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Report Highlights:

This FAIRS-Togo Country Report Annual - 2025 outlines the Togolese government's requirements for imports of food and agricultural products destined for human and animal consumption. FAS Accra, Abidjan (Post) in this report provides U.S.-origin food manufactures and exporters with an overview of key Togolese laws, regulations, and requirements governing the import of food and agricultural products. The report provides details on the Togolese government's regulatory bodies and enforcement mechanisms. This FAIRS-Togo report also provides comprehensive information and guidance on overall import requirements, procedures, and documentation necessary for compliance. This report informs on trade restrictions and import bans.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the U.S. Embassy/USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) Accra, Abidjan 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 preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.** [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge.]

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Togo is a small, but growing economy located in the Coastal West Africa region, bordering the Bight of Benin, between Benin and Ghana.¹ The country's economy is showing resilience despite a complex global environment, thanks to real economic growth of 6.2 percent (2025). West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) (French acronym, UEMOA) reporting indicates that Togo's external trade balance shows signs of improvement. The country still faces trade deficits due to the overall high volume of imports. Togo is transforming itself into a regional transshipment hub, where the services sector drives economic growth and is the main gross domestic product (GDP) contributor in 2025-26.

Togo's Port of Lomé is Africa's fourth largest container port. The government is investing in upgrading the port's capacity and roadways. Togo is a trade dependent regional transshipment hub; that will maintain ties with the landlocked Sahelian states of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Although Togo may gravitate closer to the Confederation of Sahelian States (also known as the Alliance of Sahel States), it is doubtful that it will exit altogether the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).²

Togo's agricultural and agrifood sectors account for 40 percent of GDP and 65 percent of the workforce. Togo is not food self-sufficient; weakening its food security. Togolese soybean exports, surged in 2019, due to the rise of a homegrown organic soybean sector, stimulated by European Union (EU) demand, declined in 2024. However, local processing (i.e., crush) continues to invest in expanding capacity with an eye towards facilitating future soybean meal (organic) exports. Exports of phosphates, petroleum and bituminous minerals, and plastic products are the main exports; along with agricultural commodities such as coffee, cocoa, and cotton. Togo nonetheless is dependent on food and agricultural product imports due to insufficient local production combined with its food processing sector's limitations.

This FAIRS-Togo report updates Togo's regulations on food and feed, as well as provides information on the Togolese governmental regulatory bodies and their enforcement protocols. It also offers guidance, along with information on overall import requirements, procedures, and documentation. It provides U.S. exporters of American food and agricultural products guidance for servicing the Togolese market.

¹ Togo is one of the least developed countries in Africa, extending south to the Gulf of Guinea, where the capital of Lomé is situated. It is a small, tropical country of about 57,000 square kilometers (km) (22,000 square miles), that counts with a population of roughly 8 million. It has a width of less than 115 km (71 miles) sitting between Ghana in the west and its eastern neighbor Benin.

² The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional political and economic union currently consisting of twelve (12) countries in West Africa. Collectively, the countries comprise an area of 2,332,770 square kilometers (900,684 square miles), with an estimated population now of 348 to 352 million following the exit of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger in January 29, 2025. These three Sahelian states, before withdrawing from ECOWAS, accounted for 2,781,431 square kilometers (1,073,912 square miles) out of the bloc's earlier 5,114,162 square kilometers (1,974,589 square miles). Total pre-exit ECOWAS population stood at over 424 million; with Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger accounting then for 73 to 76 million people, or about 16 percent of the total population. The remaining 12-member states include: Benin; Cape Verde; Côte d'Ivoire; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea (suspended); Guinea-Bissau; Liberia; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; and Togo. The withdrawal of the three Sahelian states reduced the size and geographic reach of the ECOWAS bloc. While not the most economically powerful members, the Sahelians' departure is a blow to regional unity and the bloc's influence. The split is likely to impact regional food security and trade, but the Sahelians have indicated that they will maintain free trade with ECOWAS members.

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

This report updates Togo’s regulations on food and feed, as well as provides information on the Togolese governmental regulatory bodies and their enforcement protocols. It also offers guidance, along with information on overall import requirements, procedures, and documentation.

Togo’s food regulatory environment is a highly controlled permit-based system designed to protect public health, ensure consumer safety, and harmonization with West African Economic and Monetary Union (*Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine* - UEMOA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) frameworks.³ Togolese regulatory agencies enforce compliance with food laws, regulations, and standards.

Importing food products into Togo, requires a Certificate of Prior Import Declaration from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Local Consumption (*Ministère du Commerce, De L’Industrie et de la Consommation Locale* – MCICL) for products classified as “sensitive” products. The forgoing ministry following the constitutional change of May 6, 2025, is being rebranded as the Ministry of Commerce, Crafts and Local Consumption (*Ministère du Commerce, D’Artisanat et de la Consommation Locale* – MCACL). Imports still must comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards; as determined by the National Institute of Hygiene (*Institute Nationale d’Hygiène* - INH) and the Togolese Institute of Agronomic Research (*Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique* - ITRA).

Local restrictions and requirements apply. For example, a minimum purchase requirement of 10 percent of the quantity to be imported is reserved for production from local producers of fish and poultry. Togo aims to strengthen the regulatory framework of its food safety system to better align it with international standards. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding food security and various import bans that are trade restrictive.⁴ Food quality inspections are governed by [Decree No. 046/MAEP/CAB/SG/DEP \(2008\)](#) (in French), that establishes a regulatory framework for compliance with food safety and quality standards.⁵

³ The West African Economic and Monetary Union is generally referred to in English by its French language acronym UEMOA (for *Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine*) and alternatively as WAEMU. It is a treaty-based arrangement that brings together eight West African states, of which seven are former colonies of French West Africa. Members include Benin; Burkina Faso; Guinea-Bissau (only non-Francophone member); Côte d’Ivoire; Mali; Niger; Senegal; and Togo. Territorially, UEMOA mostly overlaps with the larger Economic Organization of West African States (ECOWAS).

⁴ See, interministerial [Legal Order No. 06/08/MAEF/MEF \(2008\)](#) (in French), covering details on import authorizations, located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-DESIGNATION-DES-PONITS-DENTREE-EN-REPUBLIQUE-TOGOLAISE-DES-DENREES-ALIMENTAIRES-DORIGINE-ANIMALE-ET-HALIEUTIQUES.pdf> (in French). Legal Order No. 0014/2025/MRHART-CAB specifies details on the 10 percent local purchase requirement. FAS Accra, Abidjan observes that Togolese producers are not always capable of satisfying the requirements of these legal orders. Togo counts with a digital import authorization [platform](#) (located at: <https://service-public.gouv.tg/service/6633f09eec58e13a6d12e8e4/licences-agrements-certificats/certificat-de-declaration-prealable-d-importation-et-de-comm>) (in French).

⁵ See, *Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Élevage et de la Pêche*, located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-INSPECTION-SANITAIRE-DENREES-ALIMENTAIRES-DORIGINE-ANIMALE.pdf> (in French).

General Labeling Rules: Togo’s food labeling standards are based on the [Codex Alimentarius](#) general principles, requiring labels to provide clear, accurate, and non-misleading information.⁶ Labels must include the food’s name, list of ingredients, net weight, manufacturer details, batch information, and date marking. Labels must be in French, and packaging must comply with general food safety standards to ensure consumer protection.

Food Safety and Nutrition: All food products of animal and plant origin must undergo quality inspection to safeguard public health. The Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries oversees the inspection of all foods, and has the authority to seize and destroy unsanitary products; as outlined in [Decree No. 046/MAEP/CAB/SG/DEP \(2008\)](#) (in French).⁷ These regulations apply to both imported and exported food products, and are meant to enforce compliance with national food safety standards.

SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Labeling Requirements in Togo are overseen by the Ministry of Commerce, Crafts and Local Consumption. Togo initiated an Automated Marking System (SAM), a tax control system managed by the Togolese Revenue Office (*L’Office Togolais des Recettes* - OTR). The system combats illicit trade, counterfeiting, and under-invoicing by means of product traceability through digital marking, stickers, and or stamps.⁸

Togo’s minimum labeling requirements include the following:

- Brand label
- List of ingredients
- Net quantity
- Sell-by date and specific storage conditions.
- Name and address of the manufacturer, packager or seller.
- Place of origin or provenance, (e.g., “made in” or location name, or both if re-packaged goods).

⁶ See, Codex Alimentarius, located at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/procedural-manual/sections/section1/section1-3/en/>. Togo’s food safety regulations are aligned with regional requirements as well; see the related [WAEMU legal order](#) (in French), located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-INSPECTION-SANITAIRE-DENREES-ALIMENTAIRES-DORIGINE-ANIMALE.pdf>. (in French)

⁷ See, *Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Élevage et de la Pêche*, located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-INSPECTION-SANITAIRE-DENREES-ALIMENTAIRES-DORIGINE-ANIMALE.pdf>. (in French).

⁸ The Automated Marking System (SAM) requires the affixing of a specialized sticker on imported and locally produced products (especially for waters, beers, fruit juices, wines, vermouths, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products) at the time of entry into the market. Authorization for release into the market comes after all conditions and quality inspection met, as well as all taxes liquidated. The specialized sticker must be scannable with a mobile application for verification. See, *Journal Officiel de la République Togolaise*, “[SAM legal order](#)” (in French), located at: https://jo.gouv.tg/sites/default/files/JO/JOS_%2011_10_2019-64E%20ANNEE%20N%C2%B0%2024%20QUARTO.pdf.

- Instructions for use, when necessary for appropriate product use, and, where applicable, specific conditions of use, particularly precautions.

All required information must be written in French. If the original label is not in French, it must include (i.e., affixed) an accurate translation. Non-compliance with these labeling requirements is subject to sanctions, as outlined in the [Legal Order No. 005/MEF/MCI/PSPT \(February 6, 2017\)](#) (in French).⁹ These regulations aim to ensure transparency, consumer safety, and traceability in the Togolese market.

B. OTHER SPECIFIC LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Regulations for prepackaged food in Togo are enforced by several government bodies, including [the Ministry of Agriculture, Village Hydraulics and Rural Development](#) (link in French) (*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Hydraulique Villageoise et du Développement Rural* - MAHVDR) (referred to as Ministry of Agriculture henceforth) and [Ministry of Commerce, Crafts and Local Consumption](#) (link in French) (referred to as Ministry of Commerce henceforth); along with some rules influenced by regional West African standards.¹⁰ The regulations cover labeling, packaging materials, and import procedures. Specific requirements include:

- The date up to which the foodstuff retains its properties (i.e., use-by-date).
- Special storage conditions, which must be grouped together in the same visual field.

Ingredient Listing: A list of ingredients, enumerating in descending order by weight at the time of use, is required for all foodstuffs. However, the following are exempt from ingredient listing:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, or any other perishable product which has not been peeled, cut or similarly processed.
- Carbonated waters with this characteristic in their name.
- Cheese, butter, fermented milks and creams; to the extent that these products have only had milk products, enzymes and micro-organism cultures added to them for their manufacture, or salt needed for the manufacture of cheese.
- Products consisting of a single ingredient.
- Flavoring agents for which the carrier and additives must be indicated.

⁹ See, Togo, *Journal Officiel* (official gazette), located at: https://jo.gouv.tg/sites/default/files/JO/JOS_06_02_17-62e%20ANNEE%20N%C2%B005.pdf (in French).

¹⁰ Togo's Ministry of Agriculture in 2025, renamed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Village Water Supply and Rural Development (*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Hydraulique Villageoise et du Développement Rural*). Previously it has been referred to as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production and Fisheries (*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Production Animale et Halieutique*). The Ministry of Agriculture is located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/>. The Ministry of Commerce, Crafts and Local Consumption, is located at: <https://commerce.gouv.tg/>.

Special Product Regulation for Processed Foods: Require an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as a prior authorization from the Ministry of Commerce.

- **Iodized Salt:** All salt for human consumption must be iodized. The import and sale of non-iodized, edible salt is strictly forbidden.
- **Genetically Engineered (GE) Foods:** Although Togo allows for the import of GE foods, a safety assessment and authorization from a competent authority is required.
- **Pesticide Residues:** Togo enforces West African standards for pesticide management, prohibiting products containing specific harmful ingredients, for example, glyphosate and endosulfan.
- **Fish and Seafood Products:** The import of certain tilapia fish products is strictly prohibited. Permits for other fish items must be approved by Togo's national veterinary authority.

Customs Clearance for Prepackaged Food: Importers must provide the following documents to clear prepackaged food through customs:

- Ministry of Agriculture import permit
- Ministry of Commerce processed foods authorization
- Import certificate
- A health certificate issued by exporting country's sanitary authority (i.e., for foodstuffs).
- Commercial invoice and packing list
- Certificate of value

Wheat Flour and Refined Edible Oils: As per [Decree No. 2012/010/PR](#) (in French), wheat flour must be enriched with folic acid, and refined edible oils must be enriched with vitamin A.¹¹ Labels must indicate these enrichments.

Infant Formula: In Togo, the import of infant formula is strictly controlled. Infant formula requires a Special Import Authorization issued by the Ministries of Health and of Commerce. The process involves completing the required form on the service-public.gouv.tg website (in French), attaching the necessary supporting documents, and submitting the application. Packaging and labeling for infant formula in Togo align with international and regional standards for safety and composition, as well as with strict marketing regulations promoting breastfeeding.

Halal Food Labeling: Togo does not require halal product labeling.

Food/Feed Containing “Genetically Modified” (Genetically Engineered) Ingredients: In Togo, [Law No. 2009-001 \(January 6, 2009\)](#) (in French) pertains to the prevention of biotechnological risks. It governs genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or are genetically engineered, requiring prior

¹¹ See, Togo, “Decree No. 2012-010/PR,” pertaining to the enrichment of refined oils and wheat flour with micro-nutrients, located at: https://www.aifo-uemoa.bj/assets/documents/textes-fortification/DECRET-2012-010_RENDANT_OBLIGATOIRE_LA_FORTIFICATION_AUTOGO.pdf and <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC233219>. (in French)

authorization for any GE-related activity.¹² A license is mandatory for the import, export, transit, and marketing of GE products. The biosafety laboratory at ITRA tests seeds and identifies potential GE traits to shield farmers' seeds and the national agricultural sector.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Togo does not require special packaging or container dimensions, if such protects against transport stresses/ damages, environmental influences, and or handling. All food products are inspected by the competent authorities on arrival to ensure food safety.

A. PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

Togo enforces [Decree No. 2011-003 \(January 5, 2011\)](#) (in French), which prohibits no-biodegradable plastic packaging.¹³ The law favors biodegradable, recyclable plastic bags, and packaging.

SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

Togo's food additives regulations align with the [Codex standards](#) on additives.¹⁴ These are enforced by the Togo National Agency for Food Security (*L'Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire du Togo - ANSAT*), seeking to ensure food quality and safety. The initiative aims to protect consumer health and improve quality standards. The main additives in use in Togo include preservatives, colorings, thickeners, emulsifiers, and flavor enhancers (i.e., derived from natural or synthetic sources).

¹² The introduction of products derived from biotechnology into Togolese territory is generally prohibited. Strict seed control measures are in place at the entry border. Articles 17 and 19 of [Law No. 2009-001](#), located at:

<https://environnement.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/files/2017/LOI%20PORTANT%20SUR%20LA%20PREVENTION%20DES%20RISQUES%20BIOTECHNOLOGIQUES.pdf> (in French), indicate that the use of GE product poses risks for humans, animals, and the environment.

¹³ See, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations – FAOLEX Database - Togo “*Arrêté N° 11/13/MIZFIT/CAB du 22 mars 2013 fixant les modalités de gestion des sachets, sacs et emballages plastiques biodégradables et des additifs pour la production des sachets et emballages plastiques biodégradables au Togo*,” located at: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC143628> (in French).

¹⁴ See, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO), “Codex Alimentarius, International Food Standards, General Standards for Food Additives CODEX STAN 192-1995,” located at: https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FStandards%252FCXS%2B192-1995%252FCXS_192e.pdf (in French).

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS

Pesticide regulations in Togo are defined [Law No. 96-007 \(July 3, 1996\)](#) (in French).¹⁵ Phytosanitary regulations and import procedures fall within the implementing texts of [Decree No. 183/19/MAPAH/Cab/SG/DPV \(December 2019\)](#) (in French).¹⁶ This decree explicitly prohibits the import, marketing, and use of glyphosate or any product containing glyphosate within the country. Additionally, the import, marketing, and use of products containing specific active ingredients, including Endosulfan, Lindane, Paraquat, Fipronil, Carbosulfan, Carbofuran, Atrazine, Triazophos, Acetochlor, and Hexazinone are also prohibited. These regulations are aligned with UEMOA and ECOWAS phytosanitary and pesticide management regulations. Import permits are required for pesticide consignments; sampling is undertaken with through the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Directorate. The regulatory framework safeguards domestic plants and plant products from the introduction of harmful organisms.

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Although it is advisable to work with a carefully vetted local agent, importer or distributor; this is not a legal requirement. These, however, can provide insightful understanding of local policies and procedures. Another option is to engage an association that counts with local representation and extensive knowledge of the Ivorian market. U.S. exporters are advised to ensure that their designated agents have all proper documentation and registration in place to operate Côte d'Ivoire:

- Contact the U.S. Embassy/USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (which covers francophone Togo), to assist in identifying credible Togolese importers/distributors.
- Identify an importer/distributor or a local agent that will assist with product registration with the Ministry of Agriculture and with the other Togolese competent authorities.
- Alternatively, identify and sell through U.S.-based consolidators that are already serving the West African region. Some of these consolidators usually count with an understanding of local market practices.
- Participate and exhibit at USDA/FAS sponsored and endorsed trade shows; these are ideal venues for meeting visiting Togolese importers and for face-to-face meetings.

¹⁵ See, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations – FAOLEX Database – Togo “*Loi N° 96-007/PR du 03 juillet 1996, relative à la protection des végétaux*,” located at: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC206302> and for a downloadable copy go to: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tog206302.pdf>. (in French).

See, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production and Fisheries (*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Production Animale et Halieutique*), located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-INTERDICTION-DIMPORTATION-ET-DUTILISATION-DE-GLYPHOSATE-ET-TOUT-PRODUIT-LE-CONTENANT.pdf>.

¹⁶ See, République Togolaise and World Bank Group, “PforR Sustainable Agriculture Transformation Program (P180580),” pg. 29, (located at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099031825160037033/pdf/P180580-90a92f86-8674-41c6-9150-af6634156842.pdf>).

B. FACILITY REGISTRATION

Facility registration for food product imports involves obtaining Togolese licenses and or approvals from local competent authorities. For example, import authorization for ingredients or raw materials, health certificates for agricultural products, registering a trademark with the [African Intellectual Property Organization](#) (*Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle* – OAPI).¹⁷

Documents Required:

- Business Registration Certificate.
- Phytosanitary or Sanitary Certificate (for products of plant origins).
- Certificate of Non-Radiation (attesting no exposure to radioactivity).
- Special Import Authorization/license/approvals (pharmaceutical products and the like).
- Certificate of Manufacture or Sales Authorization and or a [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Certificate](#).¹⁸
- Product samples submission to the Togolese Institute for Agricultural Research (*Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique* - ITRA) or the National Laboratory (sample quantity and inspection body depends on product type).

C. PRODUCT REGISTRATION

Registering an imported food product in Togo requires approval from the Ministry of Commerce (accompanied with a prior import authorization), a health or sanitary certificate, as well as possessing specific licenses and or approvals from other competent authorities. The steps include:

- **Preliminary Import Authorization Certificate:** This certificate is required for food products subject to strict controls, particularly those related to public health.
- **Samples:** Sampling of products.
- **Health Certificate (Sanitary Approval):** This document is issued by the Ministry of Commerce and certifies that the food is of good quality and safe for consumption.
- **Marketing Authorization:** Required for the sale of imported food products in stores and outlets.

¹⁷ [The Togo Trade Portal](#) provides details on procedures. Requests for authorizations and licenses for imports and exports can be done online through the portal, located at: <https://togotrade.gouv.tg/Procedures?l=en>. The African Intellectual Property Organizations is located at: <https://www.aripo.org/>.

¹⁸ See, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), located at: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/fda-export-certificates>.

Document requests can be submitted online via the [National Counter for Digital Public Services](#) (*Guichet national des services publics numérisés*).¹⁹

Documents Required:

- A copy of company card
- Operator identification
- Tax Compliance Certificate
- Certificate of Origin
- Proof of 10 percent local purchase for the relevant products, such as rice or vegetable oils.

D. ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Togo's food advertising requirements are enforced by the National Agency for Food Safety (*L'Agence nationale pour la sécurité sanitaire des aliments* - ANSSA) and governed by general principles of non-deception, non-discrimination, and public health protection.

Togo's food advertisement requirements are in alignment with the West African Economic and Monetary Union's food labeling regulations (e.g., on display of expiration and manufacturing dates) and the utilization of Consumer Codes for food safety protection. Failure to comply with these rules may result in sanctions. Adverts must be free from any incitement to dangerous, illicit behavior.

Advertisements that are misleading or contrary to public morality may be prohibited. Messaging that offends the public's religious, philosophical, or political beliefs and or that may incite dangerous, illicit behavior is subject to sanction.

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

A. BIOTECHNOLOGY

Togo's biotechnology regime is governed by [Law No. 2009-001 \(January 6, 2009\)](#) (in French), that seeks to prevent risk through the licensing of GE imports/exports, as well as by [Environmental Law No. 2008-005](#) (in French) and the [Plant Protection Law No. 96-007/PR](#) (in French).²⁰ The Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (*Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Ressource Forestière*) and the Agency for Environmental Management (*L'Agence Nationale de Gestion de l'Environnement* - ANGE)

¹⁹ National Counter for Digital Public Services (*Guichet national des services publics numérisés*) is located at : <https://service-public.gouv.tg/>.

²⁰ [Law No. 2009-001 \(January 6, 2009\)](#), specifically requires licenses for the import, export, and transit of controlled items, including "genetically modified organisms – GMOs" and micro-organisms. This law is located at: https://environnement.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/files/2017/LOI_PORTANT_SUR_LA_PREVENTION_DES_RISQUES_BIOTECHNOLOGIQUES.pdf (in French). While Environmental Law No. 2008-005 is located at: https://bwcimplementation.org/sites/default/files/resource/TG_Loi_Cadre_Environnement.pdf (in French). The Plant Protection Law No. 96-007/PR is located at: https://bwcimplementation.org/sites/default/files/resource/togo_Plants.pdf (in French).

oversee biosafety, requiring permits for research involving biotechnology and mandating biosafety protocols.²¹ Ethical considerations are addressed through institutional review boards and ethics committees. Special permits are required for conducting biotechnology research, especially involving genetic engineering and hazardous biological materials.

B. VITAMIN – ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENT

Togolese regulations comply with ECOWAS requirements for vitamin and mineral fortification. The country requires that all cooking oils imported for local consumption to be fortified with vitamin A. Similarly, all wheat flour imports must be fortified with iron and folic acid.

C. FAT CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Togo regulates meat imports; it has enacted specific import bans.²² All imported food, including meat and meat products, are subject to sanitary and quality controls.

D. DIETETIC OR SPECIAL USE FOODS, HALAL/KOSHER, PLANT-BASED MEAT, DAIRY ALTERNATIVES

Togo's government does not regulate Halal or other religious food certifications and labeling systems. Halal certification organizations exist in Togo but are not state sponsored.

SECTION VIII: GEOGRAPHIC INDICATOR, TRADEMARK, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Togo is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI); it adheres to various WIPO treaties. Intellectual property rights (IPR) are overseen by the [National Institute of Industrial and Technological Property](#) (in French) (*l'Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle et de la Technologie du Togo* - INPIT) (i.e., for industrial property rights) and by the Togolese Copyright Office (*Bureau Togolais du Droit d'Auteur* – [BUTODRA](#)) (link in French) (i.e., for copyright matters).²³

²¹ See, Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (*Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Ressource Forestière*), located at: <https://environnement.gouv.tg/>. Togo's Agency for Environmental Management (*L'Agence Nationale de Gestion de l'Environnement* – ANGE), is located at: <https://ange.tg/>.

²² Togo prohibits the import of turkey tails, as per [Ministerial Order No. 17/MAEP/SG/DEP \(July 27, 2004\)](#), located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-INTERDICTION-DIMPORTATION-DES-CROUPIONS-DE-DINDE.pdf>. Furthermore, the import of live animal and meat products are subject to authorization by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, requiring that products must be inspected for safety and health as per [Ministerial Order No.69/MAEP/SG/DEP \(December 12, 2006\)](#), located at: <https://agriculture.gouv.tg/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ARRETE-PORTANT-FIXATION-DES-CONDITIONS-DIMPORTATION-ET-DE-DEPOTAGE-DANIMAUX-VIVANT-ET-DE-DENREES-DORIGINE-ANIMALE.pdf>.

²³ Togo's National Institute of Industrial and Technological Property is located at: <https://www.inpit.tg/>. See also WIPO Lex, "Decree No. 2006-066/PR of July 18, 2006 on the Organization and Functioning of the National Institute of Industrial Property and Technology, Togo," located at: <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/9097> (in French). Togo's BUTADORA is located at: <https://butodra.tg/>.

The INPIT plays a central role in receiving and transmitting applications for industrial property rights to the OAPI and serves as a national liaison structure. The BUTODRA, however, is responsible for the management of copyright and related rights, in accordance with the regulatory framework of [Decree No. 91-12 \(June 10, 1991\)](#) (in French).²⁴ Togolese copyright legislation often provides for shorter terms of protection than those of the revised Bangui Agreement, but in practice, Togo aligns itself with the provisions of this agreement. The institutional framework includes the National Council of Intellectual Property, an advisory body that supports the activities of INPIT and BUTODRA.

Geographical Indicators: Togo is a member of the African Intellectual Property Organization, that has implemented a uniform system for Geographical Indicators (GIs) as part of the Bangui Agreement, which creates a single IP law for its member states. This system provides protection for traditional and local products by granting an intellectual property title for their specific geographical origin, and a single application protects the GI across all 17-member states of the African Intellectual Property Organization.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

To conduct business in Togo, registration with the Ministry of Commerce is mandatory. An import/export card is issued upon registration, facilitating certain commercial activities, such as the wholesale trade. It is advisable to engage a reliable importer/distributor to help with the import clearance process. Confirm with the importer/agent, if a particular export certificate or other documentation is required (see, [Togo Trade Portal](#)).²⁵

A. DOCUMENTATION

- Import/Export Card (required for all importers).
- Bill of Lading; Purchase Invoice; Insurance Certificate.
- Certificate of Inspection (quality & quantity) at Port of Origin (by accredited inspection body).
- Import Authorizations, Ministry of Agriculture (plant and animal products), Ministry of Commerce.
- Phytosanitary/Sanitary Certificate.
- Certificate of Origin
- Packing List
- Request for micro-biological and physicochemical inspection upon arrival.

B. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Togo requires the use of a licensed Togolese customs broker to manage import and export declarations. Prior to submitting a declaration, the customs broker must count with a client's (i.e., the declarant/importer) power of attorney, authorizing to act on the importer's behalf. General customs

²⁴ See, Togo, Decree No. 91-12 (June 10, 1991), located at: https://ictpolicyafrica.org/api/documents/download?_id=5d8070551c3577001bda3f73 (in French).

²⁵ Togo Trade Portal, located at: <https://togotrade.gouv.tg/objective/72?l=en>.

procedures in Togo are increasingly digitalized. Custom brokers are expected to use electronic systems for submitting and managing customs declarations. Customs clearance procedures involve the [Togolese Office of Tax Revenue](#) (*Office Togolais des Recettes* - OTR).²⁶

1. Pre-shipment Requirements and Approvals

- **ECTN/BESC:** Apply for the electronic cargo tracking note (*Bordereau Electronique de Suivi des Cargaisons*) for all shipments destined for Togo, at least five-days prior to arrival.²⁷
- **Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI):** Goods valued at over US\$2,500 (sea/air) or US\$1,700 (road/rail) require pre-shipment inspection. Passing inspection, the importer receives a [Clean Report of Findings \(CRF\)](#).²⁸
- **Special Permits:** Specific items, such as live animals, plants, food, or certain electronic items require pre-approval and/or specific permits from the pertinent Togolese ministries.
- **Import Permit:** Needed for specific goods, such as food, plants, or electronics.

2. Prohibited and Restricted Items

- **Prohibited:** Narcotics, pornography, and counterfeit items are strictly prohibited.
- **Restricted:** Items such as live animals, food, and weapons require pre-approval and health/permission certificates from the pertinent competent authorities.

3. Post-Arrival Steps

- **Customs Declaration:** File the necessary declarations with the Togolese Office of Tax Revenue.
- **Payment of Duties:** Duties and taxes calculated on the cost-insurance-freight (CIF) basis.

²⁶ Togolese Office Tax Revenue, located at: <https://www.otr.tg/index.php/en>.

²⁷ Shipments to or from the port of Lomé, regardless of the customs regime and their origin/destination, should count with an Electronic Cargo Tracking Note (ECTN), validated by the Togolese National Shippers' Council (CNCT). According to Togolese authorities, the ECTN is only required for the importation of goods intended for consumption in Togo. This document is required for each bill of lading, and the same ECTN can be used for a maximum of five containers or 300 metric tons (MT) of bulk cargo. For its issuance, the CNCT charges currently US\$30 per ECTN from Europe and US\$115 per ECTN from the rest of the world. Operators are required to create an electronic account and make a minimum deposit of US\$175. See, <https://togotrade.gouv.tg/Procedures> and <https://shippersdoc.com>.

²⁸ See, CMA CGM, "Togo Regulations," located at: <https://icricinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/custom-laws-Togo.pdf>.

C. DUTIES

Table 1: ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) Rates, Levies, and Charges

CET Rates	Categories
0%	Essential social commodities
5%	Basic raw materials, capital goods and specific inputs
10%	Intermediate products
20%	Final consumer goods
35%	Specific goods for economic development
Percentage	Other Levies and Charges
1%	Examination Fee
0.2%	African Union Levy
0.5%	ECOWAS Levy
1%	Processing fee

Source: Togo Customs Authority/ECOWAS; FAS Accra, Abidjan office research.

Togo is a member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It implemented the [ECOWAS Common External Tariff \(CET\) – ECOWAS Trade Information System \(ECOTIS\)](#) in 2016.²⁹ The CET has five (5) rate bands, along with other levies and charges. Togo also applies an 18 percent value-added tax (VAT) to imports, as well as commodity specific excise taxes (with varying ranges).

SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

Togo maintains a consumer goods inspection program, overseen by COTECNA (a third-party provider of testing, inspection, and certification services). Under this verification system, operators must submit an import declaration to COTECNA prior to a consignment's arrival to port. The inspection includes assessing import eligibility, validating export prices, estimating customs value, and classification, as well as electronic tracking of goods (for those in transit). The minimum thresholds to initiate this process are set currently at US\$1,635 for land imports and US\$2,460 for air or sea imports.

The [Togo Trade Portal](#) is in place to improve transparency and accessibility of trade information, leading to simplified and digitized export/import processes.³⁰ It serves as a centralized, user-friendly platform offering step-by-step guidance on required documentation, fees, and contacts for businesses. By reducing administrative burdens and costs, the portal strengthens Togo's overall business environment, enhances its competitiveness, and supports its integration into regional and global trade.

The Togo One-Stop-Shop Trade Portal: Known formally in French as the [Guichet Unique pour le Commerce Extérieur](#) (GUCE), the portal offers significant advantages by centralizing and digitizing all

²⁹ See, ECOWAS Trade Information System (ECOTIS), "ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET)," located at: https://ecotis.ecowas.int/?page_id=24111. Togo VAT rate is 18%. Since May 2022, Togo granted VAT exoneration for some products (like dairy products, palm oil, etc.). See here for more details: <https://www.republiquetogolaise.com/gouvernance-economique/1905-6905-le-gouvernement-exonere-de-la-tva-certains-produits-importes-ou-vendus-au-togo>.

³⁰ Togo Trade Portal, located at: <https://togotrade.gouv.tg/objective/72?l=en>.

procedures related to international trade.³¹ This platform enhances transparency, reduces red tape, and boosts the competitiveness of Togolese businesses. The GUCE simplifies import, export, and transit formalities by creating a single point for submitting all necessary documents. Instead of dealing with numerous agencies, traders can use one unified digital interface.

Lowers Costs: By reducing delays and manual paperwork, the portal lowers transaction costs for businesses. The centralized payment system, “*Document de Frais Unique*” (DFU) allows for a single payment of all fees and duties.³²

³¹ Togo One-Stop-Shop Trade Portal, located at: <https://www.segucetogo.tg/>.

³² More information on <https://www.segucetogo.tg>.

APPENDIX I: KEY GOVERNMENT REGULATORY OR AGENCY CONTACTS

Togo, Government Regulatory or Agency	Role
Ministry of Agriculture, Village Hydraulics and Rural Development Government Office, Lomé Tel: +228 22221062 https://agriculture.gouv.tg	Lead agency responsible for developing and executing policies and strategies for the agriculture sector.
Ministry of Trade and Commerce Government Office, 46H9+WJV, Lomé Tel: +228 22212025 https://commerce.gouv.tg	Lead policy advisor to government on trade, industrial and private sector development.
Togo Institute of Agronomic Research (ITRA) Route Nationale no.1, Km 10 Agoè Tel: +228 70915794 / 22253096 dg_itra@agriculture.gouv.tg	Plays a critical role in strengthening Togo's agricultural sector through research, innovation, and farmer support. Its primary goal is to enhance food security, improve agricultural productivity, and boost rural incomes.
Togolese Office of Tax Revenue Government Office Tel: +228 22531400 https://otr.tg	Central authority responsible for the administration and collection of taxes and customs duties in Togo. Created by law in 2012, it is an autonomous public institution that merged with the country's former tax and customs directorates.
Togo Environmental Protection Agency Rue de l'Entente, Bè Souza Nétimé Tel: +228 22212153 https://ange.tg	Develop and enforce regulations for environmental protection, pollution prevention, and nuisance control. They also monitor compliance with international environmental agreements, including the Framework Law on the Environment, the Forest Code, and the Biosafety Law.

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Togo, Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts	Role
COTECNA Boulevard du 13 Janvier, Bè Souza Nétimé, BP 6008, Lomé, Togo Tel: +228 22221291 / 2222923 Fax: +228 2220789 Email: cotecna.lome@cotecna.tg	Inspections and Certifications.

APPENDIX III: POST CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) Coastal West Africa Region	
U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Accra No. 24 Fourth Circular Road Cantonments Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 274-1590 Email: AgAccra@usda.gov Websites: https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana http://www.fas.usda.gov	U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Abidjan Abidjan, Cocody Riviera Golf 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire Tel: +225 2722 494 000 Email: AgAbidjan@usda.gov Websites: https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire http://www.fas.usda.gov

Links to U.S. Government Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USDA/FAS: http://www.fas.usda.gov• USDA/FAS Regions/Ghana: https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana• USDA/FAS Regions/Côte d'Ivoire : https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS): https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN): https://gain.fas.usda.gov/

Attachments:

No Attachments