an import license. Trade sources reported that the applications for an import license through a border check point is more flexible than the application of import licenses through overseas channels. Sources confirmed that the regime is trying to reduce imports and encourage the use of locally produced products. For instance, the regime restricts the import quota for soymeal at 300,000 MT for FY 2024/25 (April-March) and encourages livestock farmers to use locally produced oilcake. Similarly, the regime reduced the import quota of palm oil at 28,000 MT per month in FY 2024/25, trying to increase domestic oilseed production.

Sources have reported that the MOC started to restrict specific currencies for payments of imports on March 1, 2023. Importers must use Thai baht, Chinese yuan and Indian rupee to make payments along the border. The Central Bank of Myanmar, however, verbally informed importers in early June 2023 that they can use U.S. dollars to make payments for imports due to difficulties with using Chinese yuan. CMB and the MOC together released several notifications to restrict export earnings as well as imports.

Table 12: Import Recommendations

Products	Ministry and Department	Recommendation
Meat and poultry (frozen or raw), livestock and animal products, animal feeds, and veterinary medicine/pharmaceuticals, day old chicks	LBVD, MOALI	Import Recommendation
Seeds, plants, and plant products	DOA, MOALI	Import Certificate
Prawns/fry (baby fish), shrimp brans, fish, fish meal, and all aquaculture products	DOF, MOALI	Import Recommendation
All packaged food products, soft drinks and other beverages, distilled spirits, and wine	Burmese FDA, MOH	Import Recommendation

Import license fees range from 30,000-90,000 Myanmar kyats (\$14-43) depending on the CIF values (Table 14). The import procedures and documents required are different depending on the type of commodities and purpose of importation. For example, processed products also require an import recommendation, which acts as product registration (see Section 9.3). General import procedures for food and agricultural products are described in the flow chart below. For more information: please visit <https://myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en>. If the product is being imported for diplomatic uses, duty-free shops, high-end hotels and restaurants, or non-commercial purposes (i.e., research, donations, or exhibition), importers should apply for an import *permit* instead of an import license. Application of import license/permit via Tradenet 2.0 can be seen at <https://myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/35>.

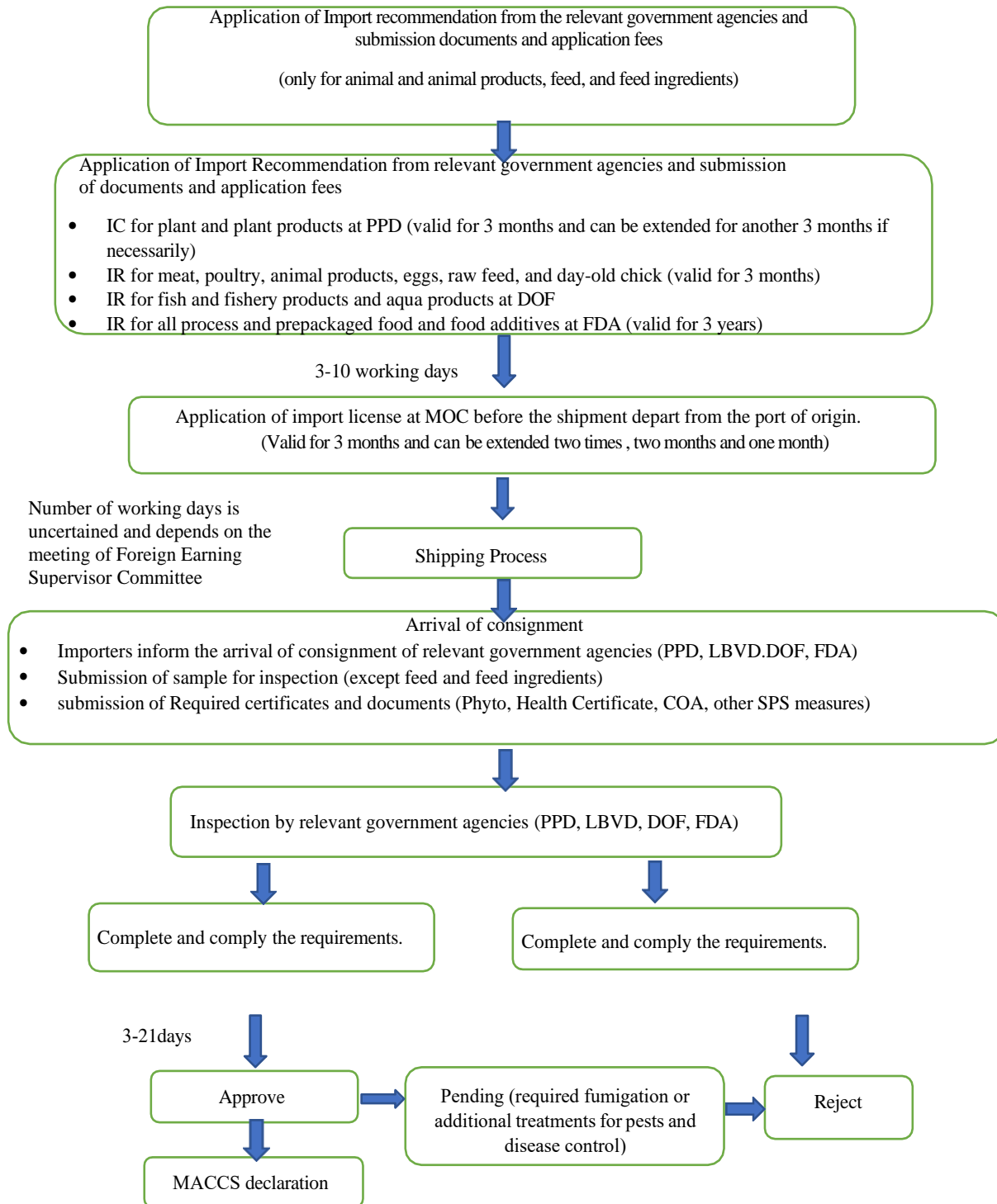
Table 13: Current Import License Application Fee

CIF Value (Myanmar kyat)	Import License Fee (Myanmar kyat)	Import License Fee (USD)
Up to 5,000,000	30,000	14.2
5,000,001-10,000,000	50,000	23.8
10,000,001-50,000,000	60,000	28.5
50,000,001-150,000,000	80,000	38.0
150,000,001to higher	90,000	42.8

Source: Ministry of Commerce

Currency Exchange Rate: \$1 = 2,100 MMK

Figure 1: General Import Procedures for Food and Agricultural Products



9.2 Prohibited Imports

Burma prohibits the importation of certain articles that endanger public morals (e.g., beer); threaten human, plant, or animal life; or involves the importation of gold, silver, arms, ammunition, and similar items. Prohibited goods cannot be imported, exported, transited, sold, or circulated in Burma. In addition, the MOC periodically bans imports of sensitive agricultural products by refusing to issue import licenses or limiting the quantities of these goods to protect local producers. Currently, whole corn grains, beans, and pulses are not receiving import permits, creating a de-facto ban. Import licenses have been withheld on a temporary basis for fresh potatoes and poultry for the same reason. Burma temporarily banned the import of beverages, coffee mix and tea mix, instant coffee, condensed milk, and evaporated filled milk through all border trade points starting from May 1, 2021, with the stated reason of lacking food safety inspection facilities. However, imports of those items can continue through sea freight.

9.3 Food (not including plant and plant products)

Burma is an active participant in the ASEAN Codex Committee. Food control activities in Burma are conducted in line with the National Food Law, the Public Health Law, and with Codex guidelines and standards. FDA is responsible for issuing import recommendations (IR) and import health certificates (IHC) for imported packaged food and beverage products, as well as overall quality control of processed food, imported food, and food for export.

The IR acts as product registration and is valid for three years once issued. Importers can apply for an IR via e-submission system at <https://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/>. Documents required for an IR application are the following:

- 1) Receipt for application fee;
- 2) specifications or COA from an accredited laboratory;
- 3) list of ingredients if not already specified on label;
- 4) certificate of GMP plus HACCP, or ISO 22000;
- 5) original label;
- 6) list of type and size of packaging; and
- 7) letter of acknowledgement of procedures on importer's letter head.

Importers who receive an IR must then apply for an import license at MOC. Importers who receive an import license must then apply for an IHC for each shipment via <https://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/> and send the sample to the FDA office in Yangon. But for food category 13 and 18 (foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses and medical health supplements), importers must select the FDA office in Nay Pyi Taw when they do online application for IHC and send a sample to FDA office in Nay Pyi Taw. The Burmese FDA published Standard Operating Procedures for Food Importation and Exportation (SOP) in December 2019, which established product testing requirements on a per shipment basis that must occur in the country of origin. The SOP is based on a data-based assessment and contains the following guidance:

- 1) Importers do not need to submit pre-shipment samples for testing but must submit a COA with required testing that varies by product category.
- 2) The same product and brand with different packing sizes from one producer is considered one item, with one application fee (50,000 Myanmar kyats, about \$23.8).

- 3) The IR is valid for three years (previously two).
- 4) Importers must pay a laboratory test fee for each different packaging size at a flat rate (200,000 Myanmar kyats, about \$95).

The Burmese FDA published the Minimum Requirements of Laboratory Parameters for Food Safety in April 2020 that established microbiological, chemical, and/or heavy metal testing, depending on the product category. This testing must be completed in the country of origin on a per shipment basis and be documented by a COA and is a key requirement for receiving the IHC. Based on concerns from importers and international trade partners, the FDA has informally stated that the policy is on hold while it works to adopt a more risk-based approach to product testing. In the meantime, the FDA has informally relaxed testing requirements for products deemed to be low risk:

<http://www.fda.gov.mm/?p=585> (Burmese only).

The Burmese FDA repeats the testing done in the country of origin when the imported products arrive using a sample of each batch. Importers must provide a sample of the food item with original packaging or a photograph of the packaging if the food item package is too big to provide. The sample amount is 1,500 grams per item for food, 1.5 liters per item for liquids, and 15 to 600 grams for food additives, depending on the type of additive. In October 2018, the Burmese FDA increased laboratory testing fees. Once granted, the Burmese FDA uploads the IHC to the new online customs declaration system, called MACCS. Importers must submit the following documents for the IHC application:

- 1) Receipt for application fee and lab test fee;
- 2) valid IR;
- 3) bill of lading, invoice, packing list, import declaration, release order notification;
- 4) COA;
- 5) health certificate if applicable; and
- 6) sample of label used for domestic distribution.

The Burmese FDA is allowing importers to send samples directly to the Burmese FDA office for testing and distribute the imported products while waiting for the test results since there are not enough inspectors to manage the trade flow following the military coup. The MOC suspended the import of various beverages (e.g., coffee and tea mixes, instant coffee, condensed milk, and evaporated milk) via the Myanmar-Thailand border on May 1, 2021. However, importers can still import these products via maritime trade.

The Burmese FDA does not allow the following Food Additives:

- a. Unpermitted Food Color: Sudan II, Rhodamin B, Auramine O, Orange II, Orange III
- b. Food Preservatives: Formalin, Borax, Sodium Hydrosulphite and Salicylic Acid

9.4 Wine, Beer, and Liquor

Burma allows the importation of wine and distilled spirits meeting certain criteria, but beer imports remain illegal. Since March 2015, wine can enter Burma by airfreight and sea freight but may not enter through land border crossings. The shipment documentation must declare the country of origin, and the alcohol percentage must be between seven and 20 percent.

Burma issued specific procedures for importing liquor in May 2020. Liquor may only enter Burma through the Yangon Port and Yangon Airport, and the minimum CIF Value is \$8 per liter. In addition to the general requirements for packaged food and beverages, importers must present a company registration, a trading license, and an official contract with the supplying company from which they are importing. Importers must have an excise license, or FL 11, issued by the General Administrative Department from the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to Burmese Excise Rules, only Burmese citizens are eligible to apply for an FL 11. Before applying for an import license, the importer must apply for a wine and liquor import registration card after receiving the FL 11 excise license. The validity of a Wine and Liquor Import Registration Certificate is one year with an option for extension every year. The registration and extension fees are 50,000 Myanmar kyats (\$23.8) per year. A tax is also levied on imports. The import of liquor and wine from duty-free shops shall be permitted in [separate procedures issued by MOC](#). Importers can apply for an IR for wine and distilled spirits via the following link: <https://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/>. The following flow charts demonstrate the IR process before shipping and IHC process after a shipment arrives.

Figure 2. Procedure for IR application

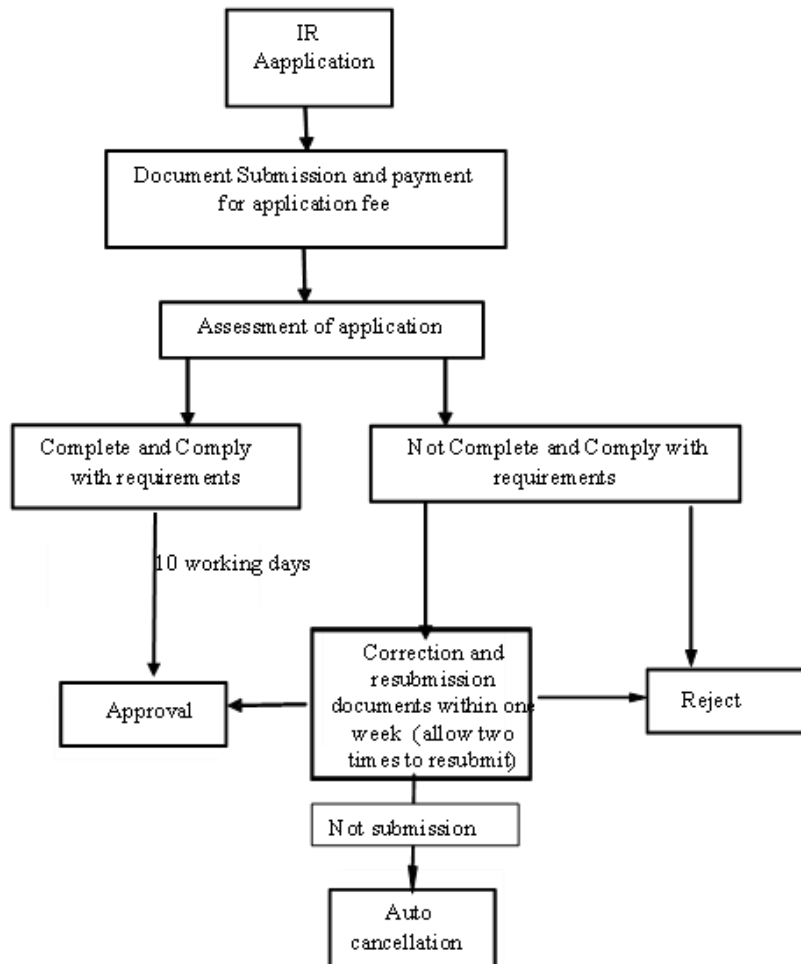
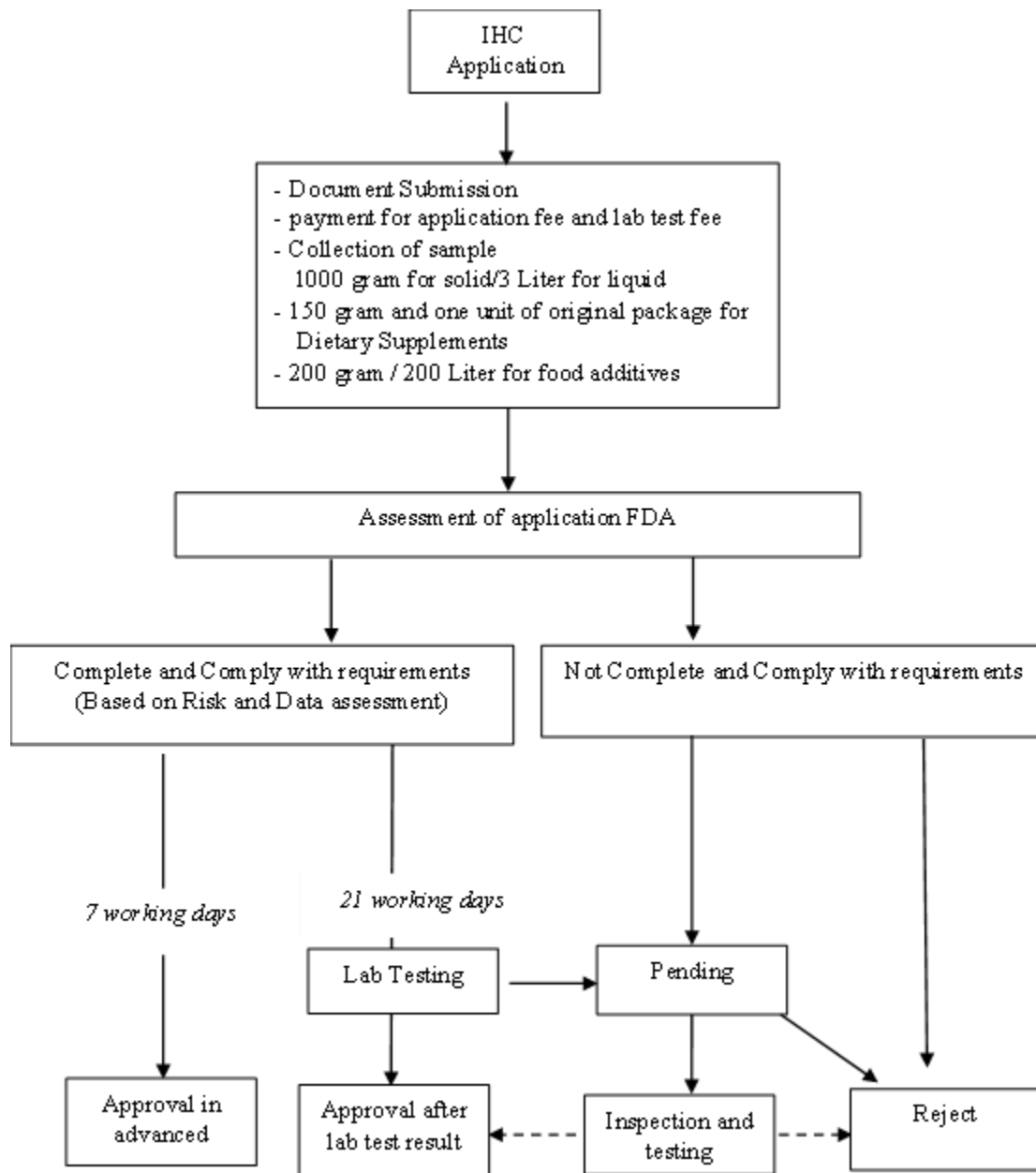


Figure 3. Procedures for IHC Application



9.5 Plants and Plant Products

The PPD of the DOA is responsible for regulating the importation of plants and plant products. The PPD is also responsible for the inspection and import authorizations of plant products, via issuance of Import Certificates (IC) for plants and plant products such as fruits, vegetables, and seeds.

Importers must apply for an IC from PPD with supporting documents and must pay an application fee of 30,000 Myanmar kyats (\$14.2). It takes three days to two weeks to issue the IC. The validity of the IC is

three months. Starting from May 2024, PPD allowed importers to renew the IC if the IC is expired before the shipment arrives. It takes three days to get the new IC. The importers must present the expired IC when they apply to renew their IC and must pay an application fee again. After receiving an IC from PPD, the importer must apply for an import license or permit from MOC. When the shipment arrives, the importer should inform PPD, which will then take a random sample from the consignment and conduct an inspection for pests and diseases. If the test is clear, PPD provides a recommendation letter to allow the commodities to enter the country. The importer collects the resulting certificate from PPD and can proceed for custom clearance. The importer must present the original phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, which must accompany the shipments.

The DOA issues ICs for 40 fresh fruits, 21 cereals and legumes, 57 vegetables and culinary to be imported for human consumption without a pest risk analysis (PRA). The allowable import list without PRA is available on the [PPD website](#). Canola, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat for animal feed consumption are also allowed to be imported from any country without a PRA. In addition, tuber seed potatoes for planting from Argentina, Australia, India, Korea, and the United States do not need to provide PRA data information.

PPD drafted the Plant Pest Quarantine Law in an attempt to bring it more in line with international standards. In August 2023, the PPD released [updated the Standard Operation Procedures](#) (Burmese only) for plants and plant products importers

The Department of Agricultural Planning (DAP) has drafted the Burmese National Biosafety Framework with the support of US Department of Agriculture and all processes suspended due to Coup. Although Burma does not allow the importation of GM crops for human consumption, Burma does allow the importation of GM soy products and corn byproducts to fuel the growing Burmese livestock sector.

9.5.1 Seeds

Burma passed a new Plant Variety Protection Law in September 2019, which aims to protect the rights of breeders of new plant varieties, develop the activities of plant breeders, encourage investment in and development of the breeding of new plant varieties in both the public and private sectors, and to support agricultural sector development through the production and cultivation of new improved varieties.

There are [117 types of seeds and seedlings](#) for planting that are allowed to be imported without PRA information. According to the revised seed law approved in February 2016, all imported seeds for commercial planting must be accompanied by a non-GMO certificate. All imported seeds must be registered at the National Seed-related Committee (NSC), and a value for cultivation and use (VCU) test needs to be performed on about 17 crops in three different locations that are recommended by the Seed Division (within DOA) in April 2018. On November 17, 2020, the seed division announced that importers of watermelon, muskmelon, chili, and tomato seeds can apply for recognition certificates with just documentation and no VCU test. [There are only 17 crops that require a VCU test for recognition](#) certificates. However, importers must perform a VCU test on new varieties if they want them to be labeled as being resistant to pest and diseases.

The Technical Seed Committee (TSC) reviews the data from the VCU test and submits it to the NSC. If the results are significant, the NCS issues the recognition certificate (RC) and the importer can apply for

an import license and seed business license for commercialization and distribution. After receiving the RC, importing procedures for the seed are the same as other plant and plant products. The fee for the RC ranges from 300,000-500,000 Myanmar kyats (\$142-\$238). The RC is valid for five years with an option for extension. Importing procedures and application of RC seed business license can be seen in the national seed portal at <http://www.myanmarseedportal.gov.mm/en/final-variety-list>. More Information about the procedures for importing new seed can be seen following links.

- [Procedures in accordance with Seed Law & Regulations](#)
- [Procedure for Recognition Certificate](#)
- [Procedure for Seed Testing Laboratory](#)
- [Procedure for Seed Business License](#)
- [Procedure for Seed Export and Import Recommendation](#)

9.6 SOP for Import and Inspection for Plants and Plant Products

Importers should apply for an **IC** for plants and plant products. Importers can apply for ICs at the Plant Quarantine Office, PPD in Rangoon and at Plant Quarantine offices at land border entry/exit inspection points. If the plants or plant products are not included in the PRA exemption lists, importers must submit pest risk data for the PRA when they apply for an IC. The IC must be sent by the national plant protection office of the exporting country, which issues phytosanitary certificates. The validity of an IC is three months with no options for extension. If the IC is expired before the shipment arrives, the importer must reapply for a new IC and pay the application fee of 30,000 Myanmar kyats (\$14.2).

Documents needed to apply for an IC are the following:

- Completed application form from the Department of Agriculture (DOA-PPD);
- approved letter of company (if company assigns representative for application); and
- registration of a maximum (2) representatives per company.

If the import is for planting, recommendation letters are required from the relevant ministerial offices:

- Sugarcane: recommendation letter from the Sugar Crops Division
- Perennial crops: recommendation letter from the Perennial Crops Division
- Other agricultural crops: recommendation letter from the Seed Division
- Forest plants: recommendation letter from the Department of Forestry

The application will be registered and accepted if the above necessary documents are completed. The processing time for ICs is about three working days (excluding official non-working public holidays). The fee for ICs is 30,000 Myanmar kyats (\$14.20).

Procedures for inspection of commodities upon arrival under the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS):

- Importers must inform the DOA-PPD and apply for testing using the “Other Government Agency (OGA) test application” available at the Burmese Customs Department.
- Submission of an original phytosanitary certificate (attach scanned copy into MACCS and submit the original to PPD).

(Note: IC number must be included in the phytosanitary certificate)

- Inspection of whether phytosanitary certificate matches the IC, visual inspection of 0.005-0.01% of imported commodities, laboratory test (if needed, especially for seeds).
- If shipment is pest free and phytosanitary certificate matches the IC, then PPD approves it in MACCS, and the shipment is cleared.
- If any quarantine pest is found, the imported commodities must be disinfected or destroyed at the exporters' cost. (Note: If non-quarantine pests are found in the representative sample, PPD can consider clearing the shipment without any treatment, but it depends on the percentage of pest infestation).

9.7 Animals, Animal Products, Raw Feed, and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals

Burma is a member of OIE and follows OIE guidelines and requirements. The LBVD is responsible for the inspection of imported meat and poultry, meat products, eggs, and animal feed. The importer must be a member of the MLF, which is an association of local livestock firms, before they can import meat and meat products. Importers must obtain a recommendation from the Myanmar Meat Inspection Board (MMIB). Importers also need to obtain an IR from the LBVD, then apply for an import license from the DOT. In addition to the import recommendation and permit, each shipment must be accompanied by a health certificate and a declaration of the shipment's contents. In addition, a certificate for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plus a GMP certificate or ISO 22000 certificate or other food safety management certificate issued by a third-party accreditation body is required. After shipment arrives, the LBVD conducts laboratory testing on a sample.

The process for receiving a recommendation from LBVD takes 7-10 days. The current application fee for an import recommendation is 1,500 Myanmar kyat (\$0.8) per metric ton and the inspection fee for the laboratory test is 15,000 Myanmar kyat (\$7.14).

9.8 Feed and Feed Additives

The procedures for the importation of animal feed and feed additives are currently through two channels between PPD and LBVD. Importation of raw feed, such as sorghum, feed wheat, and soybeans, must comply with the same procedures for the importation of plants and plants products through PPD, while the importation of processed feed, such as soybean meal, distiller's dried grains with soluble (DDGS), corn gluten meal, sunflower meal, bone meal, and feed additives, must comply with the same procedures for the importation of meats through LBVD, except for the submission of pre-shipment samples. Feed importers reported that the LBVD officials started inspecting the pool sample from the containers as they arrived in late 2022. Previously, exporters of feed and feed ingredients must submit pre-shipment samples while applying for an IR at LBVD. An importer must apply for an IR for raw feed, such as feed wheat, and feed grade whole soybeans, at LBVD and an IC at PPD. If the importer imports the raw feed for aquaculture, then the importer must apply for an IR at DOF.

9.9 Customs Declaration

Burma is utilizing the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) at international ports, the Yangon Airport International Cargo Terminal, and Thilawa Special Economic Zone operations (<https://www.maccs.gov.mm/c-o>). This system includes user registration, clearance of goods, cargo management, fee payments, and a helpdesk. MACCS will eventually connect with shipping and airline companies, the Port Authority, warehouse operators, brokers, and importer/exporters and with other

government agencies. It was initially installed in Yangon and will be deployed at other customs offices throughout Burma.

In order to clear Customs, imports must be accompanied by a customs declaration and required accompanying documents. All imports must be cleared through Customs using the CUSDEC-1 Import Declaration Form along with the CUSDEC-4 Customs Valuation Form.

Required accompanying documents include:

- 1) Invoice;
- 2) Packing list;
- 3) Sale contract;
- 4) Bill of lading, air consignment note, or truck note;
- 5) Import License/Permit (when required);
- 6) other certificates, permits or import recommendations, as applicable (e.g., a phytosanitary or health certificate, IC, IR and country of origin documentation).

The importer must submit the customs declaration and supporting documents to Customs at the time that the goods arrive. Customs has not yet adopted pre-arrival processing. The customs duty assessed on imported goods is a percentage of their declared value and ranges from 0-15 percent for agricultural products, except wine, which is 30 percent.

The Myanmar Customs Department published the [Myanmar Customs Tariff 2022](#) in October 2022. The import tariff for wheat grain, soybean meal, DDGS, and wine did not change, while tariff rate for other food items did increase (see Table 15):

Table 14: Comparison of Myanmar Custom Tariff (MCT) 2017 and 2022

Description	MCT 2017 (%)	MCT 2022 (%)
Meat and meat products Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled. Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen.	15	40
Pig fat, free of lean meat, and poultry fat, not rendered or otherwise extracted, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked.	3	40
Meat and edible meat offal, salted, in brine, dried or smoked; edible flours and meals of meat or meat offal.	10	40
Of whales, dolphins and porpoises (mammals of the order Cetacea); of manatees and dugongs (mammals of the order Sirenia); of seals, sea lions and walruses (mammals of the suborder Pinnipedia):	10	40
Milk and Milk products	3	15
Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.	3	15
Milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.	3	15

Description	MCT 2017 (%)	MCT 2022 (%)
Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa.	5	20
Cut flowers and flower buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, fresh, dried, dyed, bleached, impregnated or otherwise prepared.	15	30
Chipping potatoes	15	30
Tomatoes, fresh or chilled.	15	30
Cabbages, cauliflowers, kohlrabi, kale and similar edible brassicas, fresh or chilled.	15	30
Lettuce (<i>Lactuca sativa</i>) and chicory (<i>Cichorium spp.</i>), fresh or chilled.	15	30
Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and similar edible roots, fresh or chilled.	15	30
Leguminous vegetables, shelled or unshelled, fresh or chilled.	15	30
Other vegetables, fresh or chilled.	15	30
Fruits of the genus <i>Capsicum</i> or of the genus <i>Pimenta</i> :	3	30
Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water), frozen.	15	30
Vegetables provisionally preserved (for example, by sulfur dioxide gas, in brine, in sulfur water or in other preservative solutions), but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption.	15	30
Manioc, arrowroot, salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes and similar roots and tubers with high starch or inulin content, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried, whether or not sliced or in the form of pellets; sago pith.	15	30
Coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled.	3	10
Melons (including watermelons) and papaws (papayas), fresh.	15	30
Strawberries	20	30
Tamarinds	15	30
Peppers	3	15
Fruits of the genus <i>Capsicum</i> or of the genus <i>Pimenta</i> :	3	15
Wheat or meslin flour.	10	20
Maize (corn) flour, Rice Flour	5	10
Cereal groats, meal and pellets.	5	10
Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets of potatoes.	5	10

Description	MCT 2017 (%)	MCT 2022 (%)
Starches; inulin.	5	10
Soya-bean oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Ground-nut oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Sunflower-seed, safflower or cotton-seed oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Coconut (copra), palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.	3	15
Margarine; edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this Chapter, other than edible fats or oils.	3	10
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their fractions, boiled, oxidized, dehydrated, sulphurated, blown, polymerized by heat in vacuum or in inert gas or otherwise chemically modified, excluding those of heading 15.16; inedible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this Chapter, not elsewhere specified or included.	3	15
Sausages and similar products, of meat, meat offal, blood or insects; food preparations based on these products.	15	40
Other prepared or preserved meat, meat offal or blood.	15	40
Extracts and juices of meat, fish or crustaceans, mollusks or other aquatic invertebrates.	15	40
Prepared or preserved fish; caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs.	10	40
Artificial honey, whether or not mixed with natural honey.	15	30
Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid.	15	30
Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.	15	30
Mushrooms and truffles, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.	15	30
Potatoes	15	30
Vegetables, fruit, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar (drained, glacé or crystalized).	15	30

Description	MCT 2017 (%)	MCT 2022 (%)
Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes, obtained by cooking, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.	15	30
Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included.	15	30
Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar other sweetening matter.	15	30
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured, and other non-alcoholic beverages, not including fruit or vegetable juices.	10	30
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol.; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages. (Whiskies, Rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugar-cane products, Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc.	40	60
Non-alcoholic beer	10	30

Source: Myanmar Customs Department

More information is available at the following links:

Fish and fish products: <https://www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/86>

Meat and animal products: <https://www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/74>

Food Import Recommendation: <https://www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/1>

Food Import Health Certificate: <https://www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/en/procedure/10>

Import Declaration Procedures: <https://www.customs.gov.mm/Import%20Procedure>

9.10 Other Policies

Burma passed the Law to Prevent Increased Quantity of Imports on December 24, 2019. This law is designed to protect domestic producers who may be hurt from increased imports. MOC leads the committee to prevent the increased quantity of imports. The committee will form an investigation team with employees of the Administration Department to perform investigations and other duties under this law. According to the new law, the committee will impose additional tariffs for preliminary prevention, increased tariffs for prevention, and will restrict the import (specify import quota) in order to prevent serious injury, or threat of a serious injury to domestic producers.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Burma does not allow advanced declaration for any food products. Burma officials have received three technical trainings for Global e-Phyto hub supported by the Government of Netherlands in 2018-2020, but Burma has not implemented it. Although Burma is currently using MACCS for imports, Burma does not use e-certification, and importers still need to submit a hard copy of certificates to clear the

shipment. Importers must pay port surcharges, inspection fees, taxes, tariffs, and custom clearance fees. Incoming shipments can be cleared within one week if the required documentation is complete. There is no average release time for shipments that arrive without proper documentation given the complexities and variation of requirements depending on the imported product. Demurrage and detention fees are another cost for the importer if the containers are detained more than one week.

Common delays include: difficulties in obtaining import licenses, duplicate laboratory testing to confirm the COA, incidence of pests and further treatments, requirements of multiples third-party certificates according to the new SOP, and unclear import procedures and documentation requirements. The Burmese MOC does provide training on using Tradenet.2.0 for the importers and exporters.

APPENDIX I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

Food and Drug Administration

Ministry of Health
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +(95) 67 403350
Fax: +(95) 67 403165
Website: <http://www.fda.gov.mm/>
FDA food section email - fdafood@mohs.gov.mm

IPPC

Plant Protection Division
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
Bayintnaung Road, west Gyogone, Insein P.O 11011
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (+95) 1 644214/ 640344
Fax: (+95) 1 667991
Website: <http://www.ppdmyanmar.org/>

WTO-SPS Contact Point

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA)
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
Office No. (1) (32)
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: (+95) 67 3407342, 407147
Fax: (+95) 67 3407027, 407434
Website: www.dica.gov.mm

Codex Contact Point

Dr Pyei Phyo
Director (Food)
Department of Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Health
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: (+95) 67 3403467

OIE

Dr. Ye Tun Win
Director General
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
Office No. (36)
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Tel: (+95) 67 3408466
Fax: (+95) 67 3408044

(+95) 67 3408056
ytwvet84@gmail.com

National Notification Authority (NNA)
Director, WTO, and International Organization
Directorate of Trade - Ministry of Commerce
Tel: (+95) 6740 83 15
koko.lay@gmail.com

APPENDIX II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contact

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service

The Foreign Agricultural Service in Rangoon, Burma maintains current information about food and agricultural import policies and opportunities in Myanmar. Questions or comments regarding this report should be directed to the following:

Office of Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Embassy
110 University Avenue
Kamayut Township 11041
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95-1-536509
Fax: +95-1-511069
E-mail: agrangoon@fas.usda.gov

: AgRangoon@state.gov

Attachments:

No Attachments