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Report Highlights:

This report is an annual update on the food import standards and enforcement mechanisms in Egypt. It includes updates on importer registration procedures, halal certification requirements, and shelf-life validity periods, among other standards and regulations. For assistance on trade policy and port issues in Egypt, U.S. exporters are encouraged to contact FAS Cairo at AgCairo@usda.gov.

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by USDA/FAS' Office of Agricultural Affairs in Cairo, Egypt. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

Egypt's regulatory framework for food and agricultural imports is complex and evolving. It incorporates international standards, such as those set by the Codex Alimentarius, but often refers to third-country regulations or standards for application in its own market. U.S. exporters should closely monitor Egypt's food safety and sanitary regulations, overseen by several government entities like the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), the General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS), and the Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ). These agencies play a critical role in shipment inspections at Egyptian ports. Compliance with Egypt's halal certification rules is required for meat and poultry products, which includes obtaining a certificate from an approved religious authority.

Despite recent economic headwinds, the country's large population and growing demand for processed and packaged food products make it an attractive market. However, the economy remains vulnerable and faces challenges such as excessive bureaucracy, a shortage of skilled labor, and non-tariff trade barriers. U.S. exporters should be prepared to adapt to import regulations, which are, at times, complex and lack transparency, and they would benefit from securing a trustworthy Egyptian partner, importer, or distributor to help them navigate local regulations.

In 2024, U.S. food and agricultural exports to Egypt were valued at nearly \$1.4 billion, marking a notable rise compared to 2023. Key bulk and intermediate product exports included soybeans, wheat, and corn gluten meal, and consumer-oriented product exports such as beef and beef products, dairy products, and tree nuts. Egypt's food processors and manufacturers are exporting to the entire region and require more imported food and beverage ingredients and additives, as well as production inputs that require further processing. Key segments for U.S. food processing ingredients include dairy ingredients (milk powder, whey protein, cheese), bakery ingredients (flour, yeast, baking powder, additives), spices, condiments, and sweeteners (natural and artificial). Challenges facing U.S. food ingredient exports to Egypt include logistics and proximity to the market, regulatory compliance, and currency fluctuations.

Section I – Food Laws

Egypt's National Food Safety Authority

In January 2017, Egypt approved Law No. 1 (2017), which established NFSA. Prime Ministerial Decrees 683 (2017) and 1733 (2017) established NFSA's board of trustees and board of directors. (See: [GAIN EG-19010 Egypt – Establishment of the National Food Safety Authority](#)). "Prime Ministerial Executive Regulation 412 (February 2019) – NFSA" contains the implementing regulations. According

to Egyptian legislation, NFSA's board of directors, which was last formed in 2023, undergoes reformation every three years; the board of trustees consists of several Egyptian ministers, including trade and industry, health, agriculture, environment, and supply and internal trade, as well as two food safety experts.

Since its establishment in 2017, the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) has been designated as the sole national regulator and inspector of food in Egypt. The Ministry of Health retained oversight of certain functions, particularly the monitoring of food in the domestic market, supervision of food storage facilities, and issuance of validity certificates for exported food. However, in 2024, a Prime Ministerial directive called for the full transfer of all food control responsibilities to NFSA. NFSA promptly responded by adopting a risk-based mechanism to regulate food storage facilities for imported products and starting to issue export certificates for outgoing consignments.

NFSA's Functions and Authorities: The implementing regulation mandates that NFSA assumes responsibility from other ministries, public institutions, government agencies, and municipalities for the regulation of foodstuffs. The implementing legislation eliminates the previous patchwork of food-related regulation, which created confusion and inefficiencies for Egyptian exporters and importers.

NFSA's functions and authorities according to article (3) of the implementing legislation are:

- Mandates food safety criteria in accordance with the applicable international criteria provided that these criteria are not in contradiction with the national requirements. NFSA's Board of Directors shall issue a decree specifying such criteria.
- Control food handling in accordance with the relevant food safety laws and decrees and in accordance with special programs to ensure that mandatory standard conditions and specifications are fulfilled during all stages of food handling.
- Set procedures and conditions for issuing certificates necessary for the export of locally produced food, control the issuance of these certificates, and check the extent of their compliance with the aforesaid rules and conditions.
- License, inspect, and control food handling and the workers in this field to ensure the fulfillment of provisions of relevant laws and decrees.
- Contract government accredited laboratories with the capability to run required analytical tests effectively and efficiently. The agency may contract other private accredited laboratories when accredited governmental laboratories are unavailable.
- Control imported or locally-produced food, prohibit handling of food unfit for human consumption, and combat fraud and deception.
- Establish procedures for emergencies that threaten locally-produced or imported food exposed to hazards or risks, as well as crisis management, warning, withdrawal, and recall systems.
- Establish procedures for risk assessment, analysis, use, management, and communication and awareness including establishing inspection priorities; account for risk assessment, analysis, and management methods adopted by relevant international organizations.
- Develop mandatory systems that ensure food safety, develop a traceability system, and require food producers, manufacturers and other food handlers to implement these systems, especially Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and measures necessary for product recall.
- Propose and comment on food safety and handling draft laws and regulatory decrees.

- Establish necessary procedures for identifying unlicensed food production units, propose appropriate solutions, and integrate these within legal productions.
- Raise food safety awareness by issuing public awareness pamphlets and other publications on NFSA's objectives, including provisions of food safety information and data in coordination with media channels.
- Develop protocols and rules for food advertising, as well as mandatory labeling criteria.
- Coordinate with national and international entities and organizations dealing with food safety and human health. Participate in conferences and organize as necessary.
- Regulate approval or rejection of special foods, genetically engineered foods, or foods containing components that are genetically engineered or irradiated where they relate to food safety, and set rules regulating the use of food additives, treatment catalysts and other ingredients of which food is composed, and which affect its safety according to Codex Commission criteria and standards adopted by international bodies.
- Conduct food safety studies and research; collect scientific and technical data.
- Establish procedures and rules for registration, licensing and labeling of:
 - food for special dietary uses (FSDU);
 - genetically engineered foods;
 - irradiated food.

NFSA is evaluating local processing facilities to ensure compliance with NFSA standards and is the lead agency responsible for setting rules governing the registration and handling of foods for special dietary uses. (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG-19011\) Egypt – National Food Safety Authority Modernizes Egyptian Regulatory Framework: Regulatory Management of Special Foods in Accordance with Decree No. 1 of 15 August 2018](#)).

Egyptian entities previously charged with overseeing food safety are now working with NFSA to apply food safety functions. These entities include:

Ministry of Investment and External Trade:

- The General Organization of Export and Import Control (GOEIC): NFSA and GOIEC work together through the appeal committee. The committee reviews exporters' appeals on rejections and decides if a second testing can be accepted. NFSA did not establish its own appeal committee and appeals related to authority rejections go through a GOIEC established committee. More information on the appeal committee can be found in *Section IX: Import Procedures*.

Ministry of Industry and Transport:

- The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS): EOS standards are still being applied while NFSA continues to develop its own risk-based standards that will substitute for EOS standards.

Ministry of Health (MOH):

- Food Safety and Control Administration

- National Nutrition Institute
- Central Health Laboratories (Note: NFSA uses the MOH laboratories for testing and prioritizes sending samples to public laboratories.)

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR):

- The General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS)
- The Central Administration for Plant Quarantine (CAPQ)
- The Reference Laboratory for Safety Analysis of Food of Animal Origin
- The Regional Center for Food and Feed (RCFF)

MALR's GOVS and CAPQ continue to carry out their respective mandates regarding animal and plant health. While there is no conflict with NFSA's new responsibilities, some of the technical functions on animal products overlap and have caused confusion, especially for traders.

NFSA harmonized the food safety regulations and implementation by means of protocols with national regulatory bodies. To date, NFSA has signed protocols with EOS, CAPQ, the Horticultural Export Improvement Association (HEIA), GOEIC, the Port Said Chamber of Trade and GOVS. The protocols specify the means of cooperation and mechanisms that allow each organization to implement its scope of work. They also specify the means for licensing and issuing certificates according to the organization's mandate.

Currently, NFSA owns and operates five laboratories in Alexandria, Damietta, Port Said, Port Safaga, and Nuweiba.

Revised Policy Related to Veterinary Drugs Residue in Beef and Beef Products: In November 2020, NFSA's board agreed on Decision No. 13 of 2020, setting new maximum residue limits (MRL) for veterinary drugs (including ractopamine) that are more closely aligned with Codex standards. This changed Egypt's long-standing zero-tolerance policy for ractopamine MRLs. The decision was published in the Egyptian official gazette in November 2020 (See: [GAIN EG2020-0056 Egypt Endorses a Science-Based Decision on Veterinary Drugs](#)). NFSA identified a tolerance level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for the residual of ractopamine in liver and adopted Codex MRL guideline of 10 ppb for muscle cuts. (See: [GAIN Adopting A Risk Based Tolerance for Ractopamine in Beef Reduces Rejections by 90 Percent Cairo Egypt 07-03-2021](#))

Temporary Release of Imported Food Consignments: In December 2021, NFSA released Decision No. 9 of 2021, Handling of Imported Food Consignments Subject to Temporary Release. This decision specified that a temporary release shall be applied to consignments held by NFSA while in the custody of the importer. The consignments are not granted entry to the Egyptian market pending an official notification from NFSA upon completion of compliance verification procedures. The purpose of the temporary release is to verify compliance and conduct tests in order to ensure consignments are in conformity with food safety standards and quality requirements. (See: [GAIN EG2022-0020 Egypt National Food Safety Authority Regulates Temporary Release of Imported Food Consignments](#))

Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Exporting Food Consignment to Egypt: In December 2021, NFSA released Decision No. 10 of 2021, the Provisions of

Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Competent Authorities in the Context of Imported Food Control. The purpose of establishing a recognition agreement with countries exporting food products to Egypt is to allow the optimum level of protection for the consumer against the risks of food imports while enhancing the efficiency of their final release. This is intended to be implemented through the adoption of preventive measures based on the risk level of food imports and by following appropriate procedures for the release of these food imports. (See: [GAIN EG2022-0019 - Egypt Applies Recognition Agreements for Food Safety](#))

Technical Regulations Governing the Permissible Maximum Levels for Chemical Contaminants in Food: In May 2022, NFSA issued Decision No. 6 of 2022 concerning the binding technical basis for MRLs for chemical contaminants in food. NFSA changed the limit for ergot sclerotia in cereals. The previous limit was set by CAPQ at 0.05 percent, while the new regulation issued by NFSA sets a more restrictive level of 0.02 percent (0.2 gm/kg). (See: [GAIN EG2022-0022 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Technical Regulation for the Maximum Residue Levels of Chemical Contaminants in Food](#))

Requirements for Food Traceability: In October 2022, NFSA published Decision No. 16 of 2022, Food Traceability Requirements. The purpose of the decision was to develop mandatory food traceability systems to ensure food safety. The decision applies to food manufacturers and relevant food handlers. Subsequently, Decision No. 3 imposed penalties for non-compliance with Egypt's food traceability requirements. (See: [GAIN EG2023-0011 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issued Requirements for Food Traceability](#))

Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Articles: On October 18, 2022, NFSA published Decision No. 17 of 2022, the Binding Technical Rules for Food Contact Materials and Articles. The purpose of the decision is to set the basic requirements for manufacturers and users of food contact materials, articles, and equipment. The requirements apply to food contact materials and articles consisting of one or more of such materials and articles intended to or which may come into contact with food.

The decision does not apply to food packaging or covering materials, such as materials covering the whole cheese, processed meat products, fruits, or some types of confectionery, which are part of the food and can be eaten as food. (See: [GAIN EG2023-0012 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issued Technical Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Articles](#))

Requirements of Maximum Residues for Trans Fatty Acids in Foods: In October 2022, Egypt's National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) published Decision No. 19 of 2022, Maximum Residues for Trans Fatty Acids in Foods. The decision identifies various fats and prohibits food operators from using partially hydrogenated oils or fats in food processing. Manufacturers and importers are limited to two grams of trans fat per 100 grams of total fat in all food. Manufacturers are also prohibited from using partially hydrogenated oils, a major source of trans fat. Although the regulation does not specifically address it, NFSA confirmed that the regulation applies to both domestically-produced and imported foods.

Major Trade Barriers:

- **Testing Requirements for Meat and Offal Imports:** The Ministry of Health's Egyptian National Standard 7135 (2010) and its amendments require 100 percent sampling and testing of meat and offal imports for drug residues. Beef and beef products are not included in NFSA's list of eligible products to receive reduced sampling if obtained with a certificate of conformity (See *Table 3: Imported Commodities Registered with NFSA Eligible for the Application Certificates of Conformity*).
- **Restrictions on Poultry Product Imports:** In July 2006, Egypt issued Ministerial Decree No. 766 of 2006, lifting the ban on imports of frozen whole birds from all origins. The decree does not reference the import of poultry parts and offal as being permissible, which acts as a *de facto* ban on U.S. chicken limb and offal exports to Egypt. In 2022, Egypt began allowing shipments of chicken leg quarters from the United States on a limited basis.
- **Regulatory and Licensing Requirements for Specialty Foods:** The National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) must register and approve all nutritional supplements, specialty foods, and dietary foods according to NFSA Decision No. 1 of 2018 on the Rules Governing the Registration and Handling of Foods for Special Dietary Uses. Importers must apply for a license to import specialty food products and renew the license every five years. License renewals can cost up to \$1,000 per renewal, depending on the product. In December 2021, NFSA issued Decree No. 11 of 2021, which more than doubled the cost of conducting an inspection of imported food.

Section II – Labeling Requirements

General Requirements

Egypt Standard 1546 (2011): Labeling guidelines are determined by Egyptian standard 1546 (2011) and are applicable to all food product imports. Foreign language label information must be translated into Arabic, and discrepancies between the English and Arabic dates may result in product rejection. Labels can be printed on the package or be a permanent adhesive sticker; products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package. For example, goods could be rejected if the inside package has a different date than the date on the outside carton. Information on the label cannot be erased, mutilated, or altered. Requirements are more restrictive for meat and poultry products. Labels must include the following information:

- Name and address of manufacturer;
- Brand or trademark, if appropriate;
- Country of origin;
- Type of product and grade;
- Name and address of importer;
- Production and expiration dates (These dates may be mentioned separately on the top of the package. They can be applied by laser, printed, or imposed on the packaging. In such cases, there is no need to repeat them on the label);
- Product ingredients;
- Storage instructions or temperature requirements for products - storage temperature must be cited with the refrigeration statement on the boxes to fully clarify the type of product being handled

(e.g., "KEEP FROZEN - STORE AT OR BELOW ____degrees C.; KEEP CHILLED (OR REFRIGERATE) - STORE BETWEEN ____degrees C. and ____degrees C.");

- Net weight;
- Gross weight and total number of the packages per case or carton;
- If the product contains preservatives, the percentage of each preservative should be indicated;
- If the product is meat or poultry, the following statement must appear: "slaughtered according to the Islamic ritual" or "Halal slaughtered."

Labeling of Special Dietary Foods: Per NFSA's updated regulations, the labeling conventions for special dietary foods have changed. Prepackaged special dietary foods must now include the following information on the label:

The label of the packaged of Foods for Special Dietary Uses (FSDU) shall bear a label indicating the following information:

- The name of FSDU;
- A list of ingredients in descending or ascending order;
- Ingredients, additives, and foods that may cause food allergies;
- Authorized food additives, and flavorings except for processing aids;
- Net weight or size;
- Names and addresses
 - The name, address and brand of the producer shall, if any, be indicated on the food container,
 - In case of imported products, the name and address of the importer, as well as the country of origin shall be indicated; furthermore, the name and address of the producer may be written in English or French if writing in Arabic is difficult, and
 - In case of packaging, the name and address of the packer shall be indicated;
- Country of origin (production);
- Production batch/lot;
- Expiration date;
- Product-specific storage instructions;
- In case of domestic production, any of the following phrases (Made in Egypt, Made in A.R.E., or equivalent) shall be used; and
- Nutritional data/facts.

Nutritional facts/values shall be declared on the label as follows:

- The declaration of nutritive value shall be numerical; however, the use of additional means of presentation may also be used;
- Information on energy value shall be expressed in Kilocalories (kcal) or in Kilojoules (KJ) per 100 grams (g) or per 100 milliliters (ml) of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- Information on amounts of protein, carbohydrates and fat present in food shall be expressed in grams per 100 g or per 100 ml of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;

- Information on amounts of essential and non-essential amino acids or essential fatty acids may be expressed similarly in metric units as appropriate;
- Information on amounts of vitamins and essential minerals present in the food shall be expressed in metric units per 100 g or per 100 ml of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- Where it is appropriate, the quantities of nutrients may be expressed in terms of percentages of the relevant internationally recognized recommended daily allowances;
- Information on osmolality or osmolarity, or acid-base balance of a product shall be provided when appropriate; and
- The nature of the animal or plant proteins, or protein hydrolysates shall be declared.

In case of Foods for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP), all the aforementioned information in addition to a prominent statement, “USE UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION,” shall be made in Arabic only and shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible and clearly legible. Further, food preparation directions (including other ingredients required to be added for the use of the food) shall be declared on the label.

The label of any food that has been treated with ionizing radiation shall bear a written statement indicating such treatment and shall appear near the name of the food.

Labeling Exempted Products: Products exempted from mandatory labeling requirements include small items with a surface area of 10 centimeters square or less. Exemptions extend to milk and beverage packs with a quantity of 200 milliliters or less. Wrapped, dried sweets (e.g., candy, jelly candy, toffee, and fun size chocolates) sold by weight, and not by the bar, are considered unpackaged products.

Requirements for Frozen Beef: The Minister of Trade and Industry issued Decree 120 (2006), which states that frozen beef must be packed in sealed bags according to sanitary standards. A printed label must be inserted inside the poly bag with the following information in Arabic:

- Country of origin;
- Producer’s name;
- Name of the slaughterhouse;
- Date of slaughter;
- Importer’s name and address;
- Name of the entity that supervised the slaughtering process according to Islamic rules;
- Type of meat and percentage of fat content (fat content of red meat for processing must be no more than 20 percent):
 - Percentage fat content is only required on the carton label and may be added by the importer after arrival in Egypt, but before release by Egyptian authorities;
 - Percentage fat content labeling is not required for offal.

Halal Labeling: Per the USDA FSIS Export Library, “Halal certified products must be labeled with [a] statement that product has been slaughtered according to Islamic principles. Halal labeling is an exporter and Halal organization responsibility.” Additionally, fresh/frozen unprocessed product and processed products bearing “Halal” label claims must be accompanied by an appropriate Halal certificate. For

more information about halal certification, see the “Meat Products and Halal Certification” section on page 21 or the USDA FSIS Export Library: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/egypt>.

Expiration Period: The Minister of Trade and Industry issued Ministerial Decree 859 (2012) adding a new article to Ministerial Decree 770 (2005) – Executive Regulation Implementing Import and Export Law 118 (1975), as well as Inspection and Control Procedures of Imported and Exported Goods. The new article states that to release food commodities (grains and oilseeds excluded), the expiration period remaining for products for human consumption starts the moment the shipment arrives at port and from when customs issue the clearance certificate. The product must arrive at the port of entry with:

- A shelf life of six months or more and must arrive at port with at least three months of remaining shelf life.
- Products with shelf life of more than three months but less than six months must arrive at port with at least one month of remaining shelf life.
- Products with shelf life of more than 16-days to three months must arrive at port with at least one week of remaining shelf live.
- Products with 15-days shelf life must arrive at port with three days of remaining shelf life.

On September 5, 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Industry and Transportation signed Decree No. 447 of 2024. The Decree highlighted changes that were made to Egyptian Standard ES 2613-2 (2024). Notably, the changes extended the shelf-life validity period for imported frozen beef liver from seven to twelve months, for frozen fish from six to ten months, and for plain and flavored yogurt to 30 days instead of 15 days. For additional information, see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2024-0032\) Egypt Formalizes Twelve Month Shelf-Life Validity Period for Frozen Beef Liver](#). The expiration period for frozen boneless beef is twelve months from the date of production. The expiration date for whole frozen poultry, leg quarters, drumsticks, and thighs are twelve months from the date of production.

Other Specific Labeling Requirements: Egypt is a net importer of agricultural commodities including wheat, soybeans, and yellow corn for feed. The government maintains a general import policy of allowing imports of agricultural commodities if the imported products are approved and consumed in the country of origin. Egypt permits the importation of GE crops if the exporting country-of-origin approves the product for consumption and authorizes its export. Egypt is a net importer of soybeans and corn for feed use. Egyptian law does not require labeling of biotech crops or products with biotech content. In addition, there is no approval needed for importing biotech products (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2023-0021\) Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies Annual Cairo Egypt](#)).

Section III – Packaging and Container Regulations

According to Ministry of Health Decree 73 (2001) for packaging materials, Egypt maintains no special packaging or container size requirements, regulations, or preferences. There are no restrictions or limitations on the use of any packaging materials like polyvinyl chloride. Regulations addressing waste management under Egypt’s environmental law (Law No. 4 of 1994) do not impose substantial restrictions or requirements on the packaging or handling of imported food products.

NFSA is currently responsible for food contact material. NFSA's technical regulation No. 17/2022 regulates food contact materials, which replaces Decree 204 (2015) of the Ministry of Health. Importers should contact NFSA about requirements related to food packaging material.

Section IV – Food Additive Regulations

Food Additives: In September 2020, NFSA issued Decision 4 of 2020 regarding food additives accepted for use by industry (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0060\) Egypt National Food Safety Authority Issues Food Additive Regulation](#)). The decision replaces the Ministry of Health's Decree 204 of 2015 on regulated food additives.

The positive list of food coloring that are permitted in food products according to Decision 4 (2020) are listed in Table 1, below.

TABLE 1: Egypt, Approved Food Colorings – National Food Safety Authority Decision 4 (2020)

Riboflavin 5-Phosphate, sodium	Allura Red AC	Caramel I: Plain caramel	beta-Carotenes, vegetables	Carotenoic acid, ethyl ester, beta-apo-8
Riboflavin 5-phosphate	Indigotine (Indigo Carmine)	Caramel II: Sulphite caramel II	beta-Carotenes, Blakeslea trispora	Lutein: xanthophylls
Riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Brilliant blue FCF	Caramel III: Ammonia caramel	Annatto extracts, bixin –based	Canthaxanthin
Tartrazine	Chlorophylls, copper complexes	Caramel IV: Sulfite Ammonia Caramel	Paprika extracts (Paprika, Paprika Oleoresins)	Beet root (beet red)
Quinoline Yellow	Carmosine: Azorbine	Brilliant black PN	Lycopene; (gamma carotene)	Anthocyanins
Sunset Yellow	Chlorophyllin copper complexes, potassium and sodium salts	Brown HT: chocolate brown HT	Lycopene: Blakeslea trispora	Grape skin extract
Carmines	Copper complexes of chlorophylls and chlorophyllin	Beta-Carotenes, synthetic	Carotenal, beta-apo-8	Calcium carbonate
Titanium dioxide	Iron oxide, red	Iron oxide, black	Iron oxide, yellow	

Source: NFSA

Decision 4 (2020) also lists concentration levels of acceptable food colors. According to Decision 4 (2020), the food additives list is subject to review “in accordance with the international standards in force, including Codex Alimentarius and European legislation.” It is recommended that exporters check with NFSA to verify the acceptability of any food coloring. There are no exceptions to the regulations governing food colorings.

The scientific name of the color ingredient and the percentage of concentration must be indicated on the Certificate of Analysis. Egyptian authorities will not allow a product to be imported if it contains an unauthorized color, even if the use of the color is acceptable in another country.

Preservatives: All preservatives must be identified along with the allowed concentration expressed as a percentage as calculated on an acid basis. Decision 4 (2020) lists all acceptable preservatives and concentrations levels.

Flavorings: All flavorings accepted under Codex are approved for use in Egypt. Decision 4 (2020) lists the concentration levels of all acceptable flavorings.

Section V - Pesticides and Contaminants

Pesticide Laws and Regulations

In June 2021, NFSA's Board of Directors approved mandatory technical regulations on the permissible residue levels of pesticides for food of plant and animal origin (See: [GAIN EG2021-0022 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Pesticides Technical Regulation](#)). The decision stipulated the basic requirements to assess the results of pesticide residue analysis to monitor and control the maximum residue limits (MRLs) in food products. In addition, the decision stipulated that Egypt's MRLs comply with Codex Alimentarius or other international regulations issued by the European Commission or tolerances issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Central Public Health Labs, the Central Laboratory for Pesticides, and the Central Laboratory of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food are responsible for examining and testing pesticide MRLs in fresh fruit and produce, and for ensuring that MRLs do not exceed acceptable limits.

Notably, this decision does not replace the MALR Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC). However, it replaces article 29 of Ministerial Decree 974 (2017), which determined pesticide maximum residues. The APC was established through Decree 2188 (2011) and is responsible for registering agricultural pesticides based on their efficacy against agricultural pests and its safety concerning public health and the environment.

Ministerial Decree 1018 (2013) clarifies that the APC is the national authority responsible for the assessment, evaluation, and registration of agricultural pesticides, up to the point of retail sale.

APC Mission:

- The APC is responsible for tailoring, administering, and managing the National Registration Scheme and decrees for agricultural pesticides. These set out the regulatory framework for the management of pesticides production, import, export, and use in Egypt.
- The APC administers the legislation scheme in partnership with state and territorial governments and with the active involvement of other Egyptian government agencies.
- The APC serves as a national focal point that cooperates with international pesticide regulatory authorities for effective use and global safety of plant protection products.

Updated Pesticide Registration Process: The APC administers Decree 974 (2017), which regulates the registration of substances that claim to have agricultural pest control use, as well as other substances such as formulants, adjuvants, impurities and/or contaminants that may be contained in a pest control product.

Pesticide registration requires:

- That the stakeholder applies to the APC for the registration of an agricultural pesticide after payment of fees and provision of the primary technical data sheet.
- The APC rapporteur examine the application form and review the current situation of the pesticide in the data recorded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the European Union, Canada, Australia, and Japan.
- In the case of consistency in registration requirements, the applicant will need to submit the primary technical data sheet along with the proposed experimentation program for testing the efficacy of the pesticide against the target pest.

The complete program will be reviewed by the committee's secretariat, and subsequently by the full committee. After approval, copies will be distributed to the committee secretariat, the experimentation administrator, the Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory (CAPL), and the applicant. Prior to committee approval of experimentation program, a testing cost is paid, and the procedure commences. An applicant must apply for customs import clearance at APC's Secretariat – free of charge – for necessary samples that will be used in analyzing and testing of the pesticide in question, and in the appropriate quantities.

The stakeholder must provide samples to an approved institute or laboratory. Two samples are sent to CAPL to ensure conformity with the pesticide's chemical and physical specifications. In the case of non-conformity, the applicant may request a re-test by CAPL retest. The process will be ceased if the second test is non-conforming.

According to Ministerial Decree 974 (2017), the pesticide should be trialed in two similar and consecutive agricultural seasons. The committee issues the certificate of registration when the pesticides pass all approval stages, which is valid for six years. However, re-evaluation is performed after three years.

The applicant may apply to obtain a pesticide label (for up to two years). Locally formulated pesticides pass through the same procedures.

Any person holding a valid license for trading in agricultural pesticides can apply to the committee to import a pesticide for trials.

Contaminants

Aflatoxins: Currently, NFSA is the responsible authority for the detection of contaminants in imported products. However, NFSA follows the same standard provided by the Ministry of Health. Egypt follows

the European Union maximum residue limits for total aflatoxins and aflatoxin B1 as set by European Commission Regulation 1881 (2006) - “Setting Maximum Levels for Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs.” The maximum allowable total aflatoxin levels and B1 levels for selected products are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Egypt, Selected Aflatoxins Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)

Food item	Maximum Allowable Aflatoxins	Maximum Allowable B1 Level
Corn	10 µg/kg	5 µg/kg
Raw Pistachio	10 µg/kg	8 µg/kg
Processed and Roasted Pistachio	12 µg/kg	15 µg/kg
Almonds	10 µg/kg	8 µg/kg
Peanuts	4 µg/kg	2 µg/kg

Source: NFSA

Detection of Pesticides and Contaminants Residues in Imports and Exports: NFSA is responsible for the control of pesticide residues and contaminants in imports (see, e.g., [Updates to Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Technical Regulation for the Maximum Residue Levels of Chemical Contaminates in Food](#) [Cairo Egypt EG2022-0027](#)). CAPQ remains the authority for managing exports and determining acceptable residue levels. CAPQ will continue testing for residues in exports until NFSA takes charge of exports.

Decision No. 6 of 2022 covers chemical contaminants in food and introduces MRLs. The decision contains 12 articles and five appendices that categorize food groups, chemical containments, MRLs of chemical containments in foods and methods for their testing and detection (See: [Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Technical Regulation for the Maximum Residue Levels of Chemical Contaminants in Food](#) [Cairo Egypt EG2022-0022](#)).

Section VI – Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

General Requirements

The certification requirements for imported food differs by product. Veterinary certificates are required for meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products. A phytosanitary certificate is required for plant and plant products. If the product is further processed in another country during transit, the appropriate certification may be where the additional processing is done.

Certificates required for imported food products include:

- Certificate of Origin
- Export Certificate (FDA Certificate of Free Sale, Sanitary, Phytosanitary – varies by product)
- Islamic Halal Certificate (if applicable)

Certificates originating in the United States must be signed by a chamber of commerce but no longer require endorsement by the Egyptian Embassy.

Product Sampling: All product samples should be representative of the consignment and should be drawn during the unloading process. A committee, known as the Physical Examination Committee, is formed to withdraw random samples every time a shipment arrives in port. One representative sample is drawn from each consignment and all inspection agencies involved will conduct their inspections and testing on the product.

Batch numbers are required for all food products to facilitate product sample withdrawal. Each batch will be considered as a different item for sample withdrawal purposes. Samples will be drawn from each batch having different production and expiration dates. Products with different production dates are considered different items and should be identified as such on the release certificate.

Cleanliness must be assured when samples are taken to avoid contamination. The committee is required to take the necessary steps to assure the soundness of the product samples while they are being transported to the laboratory for analysis.

According to Ministry of Health Decree 232 of 1996, the following provisions are to be taken into consideration when samples are taken:

- The consignment should be treated as a single shipment.
- The samples should be divided according to batch sizes and type of product.
- The samples should be distributed among the laboratories to avoid repetition.
- All label information should be presented on the “Sample Analysis Form.”
- If a consignment is imported from various origins or product sources, each should have a distinctive and confidential number.

Pre-Shipment Testing Requirements: Egypt’s mandatory plant quarantine pre-shipment inspection of grains at port-of-loading has been reinstated after Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992 of 2016 (effective January 1, 2017) disallowed government teams to travel for inspections at the port of loading. After assuming responsibility for imports, GOIEC ceded its control for agricultural products, except for soybeans for crushing, corn imports for feed, and private sector wheat imports. Thus, Decree 2992 of 2016 currently only regulates soybeans imported for crushing, corn imported for feed, and wheat for private sector use. GOIEC issues import permits for these commodities, handles shipments upon arrival with CAPQ, and monitors pre-shipment inspection (but only by a third party).

Further, MALR Decree No. 562 of 2019 re-establishes CAPQ as the agency responsible for grain and oilseed inspections. The General Organization for Supply Commodities now requires pre-shipment inspections by Egyptian officials at port-of-loading, in accordance with CAPQ requirements. (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0004\) Egypt Reintroduces Government Pre shipment Inspections for Grain Imports](#)).

Plant Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements: MALR Decree 562 of 2019 established the role and responsibilities of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in accordance with international agreements. The regulation requires that exports to Egypt adhere to plant quarantine phytosanitary requirements specified in the import permit. Plant and plant products specified in MALR Decree 562 of 2019 and shipped to Egypt must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Egypt requires that all

phytosanitary certificates reference the import permit corresponding to the shipment (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2019-0018\) – EGYPT - New Plant Quarantine Requirements, Ministerial Decree 562 \(2019\)\)](#)).

Facility Registration: Decree 43 of 2016 requires that exporters of specific retail products register with the GOEIC prior to shipment. This measure only applies to a specific list of products packaged for the retail market. Most U.S. food exporters can meet the registration requirements; however, exporters are encouraged to work closely with their Egyptian importers to register.

Food Import Licensing: In August 2020, NFSA released Decision No. 6 of 2020 – Rules Regulating Food Import Licensing, which went into effect on August 12, 2020. The decision specifies the rules related to the licensing of Egyptian food importers and food establishments importing food and food products. The decision permits the import of food and food products subject to the importer receiving a food importer license from NFSA. NFSA established a whitelist of qualified food importers among those licensed to import who will benefit from facilitated clearance protocols for imported food consignments, resulting in the reduction of the customs hold period, and the application of reduced sampling frequencies (less than 100 percent) to these consignments (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0044\) Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Decision No 6-2020 - Rules Regulating Food Import Licensing](#)).

Registration Procedures for Food Safety Management Systems: In February 2020, NFSA released Decisions Nos. 5 of 2019, 1 of 2020, and 2 of 2020. Decision No. 5 of 2019, regulates the registration procedures for international certification companies that provide assessment and certification of food safety management systems. Decision No. 1 of 2020 provides the technical rules for issuing food export validity certificates. Decision No. 2 of 2020 regulates the registration entities and certification companies that will issue inspection and conformity certificates for imported food consignments into Egypt. (See: [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020 -0021\) Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Registration Procedures for Food Safety Management Systems](#)).

NFSA established a registry of companies authorized to issue export validity certificates (i.e., certificates of conformity). Companies must meet specific requirements to be listed on NFSA's registry. Food product imports into Egypt and certified by registered third-party pre-shipment inspection companies will be included in export validity certificates that meet the requirements of NFSA (see Table 3). A sanctions regime was established to address faulty and or erroneous certification for those food products imported and found to be non-compliant with Egyptian food safety standards.

Table 3: Imported Commodities Registered with NFSA eligible for the Application Certificates of Conformity

Reg.	Goods
1	Dairy products (apart from baby milk) prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
2	Preserved and dried fruits prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
3	Oils and fats prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
4	Sugar products
	Chocolate and food processors that contain cocoa prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
5	Fruit juices prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 10 kg.
6	Natural, mineral, and carbonated water
7	Wheat
8	Food contact substances

Source: NFSA

Meat and Poultry Parts: MALR's Decree 1647 of 1997 requires that importers submit a request to GOVS. The request must indicate:

- The number and type of animals or meat imported;
- Country of origin;
- Shipping port;
- Expected date of arrival; and
- Means of transportation.

GOVS examines the request according to the epidemiological status of the country of origin. If the epidemiological status permits importation, the importer may be issued a permit. The permit is valid for one month. The importer can renew the approval if importation does not occur within one month. No fees are charged for the import permit.

MALR Decree 465 of 1997 identifies the following requirements for the import of poultry and meat products:

- Products must be shipped directly from the country of origin.
- Products must be packaged in appropriate bags as required by the Egyptian standards. Labels must be inserted inside the package as well as on the outside carton (see Labeling Section).

Approval from the Egyptian veterinary authorities to enter a product is dependent on the import license. If there is any discrepancy between the import license and the shipping documents, the product will be rejected. Exporters and importers must familiarize themselves with licensing and pre-approval checks prior to shipment.

Product Registration

NFSA requires product registration for Special Dietary Foods.

Special Dietary Foods: Special Dietary Foods are those whose composition is different from "normal" food. In practice, this involves calorie-modified foods, baby and infant foods, energy foods, special health foods (including diabetic and weight control foods), vitamin and mineral supplements, medicinal herbs, and bottled water. As of August 16, 2018, NFSA is responsible for the registration and approval of all nutritional supplements and dietary foods.

Registration of special dietary foods require:

- Follow-up and submission of the scientific file to be paper-based or submitted via the NFSA website and e-mail.
- The NFSA chairman decrees the documents required for registration.
- The registration process may not exceed a 60-day term as of date of receipt of the required documents in full, and a 30-day term in case of registration by notification.
- Special dietary food license shall be valid for a five-year term as of the registration date, pending a license is issued and registration specifications are met.
- Registration by notification will be permitted for special dietary foods already registered in the country of origin, provided the country has a food safety management system (FSMS) consistent with the system applied in Egypt, has a certificate of free sale, and submits all the documents required for registration.
- In fulfilling the terms and specifications of registration, re-registration may be by notification.
- NFSA will issue a list of special dietary foods, foods for special medical purposes (FSMP), and dietary supplements that are subject to registration under the present regulation.
- The agency will produce a database of all registered manufacturers of special dietary food.

For NFSA registration purposes, food products considered as special dietary foods may include:

- Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants, (breast-milk substitutes) and formulated complementary foods.
- Processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children.
- Canned baby foods.
- Foods intended for persons with special physiological conditions.
- Foods for special medical purposes, (meaning a category of special dietary foods that are specially processed or formulated and presented for the dietary management of patients under medical supervision).
- Foods that are marketed with health claims as stated in items (1), (2), and (7) of article (1) of the present regulation, and as established by the Codex legislation.

- Low-energy diets (800-1200 kcal) and very low energy diets (400-800 kcal) used in weight control or reduction and presented as a total or partial replacement for daily food, except for the prepackaged foods put up for sale as conventional foods.
- High-energy diets for use in weight gain.
- Low-sodium foods, including salt substitutes that bear health claims.
- Foods to which vitamins or minerals are added by (15 percent) or more of the reference value per 100 grams of solids, or by (7.5 percent) of the reference value per 100 milliliters of liquids.
- Foods to which prebiotics, or other fortifying substances, compounds or elements added in the light of international legislation.
- Foods containing stimulant, fortifying, and appetizing substances.
- Food supplements provided they do not contain any substances with a therapeutic pharmacological effect.

Categories of food not considered special dietary foods under the new regulation include:

- Individual herbs and spices or mixtures thereof not bearing health claims.
- Low-calorie foods not intended for specific groups of population (such as sugar-free or low-calorie foods and beverages).
- Foods that are by their nature deemed a source of vitamins, minerals, or other elements or nutrients.
- Foods that contain vitamins and minerals less than (15 percent) of the reference value per 100 grams of solids, or (7.5 percent) of the reference value per 100 milliliters of liquids and other nutrients, in accordance with international legislation.
- Fiber-reinforced products that contain less than 3 grams per 100 grams (30 grams daily) or 10 percent of the daily intake reference value (DIRV).
- Natural bottled drinking water and mineral bottled drinking water.
- Low-sodium foods, including salt substitutes not bearing health claims.

Testing and Sampling of Special Dietary Foods: NFSA conducts random sampling of special dietary foods. Samples are tested in accredited laboratories to ensure that the registration requirements comply with the mandatory technical regulations and the applicable standards.

- The permissible microbiological limits for special dietary foods are:
 - Free of *Salmonella*/25 grams
 - Free of *Staphylococcus aureus*/25 grams
 - Free of *Enterobacteriaceae*/g (for infant formulas as well as dried and canned baby foods)
 - Free of *Bacillus cereus*/g (for infant formulas and dried and canned baby foods)
 - Free of *Enterobacter sakazakii*/25 grams
 - Free of *Listeria monocytogenes*/25 grams
- The maximum residue limits for pesticides, veterinary drug residues, and other contaminants will align with international standards.

Current Registrations of Special Dietary Foods: Companies with unregistered products should submit a new application for registration to NFSA. Those firms with a valid registration for special dietary food products must register with NFSA and include in their application their original current license issued by the Ministry of Health (MOH). In these cases, NFSA will grant a new license for the validity period remaining on the MOH license. Firms that are currently under registration at MOH should submit a request to NFSA to complete the registration process. NFSA will examine and approve these products on a case-by-case basis. Imported special dietary foods will be given a license valid for three months.

Section VII – Other Specific Standards

In November 2019, NFSA became responsible for permitting the import of all edible food products, including processed foods, animal, and plant products. NFSA is currently working on issuing its own standards, and as NFSA continues to finalize them, imports must continue to conform to Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) standard requirements, where applicable.

NFSA's standards are based on risk assessments and follow international provisions and best practices. NFSA is also responsible for sampling and inspection of food imports. Samples are sent for testing in laboratories approved by NFSA. The priority is given to state-run laboratories, such as central labs of Ministry of Health and Central Lab of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food (CAPQ Lab) of the Ministry of Agriculture. To avoid the possibility of appeals, three samples are used for reference testing.

Egypt's import regulations require that every component of a product be inspected – regardless of the compliance history of the product, country of origin, exporter, shipper or the importer. No import can be placed for direct sale without first proving that it conforms to established Egyptian standards. If no domestic standard exists, then it must be defined using the standards of an affiliated international organizations such as International Standards Organization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and Codex.

Egyptian standardization commenced in 1957 with the formation of the Egyptian Organization for Standardization (EOS) and Quality. Since its inception, the EOS has established 8,500 standards. Of these, 543 are technical regulations or mandatory standards. Nearly 80 percent of Egypt's mandatory standards are based on standards issued by international organizations. In the absence of an Egyptian standard, Ministry of Industry and Trade Decree 180 of 1996 permits importers to choose a relevant standard from seven international systems including: ISO, European, American, Japanese, British, German – and for food, Codex.

Meat Products and Halal Certification: All U.S. federally inspected establishments are eligible to export fresh/frozen halal beef, halal beef products, and processed halal beef products to Egypt. Whole frozen poultry, leg quarters, drumsticks, and thighs must originate from an establishment on the list of U.S. poultry plants approved for export of halal poultry to Egypt. Processed poultry products may originate from any federally inspected establishment so long as the source slaughter establishment is on the "Eligible Plant List for Egypt." For processed poultry products, the source slaughter plant number should be included in the "Remarks" section of FSIS Form 9060-5 ("Poultry for this shipment originated from Est. xxx.").

All shipments of further processed poultry products must be accompanied by a copy of the halal certificate from the original approved slaughter establishment. Because establishments seeking to export to Egypt must be approved for halal slaughter, FSIS Form 9080-3, Establishment Application for Export is not required.

Per the USDA FSIS Export Library, “exporter[s] must obtain a Certificate of Islamic Slaughter from a member of an Islamic Center or Islamic organization. A Certificate of Islamic Slaughter is a certificate issued by a member of a Muslim organization recognized by the importing country to provide this service; the certificate states that animals were slaughtered according to Muslim religious requirements. This certificate must accompany products labeled ‘Halal.’”

For more information, see the USDA FSIS Export Library: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/egypt>.

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

In June 2002, Egypt passed Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Law 82, which outlines copyright laws and enforcement procedures, expedited trademark registration, and piracy protection. The IPR Law replaced Public Laws No. 57 (1939) on trademarks and information, No. 132 (1949) on patent and industrial drawings, and No. 354 (1954) on copyrights.

Article (63) of the IPR Law 82 (2002) defines trademarks as names that adopt a distinctive form, signatures, words, characters, figures and drawings. The Commercial Registration Department is responsible for registering trademarks. Articles 73 through 84 detail the registration process. Article 73 requires the applicant to submit a trademark request to the department, which is responsible for notifying the applicant within 30 days of the decision. It takes approximately nine to twelve months to register a logo or a brand name. Once approved, it is announced in the *Trademark Gazette*.

The following certificates and documents must be submitted during the registration process:

- A sample of the logo and brand name.
- A certification of the company's incorporation in its home country.
- A certificate issued by the Commercial Register in Egypt affirming that the proposed name of the company or logo has not been registered in Egypt.

The company must apply for a “Trademark Examination Form” to check whether a similar trademark for the product already exists in the market.

If a foreign company wishes to protect its logo, the company must supply the General Administration for Trademark with an example of its logo as registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The foreign company should employ an agent in Cairo to follow the trademark registration process.

Article (90) provides trademark protection for ten years, after which the trademark's owner has six months to submit a renewal for protection which can be extended for several different periods. However, Law 82 (2002) grants automatic trademark status to internationally known products without registering with the Commercial Registration Department.

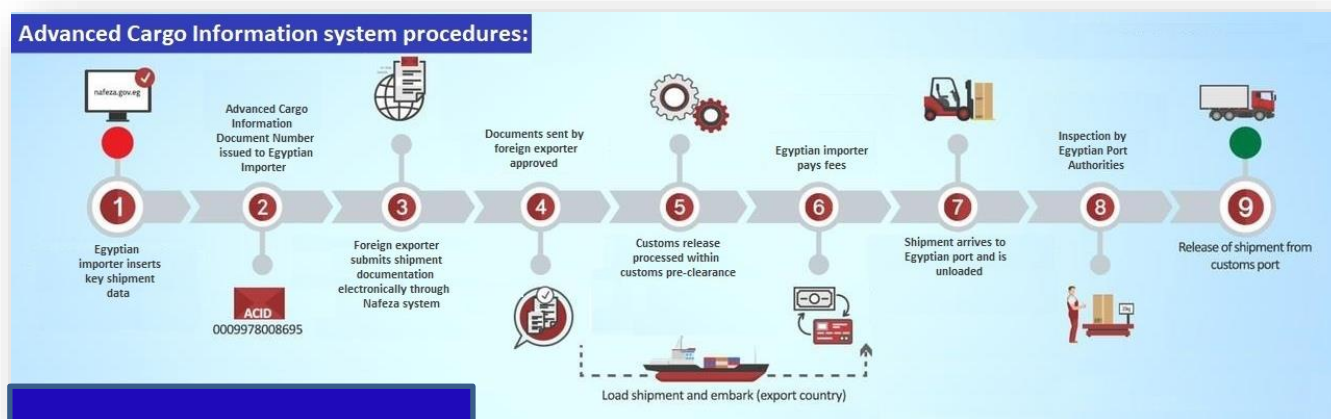
Additional information on licensing in Egypt can be found, in part, at: <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/egypt-licensing-requirements>.

Section IX – Import Procedures

Egypt's Ministry of Finance issued Decree 38 of 2021 on pre-shipment registration – Advanced Cargo Information (ACI) – under a new single window system that seeks to modernize and automate customs administration, simplify procedures, and reduce clearance time. ACI requires pre-registration and generates an ID number (ACID) that should be included on all shipping documents.

Since October 1, 2021, electronic ACI filing has been mandatory for all exporters to Egypt. Egyptian importers need to register on the Egyptian customs platform (NAFEZA), where they register their import shipments and request an ACID number. To complete this process, importers and exporters must use the CargoX platform at <https://cargox.digital>. ACI is operated and managed by MTS in partnership with other government agencies. Figure 1 demonstrates the pre-shipment procedures.

Figure 1: Pre-shipment Process Procedure



In July 2020, NFSA released [Decision No. 7 of 2020](#), Principles and Objectives of Risk-Based Food Import Control System. The system provides a fast-track clearance path for the release of the commodities based on risk categories.

Through the risk-based approach in handling imports, NFSA determines the suitable clearance channel. Each clearance channel will determine the methodology for handling the imported food consignments upon arrival. The clearance will then determine the inspection and random sampling level. NFSA identifies four clearance channels (See: [GAIN-EGYPT EG2020-0054 Egypt Imposes a Risk-Based Food Import Control System](#)).

Under the new system, the following documents must be presented to the customs office for shipment release:

- Bill of Lading;
- Commercial Invoice;
- Certificate of Origin (countersigned by the Chamber of Commerce and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin);
- Export/Health Certificate (FDA certificate of free sale, sanitary, phytosanitary – varies by product);
- Packing List;
- Certificate of Insurance;
- Import Permit (issued to Egyptian importer);
- Payment Guarantee (Form 11) from a local bank advising that payment has been transferred to the supplier.

The following documents may be required, depending on the product:

- A letter from the bank indicating that all administration fees have been paid (Note: if this letter is not submitted, all administrative expenses must be paid at the port;
- Radiation Certificate.

The time required for importation ranges from 11-12 days and can be imported through one of Egypt's five major ports: Damietta, Alexandria, Port Said (east), Port Said (west), and Sokhna (Suez).

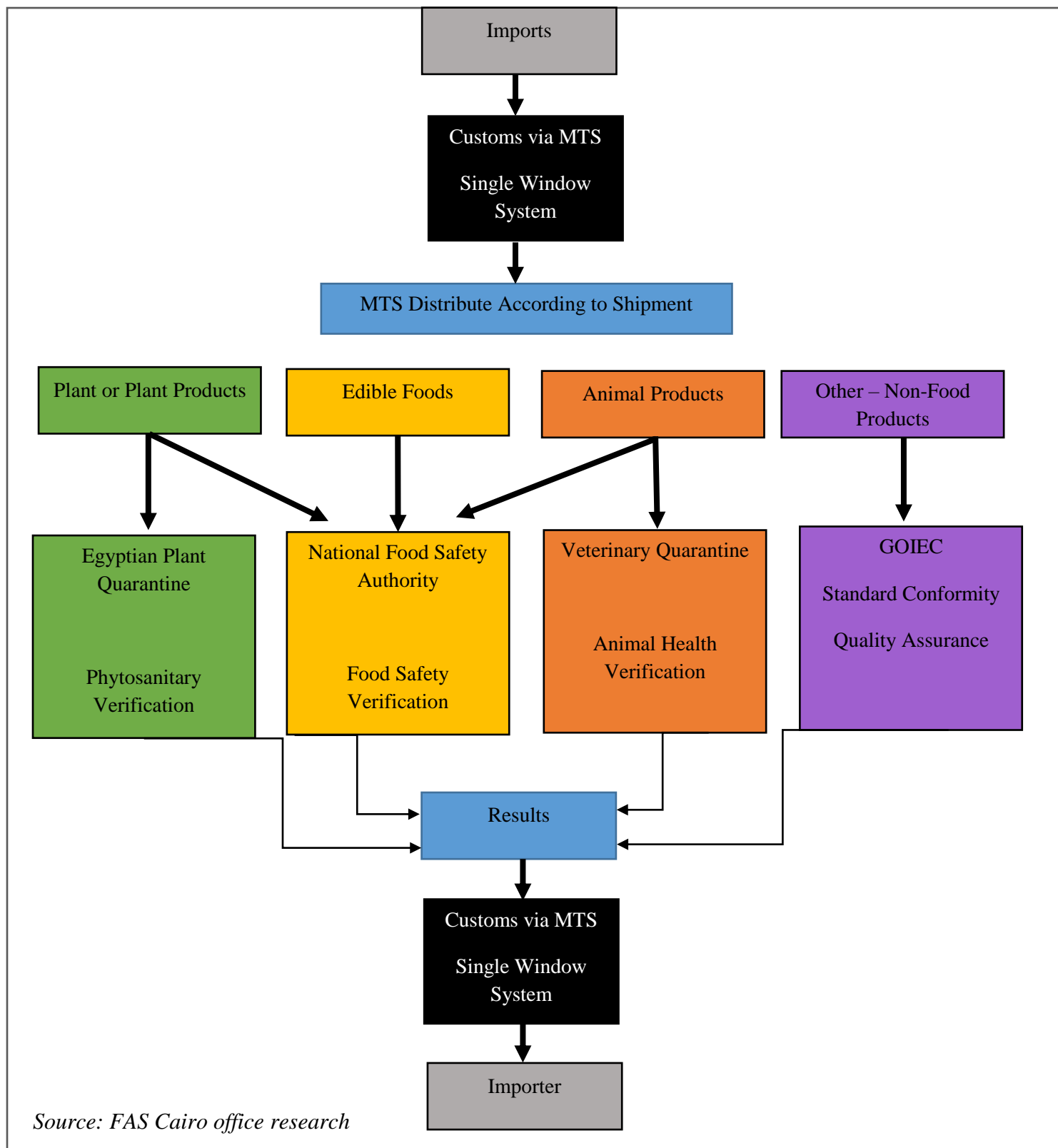
In the case of a rejection, according to Article (117), Chapter 4 of Decree 770 of 2005, the exporter or importer may appeal the final inspection results no later than one week from the date of rejection. The concerned party shall file an appeal to MTS to present in front of the appeal committee. The appeal shall be accompanied by a nominal deposit, which shall be reimbursed if the appeal is accepted.

The committee shall decide whether to accept the results of the final inspection, to amend the results, or to annul them. They can also authorize a re-inspection of the consignment or allow for treatment. If the former is applied, then the committee shall name a specialized inspection laboratory to re-inspect the consignment and allow the complainant the chance to attend the inspection procedures. The committee's results shall be deemed final and may not be contested.

The Board Chairman of the General Organization for Exhibitions and International Fairs (GOEIF) may allow exhibitors at exhibitions and fairs to direct sell goods imported for display at GOEIC identified exhibition sites. The sale shall be supervised by the GOEIC and by Egypt's customs authority.

Final inspection results are normally issued within 10 days. Canned food, bottled water, and goods subject to dioxin testing are usually released within 15 days.

FIGURE 2: Egypt's Import Control Procedures



Section X – Trade Facilitation

In June 2019, Egypt ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Through document [G/TFA/N/EGY/1](#), Egypt notified its “A” commitments as well as categories B & C commitments in line with Articles 15 and 16 of the TFA and provided the definitive dates for B & C provisions. Egypt also presented information under Article 10.6.2. of the TFA related to the customs brokers system through document [G/TFA/N/EGY/2](#).

Egypt’s actions to promote trade facilitation include the establishment of a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) that was formed by Ministerial Decree No. 183 of 2011. The committee includes members from the public and private sectors.

NFSA Decision No. 270 of 2024 amended provisions related to Egypt’s Import and Export Law No. 118 of 1975 with the goal of establishing a rapid release system for food imports used exclusively as production supplies by food processing establishments listed on NFSA’s “White List.” Eligible establishments must apply, meet specific requirements, and provide detailed information about imports, manufacturing processes, and final products. Imports are subject to risk-based inspections, including random sampling, with penalties for non-compliance such as recalls or withdrawal at the importer’s expense. NFSA may suspend or revoke participation for violations, including market display of supplies or failure to meet safety standards. The decision aims to streamline food imports that are used by food processing establishments, while ensuring compliance with food safety standards.

Advance Ruling

Egypt provides information on tariff duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) required to be paid on different commodities through the Egyptian Customs Authority, administering an average MFN applied tariff rate of 65.1 percent for agricultural products. The website provides information according to the different commodity codes. The information includes information for trade agreements and arrangements with foreign governments that allow specific exemptions and tariff reduction and provides information on trade agreements between Egypt and its trading partners. Access to tariff information through the following portal address can be found here:
<https://www.customs.gov.eg/Services/Inquiries/Tariff?searchquery>.

Use of Electronic Documents

All documents for the ACI are uploaded on CargoX platform and used electronically. However, some control agencies still require hard copies such as the phytosanitary and sanitary certificates and shipment documents, such as the bill of loading and tax bill for bank use.

e-Phyto

Egypt’s CAPQ is subscribed in the international e-Phyto hub of the International Plant Protection Convention. Currently CAPQ has made the e-Phyto hub available for trading countries to check any phytosanitary certificate received with the Egyptian plant and plant products shipments via the plant quarantine portal: <http://www.capq.gov.eg/Exporting/PhytosanitaryCertificates/Index>

Required Fees

Every organization has a unique fee structure that varies according to the nature of the commodity. Typically, an agriculture commodity shipment would be charged the following:

- Inspection fee
- Inspectors transfer allowance (if outside customs area)
- Testing fee (if required)
- Treatment fee (if required)
- Customs
- Import Tax
- Single window charges

Existence of Consularization

The Egyptian government no longer requires Egyptian Embassy authentication on shipment documents including certificates of origin. However, veterinary health certificates and any related documents still require legalization from the Egyptian Embassy in the United States.

Appendix I – Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

U.S. Embassy Cairo, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs
Physical Address: American Embassy, 8 Kamal El-Din Salah Street, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt
Phone: +20-2-2797-2388 • Fax: +20-2-2796-3989 • Email: AgCairo@usda.gov

(*) NOTE: The GAIN Report System was redesigned in 2019 and includes reports from all previous legacy systems going back to 1995. Because these reports were created in different systems, it might be necessary to try a variety of search options to retrieve older reports.

SEARCH GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

National Food Safety Authority (Reports to the Prime Minister)

Tele: +2 (2) 27933493 | +2 (2) 27933497 • Fax: +2 (2) 27933496
Email: info@nfsa.gov.eg • Website: <http://www.nfsa.gov.eg/> (Arabic)

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Mailing Address: 9 El Gamaa Street, Giza, Egypt
Phone: (+202) 3568-6373/ 1658
Website: <https://moa.gov.eg/>

Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade

Mailing Address: 99 Al Kasr Al Aini, Al Inshaa WA Al Munirah, Qasr an Nile, Cairo Governorate, Egypt
Phone: +20- 2- 2794-4338/ 8224/ 8184 • +20-2- 2795-8481 • Email: info@msit.gov.eg
Website: www.msit.gov.eg

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade

Mailing Address: Qasr Ad Dobarah, Qasr El Nil, Cairo, Egypt

Commercial Affairs Phone +20 2 27921176 • Email: mfti@mfti.gov.eg

Website: <http://www.investment.gov.eg/>

General Organization for Export and Import Control

Sheraton Al Matar, Heliopolis, Cairo

Phone: +20 2 22669634

Website: <http://www.goeic.gov.eg>

Egyptian Customs Authority

Ministry of Finance Buildings, Tower 3, Ramses Street Extension, Cairo Governorate

Phone: +20 202 23422058

Email: Pro_h@customs.gov.eg • Website: <http://customs.gov.eg>

General Authority for Veterinary Services

Nadi El-Saeed Street, Dokki, Giza; Phone: +20 2 33372498

Appendix II – Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**Chamber of Food Industries**

Mailing Address: 1195 Nile Corniche, Boulaq, Cairo Governorate

Phone: +20-2-2574-8627 • Fax: +20-2-2574-8312

Cellphone: +20-122-782-5232 and +20-122-782-5233 • Email: info@fei.org.eg

Website: <https://egycfi.org.eg/en/>

Cairo Chamber of Commerce

4 Falaki Square, Bab Ellok, Cairo Governorate

Phone: +20-2-2795-8261 and +20-2-2795-8262 • Fax: +20-2-2796-3603 and +20-2-2794-4328

Email: info@cairochamber.org.eg • Website: www.cairochamber.org.eg

Attachments:

No Attachments