

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution
2025

Date: September 24,

Report Number: ES2025-0007

Report Name: FAIRS Country Report Annual

Country: El Salvador

Post: San Salvador

Report Category: FAIRS Country Report

Prepared By: Miguel Herrera

Approved By: Jason Wrobel

Report Highlights:

Since August 7, 2024, the Superintendence for Sanitary Regulation has been responsible for food and beverage product registration in El Salvador. The Consumer Protection Law is enforced by the Consumer Protection Agency (DDC). Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of meat and dairy products, and pet food import permits. Food safety norms are becoming stricter, sometimes causing unnecessary trade delays.

“This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in San Salvador, El Salvador, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in preparing 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 PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
SECTION I: FOOD LAWS	3
SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS	4
SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS	6
SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS	6
SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS	6
SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES	7
SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS.....	11
SECTION VIII: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS, TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	12
SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES.....	13
SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION	14
APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS	15
APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Salvador is a small but growing market for U.S. agricultural products. In 2024, the country imported \$824 million in U.S. agricultural and related products, including a record \$361.4 million in consumer-oriented products. Since joining the CAFTA-DR free trade agreement in 2006, most U.S. products have enjoyed duty-free access.

Food safety for processed food and beverage products is regulated by the Sanitary Regulation Superintendency (SRS), established in August 2024. Oversight of meat and bulk dairy products remains under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG). Product registration is required to commercialize food and beverage products in the Salvadoran market. Importers have traditionally faced burdensome regulations, delays, and at times discretionary barriers from Customs officials. However, the administration that took office in June 2024 has made progress in trade facilitation by reducing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and expediting import procedures.

The Salvadoran Consumer Protection Agency (DDC) is responsible for consumer protection. The agency conducts random inspections in supermarkets and open-air markets to ensure products are within their expiration dates, thereby reducing public health risks. As a member of the Central American Customs Union, El Salvador adopts most food and beverage technical regulations from regional agreements, which harmonize norms applied across Central American markets.

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

El Salvador does not have a specific food law governing imported food. Instead, the Salvadoran Health Code establishes food safety requirements for all food products. Since August 7, 2024, the Sanitary Regulation Superintendency (SRS) has been responsible for all registrations and authorizations related to the importation, manufacture, and sale of food, beverages, and ingredients used in production.

According to the Government of El Salvador, the SRS is a newly created entity that regulates and oversees the commercialization of products for both human and veterinary use. It replaces the former National Medicine Directorate and assumes functions previously managed by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

SRS is responsible for the following:

- Regulating the quality, safety, and efficacy of products
- Granting sanitary registrations, marketing authorizations, and import/export permits
- Monitoring products on the market
- Authorizing and determining medicine prices

Additional information is available on the following website:

<https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/taxonomy/term/2711> (Spanish).

Section 12, Article 88 of the Salvadoran Health Code (Legal framework Public Health Council - [Marco Legal | CSSP \(Spanish\)](#), referenced link in Spanish) relates to food imports. It states that importing any food or beverages must be authorized by a Certificate of Free Sale and Consumption issued by the competent health authority in the country of origin. Each certificate must include the name of the product and its components.

The Government of El Salvador (GOES) does not have a fully integrated food safety and enforcement system, primarily due to limited resources. The Ministry of Economy, through the Consumer Protection Agency (DDC), enforces the Consumer Protection Law. The National Assembly recently ratified an updated version of this law, designating the DDC as the sole authority responsible for protecting consumers from unsafe products.

Most food products are inspected by SRS and MAG at the port of entry. In addition, both SRS and DDC conduct random testing at retail and wholesale levels to verify that products meet established health and quality standards. However, many products still reach final destinations without inspection due to insufficient human resources and inadequate infrastructure to monitor illegal distribution channels. This challenge is most prevalent in open-air markets.

El Salvador's food safety framework is gradually shifting toward improved control measures, more efficient regulations, and greater reliance on Codex Alimentarius standards. In the interim, Central American regional norms continue to be applied until Codex standards are fully revised and adopted.

SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Based on the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) 67.01.07:10

<https://disam.salud.gob.sv/reglamentos-tecnicos-centroamericano-rtca/>

(referenced link in Spanish), SRS requires the following labeling information for all pre-packaged food products sold in El Salvador:

- 1. Nature of Product:** composition, quality, origin, and general processing method.
- 2. Name of the product:** Must be the specific name.
- 3. Net Content:** Must be expressed in decimal metric system units.
- 4. Ingredients:** They must be listed with their proper names, in decreasing order, according to their importance in the product's composition. It is not necessary to identify the percentage of each ingredient.
- 5. Additives:** Must be mentioned by the group it belongs to (for example, an antioxidant), followed by its specific name and its concentration in the final product.
- 6. Lot identification and manufacturing date:** A code can be used to identify the lot, which must be provided and clarified by the health authorities. Six digits must be used in DD/MM/YY format to determine the manufacturing date.
- 7. Product storage instructions**
- 8. Manufacturer's name:** The label must include the manufacturer, importer, dealer, distributor, or legal representative of the product and their respective addresses.

9. Sanitary Registry: The label must indicate the sanitary registration number (Reg. No. D.G.S. El Salvador) issued by SRS. The registration number is provided to the importer by SRS during the product registration process.

10. Country of Origin

11. Name and address of supplier in El Salvador: should be on a sticker and is usually provided by the supplier or distributor.

The Salvadoran Body for Technical Regulations (OSARTEC) is developing labeling regulations based on Codex Alimentarius standards. U.S. food labels are widely seen in the distribution chain; however, GOES currently requires a Spanish-language sticker indicating the list of ingredients, manufacturing method, and expiration date until bilingual Spanish-English labels are fully adopted.

Labeling regulations are enforced by both the Sanitary Regulation Superintendency (SRS) and the Consumer Protection Agency (DDC) of the Ministry of Economy. All food products must be properly labeled before distribution for human consumption.

- **Sample-size products** are subject to the same labeling requirements, although local authorities tend to be more lenient due to the limited quantities imported.
- **Bulk-packed or institutional-sized products** must display contents and ingredients either on the outer packaging or on individual units.

Some locally produced products intended for retail sale include nutrition facts in English to comply with U.S. regulations, as manufacturers anticipate exports to the United States under the CAFTA-DR framework. Meanwhile, the current GOES administration is engaged in consultations with the private sector on whether to implement Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) for front-of-package labeling. Both USDA and the U.S. Department of Commerce continue to provide guidance to ensure that any decision is technically sound and does not negatively affect consumer perception.

Additional requirements include:

- **Shelf life:** Only the manufacturing date and expiration date are required.
- **Country-of-Origin Certificate:** Mandatory for all imported products.
- **Barcoding:** Universal Product Code (UPC) and European Article Number (EAN) systems are both accepted. All major supermarket chains require barcodes for retail products.

Alcoholic beverages must carry the following warning on the label:

"The excessive consumption of this product is harmful and creates addiction. Sales to consumers under the age of 18 are prohibited."

This requirement is established in Article 26 of the Regulatory Law for the Provision and Commercialization of Alcohol and Beverages. In addition, tequila labels must specify the production area, alcohol grade, and manufacturing process.

Other Specific Labeling requirement(s)

SRS does not require nutritional labeling in El Salvador and is only guided by the Central American Technical Regulations on Nutritional Labeling ([RTCA 67.01.60:23](#) Spanish). Organic, halal, and kosher labeling is not required in the country, and all health claims must be supported with appropriate documentation. All plant-based meat and dairy alternatives must display these distinctions on their product label.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Currently, there are no special packaging or container size requirements. However, due to purchasing power constraints, consumers prefer smaller packages at the retail level. This is especially true in the open-markets and small retail stores. Wholesale outlets offer food service-size packaging.

Packaging Sustainability Measures:

Not Applicable

SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

SRS allows food additives based on Central American Technical Regulations RTCA 67.04.54:18 <https://osartec.gob.sv/servicios/inventario-rtca> (Spanish), Codex Alimentarius, and on certain occasions, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Importers must register at the Ministry of Health online system to be able to register food additives <https://tramites.salud.gob.sv/registro/index> (Spanish). A positive additive list can be found at [Central American Technical Regulation for Food Additive List](#) (Spanish).

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides:

The Ministry of Agriculture's (MAG) Input Inspection and Registration Division is responsible for enforcing all regulations regarding pesticides and their use. No pesticide can be manufactured, formulated, imported, or distributed by law in El Salvador if it hasn't been properly registered at MAG's Input Inspection and Registration Division <https://www.mag.gob.sv/servicios/registro-y-fiscalizacion/> (Spanish).

Currently, there is no list of maximum residue levels. Maximum tolerances for most pesticides based on Codex tolerances are considered only for registration purposes. GOES has created a commission for Codex Alimentarius matters.

In El Salvador, pesticides are regulated by the following:

- Law for pesticide, fertilizer, and agricultural products control. Legislative Decree # 315, 04/28/73: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/fr/c/LEX-FAOC105134> (Spanish)

- Regulation for the application of pesticide control law. Executive Decree # 28, 05/21/80: <https://leap.unep.org/countries/sv/national-legislation/decreto-no-28-reglamento-de-la-ley-sobre-control-de-pesticidas> (Spanish)

In addition, the following accords, norms, and international agreements are taken into consideration for pesticide registration and control:

- International Code of Conduct for the distribution and use of pesticides of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) [International Code of Conduct for the use and distribution of pesticides](#) (Spanish)
- Regional agreements for harmonizing pesticide labeling and required procedures for registration and taxes <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/pesticide-risk-reduction/code-conduct/en/>
- FAO specifications for pesticide quality control. Tolerance (MRLs) specified in the Codex Alimentarius <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/thematic-areas/pesticides/en/>

To register a pesticide, the following information must be specified:

- Scientific and commercial name of the product, quantitative and qualitative formula, structural chemistry, and other necessary information for its complete identification.
- Name and address of the person or company that manufactures, imports, or distributes the product.
- Certificate of origin and confirmation of free sale in the country of origin.

Contaminants:

Not Applicable

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

In 2022, El Salvador's Ministry of Health implemented new regulations for the sanitary registration of packaged foods, classifying them into three risk types: A, B, and C.

- **Risk Type A:** High-risk foods that, due to their nature, composition, or processing, have a high probability of causing harm to health. These require the highest level of regulation and a sanitary registration.
- **Risk Type B:** Medium-risk foods, which pose a lower but still significant health risk compared to type A. A sanitary permit is required.
- **Risk Type C:** Low-risk foods, which include items like coffee, candy, and nuts. These require a less stringent sanitary notification.

Most food products in El Salvador are subject to laboratory testing during routine inspections and when registering Risk A products. Importers must be registered with the Sanitary Regulation Superintendency (SRS), and each product to be imported must also be registered with SRS to ensure it is fit for human consumption. Registered products undergo physical, chemical, microbiological, and related tests to verify compliance with minimum health and sanitary standards. Once granted, product registration is valid for five years.

SRS operates an online import permit system linked to Customs to expedite food import procedures.

Certificates of Free Sale

A Certificate of Free Sale (CFS) is required for imported products. Ideally, this document is issued by an official public health agency in the country of origin and certifies that the product meets all sanitary standards and is freely sold and consumed domestically.

- A CFS may cover multiple products and is valid for one year.
- The certificate must be in Spanish or accompanied by an official translation provided by the importer.
- For U.S. products, SRS accepts export certificates issued by official U.S. government institutions, including federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the FDA's Certificate to a Foreign Government.
- Following negotiations by FAS/USDA, SRS also accepts the FSIS 9060-5 export certificate for meat and meat products in place of the Certificate of Free Sale.

Recent Updates

- As of April 3, 2025, SRS no longer requires laboratory analysis for Risk B and C products during registration.
- As of May 1, 2025, SRS accepts laboratory analyses from accredited private laboratories in El Salvador to expedite product registration.
- USDA continues to work with GOES to secure acceptance of U.S. laboratory results for food and beverage registration and to eliminate the Apostille requirement for import documentation.

Special Product Categories

- **Baby food, diet foods, and health foods:** Subject to the same requirements as other food products.
- **Meat (beef, pork, poultry, lamb, veal):** Subject to sanitary regulations enforced by MAG's Livestock Division (DGG) under the Law for Sanitary Inspection of Meat (Executive Decree #39, July 13, 1971). Meat may only be imported from countries whose inspection systems are deemed equivalent to El Salvador's, based on official audits by

MAG. Each shipment must include an official meat inspection certificate from the country of origin in Spanish.

- **Pet food:** Following negotiations between FAS San Salvador, APHIS, and MAG, El Salvador adopted a new protocol recognizing the United States' negligible risk status for pet food, as designated by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- **Beef imports (including bone-in beef):** Allowed under OIE specifications for negligible risk countries, aligning with the U.S. status.
- **Dairy products:** Must be accompanied by a microbiological laboratory analysis.

Packaging:

El Salvador imposes no special requirements for packaging or container size.

Facility Registration:

To obtain the import permit, meat-processing plants must be inspected and certified by a DGG inspector, and the importer must present a lab analysis for pesticide residue and heavy metals. Under CAFTA-DR, El Salvador granted equivalence to the U.S. inspection system for beef, pork, poultry, and dairy products and no longer requires plant-by-plant inspections. In recent negotiations among FAS and MAG, El Salvador has also expanded equivalence to include U.S. lamb and veal. In addition, MAG has also accepted the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) certificate for food products containing small amounts of eggs. FAS and AMS have also agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture on a protocol for U.S. table eggs.

Product Registration:

SRS enforces product registration and only allows imported food products into the country when doing so. Product registration costs US\$35 per product, plus a microbiological analysis that ranges from US\$50 to US\$100 per product. Sample products must also be registered through a single-window import/export mechanism (CIEX). Once registered, importers must request a sample importation permit from SRS, for which they must present a no-value invoice. It is also recommended that importers present an FDA sanitary certificate. For solids, the maximum quantity that can be imported as samples is 25 kilograms, and for liquids, 25 liters. The local postal system is not used to send product samples to El Salvador; courier services are used instead. Product registration takes approximately two to three weeks.

According to health authorities in El Salvador, the following information is required for an exporter to register a product:

Access the SRS registration website at <https://portalenlinea.srs.gob.sv/register> (Spanish), and once registered include the following information:

1. Petitioner's name and address.
2. Description of the product.

3. Name, address, and telephone number of the establishment or factory where the product is manufactured.
4. Product use.
5. Name, address, and telephone of the supplier in El Salvador.
6. Type of packaging material.
7. Net content.
8. Commercial brand name.

This application must be filed with the following documents:

- Power of attorney granted in favor of the Salvadoran attorney or the company representative in the country, duly notarized at the nearest Consulate of El Salvador in the United States or by Apostille.
- An original Certificate of Free Sale issued by the official Health Authorities of the country of origin and apostille. If the Certificate is in English, it must be translated into Spanish by the importer and duly notarized by a Salvadoran lawyer. If the Certificate is used for a list of various products, the original will be attached to one of the product files, and the others will use a photocopy. A functioning license of the local warehouse where the product will be stored is required. Usually, the local distributor obtains this license.
- Label of the product, which shall specify the product's name, list of ingredients, name of manufacturer, importer or distributor, and the expiration date. If necessary, usage instructions are required. A label for each presentation is required if the same product is commercialized in various sizes.
- Product samples: SRS requires three samples weighing 200 grams each for solid products, three samples weighing 200 milliliters for liquid products, and two samples weighing 200 milliliters each for alcoholic beverages. For bottled water, 3.785 liters (one gallon) for physical-chemical analysis and 1 sample of 500 milliliters for microbiological analysis are required.

Central American Technical Regulation for Food Products – [RTCA 67.01.31:20](#) (Spanish)

The food product registration for the Central American Technical Regulation entered into force on August 5, 2024, after resolution 483-2023 of the Central American Ministries of Economy Committee (COMIECO). The most significant updates to the regulation include the following:

- Post-registry modifications and amendments to the registration are approved during the 5-year registration period without the need to submit a new registration.
- Registration renovation follows the original registration procedure.
- Semi-processed or processed food that will undergo further transformation, but not necessarily cooking, may require registration to expedite import authorization. Ministries of Health are creating a list of those products that must be registered if intended for final consumption as part of other end-products (for example, cheese in ready-to-eat pizza).
- Creation of the “authorized importer” legal figure. In the previous regulation, a registration was subject to a “sanitary enrollment,” under which the interested distributor had to request an extension of the registry number to the owner of the original registration for commercialization interests. Under the new regulation, the registry owner can include a list

of authorized importers in the registration form, which allows other distributors to import the product directly under the existing registration. New distributors not included in the original registration form may be included as part of the post-modification form.

- In addition to the company’s legal representative, the " requester " figure has been added to the registration form. The requester needs to have a letter from the legal representative, allowing the appointed requester to manage any further documentation and processes with the Ministry of Health or Sanitary Regulatory Institution (SRS in the case of El Salvador), eliminating the need to have the legal representative signing and submitting all forms.
- In some Central American countries, freezing is considered a technological process that demands the registration of frozen, unprocessed food, but this is not the case in El Salvador. Frozen, unprocessed food does not need to be registered in El Salvador unless it has been subject to additional processing, such as ingredient or additive addition.
- Although the new regulation allows for manufacturing by third parties, El Salvador does not consider “maquila” an ownership figure; therefore, the brand owner continues to be the sole requester for registration purposes.

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

For GOES requirements on biotech products, please see Agricultural Biotechnology report ES2024-0006 [GAIN El Salvador 2024 annual biotech report](#)

The following table provides the names of the law/legislation and regulatory agencies that affect certain regulations for the importation of food products to the local market:

Regulations	Regulatory Agency	Law/Legislation
Weight & Measures	Ministry of Economy	Consumer Protection Law Ley de Proteccion al Consumidor (Spanish)
Food Sanitation	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (Spanish)
Animal Quarantine	DGG	Law for Agricultural Sanitation Ley de Proteccion a la Sanidad Vegetal, Salud Animal e Inocuidad de los Alimentos (Spanish)
Marine Products	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (Spanish)
Meat & Meat Products	SRS/MAG	Law for Inspection of Meat Sanitation Ley de Inspeccion Sanitaria de la Carne (Spanish)

Wine & Alcoholic Beverages	SRS/Ministry of Economy	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (Spanish)
Organic Foods & Health Foods	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (Spanish)

Vitamin-enrichment requirements; Dietetic or Special Use Foods; Halal / Kosher; Food Sanitation Laws/Guidelines; Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives; Biotechnology

El Salvador requires that all sugar sold in the local market be enriched with Vitamin A. Wheat flour must also be enriched with iron, niacin, vitamin B-1, vitamin B-2, and folic acid. Table salt must also include iodine.

SECTION VIII: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS, TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Law of Trademarks and Other Distinctive Signs, approved in 2002, brings El Salvador closer to compliance with the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The law reinforces established regulations for acquiring, registering, and protecting trademarks, logos, statements, distinctive advertising signs, and geographical indications. The law also makes it more difficult to register a trademark already in use outside El Salvador, particularly well-known marks, by requiring the person attempting to register the trademark to show that s/he is authorized. El Salvador has also joined the Paris and Berne conventions; both became effective in February 1994. Additionally, El Salvador is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a signatory to the agreement on TRIPS.

To comply with CAFTA-DR obligations, El Salvador approved a series of reforms to intellectual property laws. The concept of trademarks was expanded to include trademarks of goods and services, collective and certification trademarks, and geographical indications that are eligible for protection as trademarks. The law now provides rules on domain name management that require a dispute resolution procedure to prevent trademark cyber-piracy. The law provides broad protection of copyright and related rights. For instance, each party must provide copyright protection for the author's life plus 70 years, or 70 years, for corporate works. It clarifies that the right to reproduce literary and artistic works, recordings, and performances encompasses temporary copies, an important principle in the digital realm. It also calls for each party to provide a right of communication to the public, which will further ensure that copyright holders have the exclusivity to make their works available online and specifically protect the rights of performers and producers of phonograms.

Individuals can acquire exclusive trademark rights by registering a branded product with the National Registry Center (CNR). Trademark registrations are granted for ten years and can be renewed indefinitely for similar periods. It is mandatory to record assignments, change the name and address of the registrant, and use licenses affecting trademarks registered in El Salvador.

El Salvador's legal system provides a series of effective actions to combat any illegal procedures regarding trademarks. CAFTA-DR provides that law enforcement agencies must be able to seize suspected pirated and counterfeit goods, the equipment used to make or transmit them, and documentary evidence. The courts also have authority to order such items' forfeiture and destruction. Enforcement actions could also be taken without waiting for a formal complaint. Besides determining damages, the parties should consider the value of the legitimate goods and the infringer's profits. El Salvador now applies criminal penalties against counterfeiting and piracy, including end-user piracy.

The following information is required to register a trademark or brand name https://www.wipo.int/directory/es/contact.jsp?country_code=SV&type=ADMIN (Spanish):

- Name of product manufacturer.
- Address.
- List of products that are manufactured under each specific brand.
- Brand logo.
- Power of attorney legally notarized by the nearest Salvadoran Consulate.
- Registration certificate from the country of origin legally notarized by the nearest Salvadoran Consulate.
- Once a power of attorney has been duly registered at the Salvadoran Product Registration Office, a sworn declaration of adoption for each registered brand is also requested.

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama have a Customs Union Treaty. Under this treaty, any local food or beverage product having sanitary registration in any one of the signatory countries will be valid in the rest. This does not apply to U.S. products.

El Salvador has been a signatory country of the 1996 WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty since 2002. Under CAFTA-DR obligations, El Salvador joined the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganism for Patent Procedure.

Geographical Indications (GI) are protected under Legislative Decree 868 [Ley de Marcas y Otros Signos Distintivos.pdf \(Eregulations.Org\)](#), (Spanish). GIs must be registered at the National Registration Center (CNR) at [eCNR - Servicios en Línea](#) (Spanish).

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

Usually, when clearing a product through customs, a customs inspector, a customs officer, and an SRS and MAG inspector are involved in the process. English is the commercial language used for importing documents. It takes three to five days to clear a product through customs. Most importers use a customs agent to expedite the clearance procedures. Currently, there is no appeals system in place for disputed product rejections.

The steps in custom clearance for prepackaged foodstuff are the following:

- Request Import Permit from SRS.
- Once SRS has granted the import permit, the importer must take the sanitary registration, packing list, bill of lading, insurance policy, airway bill, shipping information, and product invoices to the Revenue Department at the Ministry of Finance to retrieve the policy for payment of the import tariff.
- Customs and the Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA-Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria) must clear the import policy.
- The Customs officer conducts a product inspection.
- Once the customs officer has cleared the product, the importer can withdraw it.

MAG has an online system called the Agricultural Food Safety Information System (SISA) to process import permits for dairy, meat (beef, pork, poultry, lamb, veal), and fresh produce. Importers can access this system with an authorized PIN and no longer must visit MAG offices to request import permits. MAG has updated and streamlined import procedures for agricultural products. Their system can be accessed at MAG's website, www.mag.gob.sv (Spanish).

SRS also has an online system for requesting import permits for food products. This system can be accessed at <https://sisam.srs.gob.sv/admin/login> (the link is in Spanish). This website also provides information about costs for different services, such as import permits and product registrations.

The GOES has a one-stop mechanism called "CIEX" (Import/Export Process Center) located at the Central Bank. This single window mechanism was developed to expedite the import/export procedure. To use the mechanism, the first step is for the importer to register at the Imports System (SIMP) at www.ciexelsalvador.com (Spanish). Step two is for the importer to make a monetary deposit at the CIEX window located in the Salvadoran Central Bank, which will be deducted from every time an import authorization is approved for each import made. The authorization time at the CIEX window is approximately 30 minutes.

SECTION X: TRADE FACILITATION

El Salvador accepted the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on July 4, 2016, by adhering to the WTO's requested proposal to adopt the Amendment Protocol to insert the agreement into Annex 1 of the WTO Agreement. However, the contract was not enforced until February 22, 2017.

In July 2019, the public and private sectors re-launched the National Trade Facilitation Committee which had been inactive since mid-2017. This committee provides a forum for dialogue for both sectors to promote initiatives to streamline the movement of merchandise in El Salvador. The private sector is represented at the Committee by a multi-sectoral Commission called CIFACIL, representing most trade associations in the country, including the American Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the major areas that this Committee is focusing on are a proposal for a new General Customs Law, import permit duplication, improvement to technological platforms throughout government agencies dealing with trade, and reduction of bureaucracy.

Advance rulings are not allowed currently. However, as part of a modernization plan, customs is working on early alerts, strengthening risk management, and upgrading its technological platform. Additionally, there are no pre-clearance programs in place.

SRS accepts the FDA's new "Certificate to a Foreign Government" instead of the Certificate of Free Sale. FDA certificates are valid for two years from date of issuance. Please visit [Online Applications for Export Certificates for Food | FDA](#).

El Salvador still does not use the Global e-Phyto Hub. However, the Agricultural Trade and Climate Smart Innovations (ATraCSI) Project, through the Global Cold Chain Alliance, is assisting the GOES to create a certification platform to utilize this trade facilitation system.

Port fees vary according to the product; however, this cost is usually absorbed by the importer and paid by officially approved customs agents. Product release times depend on the selection process (stop light: green, yellow, and red) at Customs. Typically, delays occur due to backlog in container unloading, duplicate inspections, excessive paperwork, the focus on tax collection, which slows the import process, and discretionary behavior on the part of Customs officials.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

- Agency: Superintendencia de Regulación Sanitaria (Superintendence for Sanitary Regulation)
Contact: Sulay Mejia, Head of Cooperation and Strategic Alliances Division
Address: Boulevard Merliot y Avenida Jayaque, Urbanización Jardines del Volcán, Santa Tecla
Phone: (503) 2507-0129
e-mail: sulay.mejia@srs.gob.sv
Product regulated: Processed foods, dairy, seafood
- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)
Dirección de Ganadería (Livestock Division)
Contact: Marlon Reyes, director
Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador
Phone: (503) 2210-1764/63
e-mail: marlon.reyes@mag.gob.sv
Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats
- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)
Division de Inocuidad de Alimentos (Food Safety Division)
Contact: Roberto Perdomo
Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador
Phone: (503) 2210-1941

e-mail: roberto.perdomo@mag.gob.sv

Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats

- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agricultura)
Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal (Plant Health Division)
Contact: Luis Fernando Perez
Address: Final 1 Avenida Norte, Santa Tecla,
La Libertad, El Salvador.
Phone: (503) 2210-1700
e-mail: luis.perez@mag.gob.sv
Product regulated: Fresh produce and ornamental plants
- Agency: Ministerio de Economía (Ministry of Economy)
Defensoría del Consumidor (DDC-Consumer Protection Agency)
Contact: Ricardo Salazar
Address: Calle Circunvalación # 20, Plan de la Laguna, Antiguo Cuscatlán
Phone: (503) 2526-9000
e-mail: atencionalconsumidor@defensoria.gob.sv
Product regulated: All food and beverage products
- Agency: OIRSA-Organismo Internacional Regional para Sanidad Agropecuaria
(Regional Organization for Agricultural Health)
Contact: Alex Hasbun
Address: Final 1a. Avenida Norte y Avenida Manuel
Gallardo, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador
Phone: (503) 2510-3500
e-mail: oirsa.sv@oirsa.org
Product regulated: Does not apply
- Agency: Salvadoran Body for Technical Regulations
(OSARTEC- Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica)
Contact: Raquel Martínez
Address: 1ra Calle Poniente, Final 41 Avenida Norte, # 18, Colonia Flor Blanca,
San Salvador, El Salvador.
Phone: (503) 2590-5313
e-mail: rmartinez@osartec.gob.sv
Product regulated: All food and beverage products, infant formula

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

- Company: MUDISA
Contact: Vilma Galvez
Address: Calle Chaparrastique #34, Zona Industrial Santa Elena,
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad.
Phone: (503) 2210-3200
e-mail: mudisa@mudisa.com.sv

Attachments:

No Attachments