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Report Highlights:

Since August 2024, El Salvador's Superintendency of Sanitary Regulation (SRS) has overseen sanitary registration and import authorization for processed food and beverage products, while the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) maintains responsibility for sanitary and phytosanitary controls under its jurisdiction. Recent regulatory changes have clarified responsibilities between agencies, eliminated certain documentation and laboratory requirements, and expanded electronic processing of import authorizations. This report summarizes current food laws, labeling requirements, product registration procedures, and other requirements affecting U.S. agricultural and food exports to El Salvador.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

"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."

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Salvador is a growing market for U.S. agricultural products. In 2025, the country imported $799.1 million in U.S. agricultural and related products, including a record $368.2 million in consumer-oriented products (Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data). Under CAFTA-DR, most U.S. agricultural products enter El Salvador duty free.

Food safety responsibilities are primarily divided between the Superintendency of Sanitary Regulation (SRS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). SRS is responsible for sanitary registration and import authorization of processed and prepackaged foods and beverages, while MAG oversees sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for products under its jurisdiction, including certain unprocessed animal and plant products.

Recent regulatory changes have clarified responsibilities between SRS and MAG and streamlined several import procedures. Sanitary registrations are generally processed in fewer than 10 business days, and electronic systems have reduced processing times for certain import authorizations. El Salvador has also eliminated certain laboratory analysis and document authentication requirements and continues to expand electronic processing through its Single Window for Foreign Trade (CIEX). Despite these improvements, U.S. exporters should work closely with local importers to confirm current product registration, labeling, sanitary, and import requirements before shipment.

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

El Salvador's food regulatory framework was significantly reorganized with the establishment of the SRS in August 2024. Under the SRS law, this institution is the authority responsible for regulating, overseeing, and granting sanitary registrations, recognition of registrations, marketing authorizations, subsequent modifications and renewals, import and export permits, and certifications for the products falling within its statutory mandate. In the food sector, this mandate covers foods and beverages, foods for special dietary uses, and other regulated products within the scope of the law.

The SRS regulatory system takes the institutional model and regulatory competencies of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an important reference for its organizational structure and functions, particularly through the integration of pre-market authorization, establishment oversight, product regulation, import controls, and post-market surveillance within a single sanitary regulatory authority. In the case of food, SRS is responsible for authorizing food manufacturing establishments and storage facilities for imported products; granting sanitary registrations for semi-processed and processed prepackaged foods; authorizing the importation of raw materials intended for food processing and food additives; and conducting risk-based sanitary surveillance and control of authorized products and establishments.

Additional information is available on the following website:
https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/taxonomy/term/2711 (Spanish).

Article 88 of the Salvadoran Health Code establishes that the importation, manufacture, and sale of food and beverages, as well as the corresponding raw materials, are subject to sanitary authorization. For imported products, the provision requires that their consumption and sale be authorized in the country of origin by the competent health authority, with the corresponding official certificate identifying the product and its composition.

As a trade facilitation measure, SRS accepts different types of official certificates issued by competent government authorities as evidence of compliance with this requirement for the marketing authorization of imported prepackaged foods and for the importation of raw materials intended for food production. For products originating in the United States, accepted documentation includes certificates issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS); certificates issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including the Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, and Certificate of Free Sale; Certificates of Free Sale or equivalent official certificates issued by state health authorities; certificates issued by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), as applicable; and certificates issued through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program (SIP).

The Government of El Salvador (GOES) has updated its food safety regulatory framework through the establishment of the Superintendency of Sanitary Regulation (SRS) and the adoption of legislation that more clearly defines the responsibilities of relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). The framework emphasizes risk-based sanitary oversight, improved coordination among regulatory agencies, reduced duplication of sanitary measures, and more efficient regulatory and import procedures.

MAG inspects most agricultural and food products under its jurisdiction at ports of entry. SRS and the Consumer Protection Agency (DDC) also conduct inspections and testing at the retail and wholesale levels to verify compliance with applicable health and quality standards. However, resource and infrastructure limitations can constrain oversight, particularly in open-air markets and informal distribution channels.

El Salvador uses Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines, and codes of practice as scientific and technical references in the development and implementation of food regulations. Codex standards also inform the harmonized Central American Technical Regulations (RTCA) applied in El Salvador.

Decree #282, the Law on Plant Health Protection, Animal Health, and the Safety of Unprocessed Foods of Plant or Animal Origin, establishes MAG's responsibilities for unprocessed foods and related import and export certification processes. These responsibilities are carried out through the General Directorate of Plant Health (DGSV), in coordination with MAG's Agricultural Quarantine Office (OCA), and the Animal Origin Products Inspection Division (DIPOA), which oversees sanitary and food safety requirements for animal products.

SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Prepackaged foods marketed in El Salvador are subject to RTCA 67.01.07:10, General Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (in Spanish). The regulation establishes harmonized labeling requirements intended to provide consumers with clear and accurate information while allowing flexibility for imported products whose original labels were developed for other markets. Labeling must not be false, misleading, or likely to create an erroneous impression regarding the nature or characteristics of the food.

Depending on the product, mandatory labeling information generally includes the name of the food; list of ingredients, including applicable food additives and ingredients associated with hypersensitivity; net contents and drained weight, when applicable; sanitary registration number; name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, exporter, or importer, as applicable; country of origin; lot identification; expiration date and required storage conditions; and instructions for use, when necessary. Certain products may also require a quantitative declaration of ingredients or specific statements, such as those applicable to irradiated foods.

Imported foods do not necessarily require modification of the original label in the country of manufacture. When the original label is not in Spanish, a complementary label containing the required information in Spanish may be affixed by the manufacturer, importer, or distributor before the product is marketed in El Salvador. The complementary label must accurately reflect the required information on the original label and comply with applicable Central American labeling requirements. It must not obscure key information on the original label, including the product name, net contents, expiration date, drained weight, and lot identification.

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.

- **Samples:** Food samples may be imported into El Salvador without being subject to the ordinary commercialization process, provided that a special import permit is obtained from SRS, in accordance with the purpose and conditions applicable to the importation.

- **Bulk-packed and institutional-use foods:** Labeling of foods presented in bulk, in institutional-size packaging, or intended for food-service use must comply with the applicable provisions of RTCA 67.01.07:10 on General Labeling of Prepackaged Foods, according to the nature and presentation of the product.

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 (in 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. Wood packaging materials must comply with ISPM 15 regulations (in Spanish).

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 (in Spanish), Codex Alimentarius, and on certain food categories, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

An additive list can be found at Central American Technical Regulation for Food Additive List (in Spanish).

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides:

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) Inputs and Products Registration and Inspection Office (ORFIPUA in Spanish), 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 ORFIPUA (in 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 (in Spanish).

- Regulation for the application of pesticide control law. Executive Decree # 28, 05/21/80 (in 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 (in Spanish)

- Regional agreements for harmonizing pesticide labeling and required procedures for registration and taxes.

- FAO specifications for pesticide quality control. Tolerance (MRLs) specified in the Codex Alimentarius.

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 introduced a streamlined sanitary registration framework for prepackaged foods through the Regulation for Sanitary Registration of Risk Type A, B, and C Products and

Special Import Authorization for Prepackaged Foods. One of its main trade-facilitation features is provisional sanitary registration, which allows eligible products to be commercialized and imported on an expedited basis once the application, applicable payment, and required documentation have successfully completed the preliminary verification stage. This mechanism enables importers to bring products to market more quickly while the authority completes the remaining sanitary registration process.

The provisional registration may be issued within one business day after successful preliminary verification, also SRS operates an online import permit system linked to Customs to expedite food import procedures. Once granted, a product registration is valid for five years.

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 two years.
- The certificate must be in Spanish or accompanied by an official translation provided by the importer.
- For U.S. products, SRS accepts a range of official certificates issued by competent U.S. government authorities. These include certificates issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS); certificates issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including the Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, and Certificate of Free Sale; Certificates of Free Sale or equivalent official documents issued by state health authorities; certificates issued by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), as applicable; and certificates issued through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program (SIP).
- MAG 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 A, B and C products during registration.
- In February 2026, El Salvador amended its domestic legislation to eliminate the apostille requirement for documents pertaining to commercial or customs transactions.

Special Product Categories

- **Baby food, diet foods, and health foods:** Subject to the same requirements as other food products. Breast-milk substitutes intended for commercialization in El Salvador must

obtain sanitary registration from the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), in accordance with applicable requirements.

- **Nutritional supplements:** Nutritional supplements intended for commercialization in El Salvador must obtain sanitary registration from SRS. Their importation is also subject to prior authorization by SRS.

- **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) and the Plant and Animal Health Protection, and Safety of Unprocessed Foods of Plant or Animal Origin (Executive Decree #282, May 5, 2025) and its amendments. 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 (WOAH).

- **Beef imports (including bone-in beef)**: Allowed under OIE specifications for negligible risk countries, aligning with the U.S. status.

- **Dairy products**: Must comply with the requirement to obtain a zoosanitary certificate issued by the competent authority of the United States.

Packaging:

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

Facility Registration:

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 MAG 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. Sample products require a Non-Commercial Value import authorization from SRS. 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 a 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 10 business days.

The sanitary registration application is submitted electronically through the SRS Sanitary Information System (SISAM), available at SISAM – SRS Sanitary Information System (in Spanish). In accordance with Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.01.31:20, the application must include information identifying the persons or entities involved in the registration, the establishments associated with the product, and the product itself.

Depending on the circumstances of the application, the following information and documentation are generally required:

1. **Registration holder:** Name, identification document number, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

2. **Authorized importer:** Name, identification document number, valid establishment operating license number, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, when applicable.

3. **Applicant:** Name, identification document number, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

4. **Legal representative:** Name, identification document number, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, when applicable.

5. **Manufacturing and storage establishments:** Identification of the manufacturing facility and the warehouse where the product will be stored, including the applicable sanitary operating permit or license, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. For imported foods, the storage facility located in El Salvador must hold a valid operating permit issued by SRS.

6. **Distributor:** Name, identification document number, valid sanitary operating license number, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, when applicable.

7. **Product information:** Product name, brand name, net content, country of origin, country of provenance, and sanitary registration number in the case of a renewal.

8. **Product technical data sheet:** Submitted when required by the competent authority to adequately identify and classify the product for sanitary registration purposes.

9. **Official certificate for imported products:** An official Certificate of Free Sale, Export Certificate, Sanitary Certificate, Food Safety Certificate, or other equivalent document issued by a competent government authority may be submitted, as applicable. SRS does not limit compliance with a single certificate format and, as a trade-facilitation measure, accepts different types of official certificates that demonstrate the product's sanitary status, legal marketing, or eligibility for export in the issuing country. For U.S. products,

accepted documentation includes certificates issued by USDA agencies such as FSIS and AMS; FDA certificates, including the Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, and Certificate of Free Sale; Certificates of Free Sale or equivalent documents issued by state health authorities; certificates issued by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), as applicable; and certificates issued through the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program (SIP). The certificate must be valid at the time of submission; where no validity period is specified by the issuing authority, the period established under the applicable Central American regulation applies for registration purposes.

10. **Product label:** The original label, or a label design when permitted by the regulation. For imported foods whose original label is in a language other than Spanish, the required information may be provided in Spanish in accordance with the applicable Central American labeling requirements, including using a complementary label where appropriate.

11. **Proof of payment:** Evidence of payment of the applicable sanitary registration fee.

The application may be managed by any natural or legal person that meets the applicable requirements and is properly registered in SISAM. Applications, supporting documentation, and related registration procedures are submitted electronically through SISAM – SRS (in Spanish). Once granted, the sanitary registration is valid for five years.

Central American Technical Regulation for Food Products – RTCA 67.01.31:20 (in 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.

- 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 ES2025-0010 GAIN El Salvador 2025 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	Consumer Protection Agency (DDC)	Consumer Protection Law Ley de Proteccion al Consumidor (in Spanish)
Food Sanitation	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (in Spanish) Ley de Protección a la Sanidad Vegetal, Salud Animal e Inocuidad de los Alimentos no procesados de Origen Vegetal o Animal (in Spanish) Law of the Sanitary Superintendency Other Complementary Sanitary Regulations
Agricultural Quarantine	MAG's Agricultural Quarantine Office (OCA)	Law for Agricultural Sanitation Ley de Proteccion a la Sanidad Vegetal, Salud Animal e Inocuidad de los Alimentos (in Spanish)
Marine Products	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (in Spanish)
Meat & Meat Products	SRS/MAG	Law for Inspection of Meat Sanitation Ley de Inspeccion Sanitaria de la Carne (in Spanish)

Wine & Alcoholic Beverages	SRS/Ministry of Economy	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (in Spanish) Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverage Production and Commercialization Regulation Law (in Spanish)
Organic Foods & Health Foods	SRS	Health Code Codigo-de-Salud (in 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 the fortification of certain staple foods under specific national and Central American technical regulations. Wheat flour must comply with the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) 67.01.15:07, which establishes fortification requirements for wheat flour with iron, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and folic acid. In addition, the Salvadoran Technical Regulation (RTS) 67.06.01:13, establishes mandatory fortification requirements for sugar with vitamin A, salt with iodine, nixtamalized corn flour with iron and B vitamins, and pasta products with iron, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and folic acid.

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

El Salvador is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is subject to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The country is also a party to several international intellectual property agreements, including the Paris and Berne Conventions, the WIPO Copyright Treaty, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), and the Budapest Treaty. El Salvador also adopted intellectual property reforms to implement commitments under CAFTA-DR, including provisions related to trademarks, geographical indications, and enforcement.

El Salvador's new Intellectual Property Law entered into force on February 15, 2025, consolidating and modernizing the country's legal framework for intellectual property. The law covers copyright and related rights, trademarks and other forms of industrial property, geographical indications, and appellations of origin. It also establishes enforcement measures and provides for the digitalization and simplification of intellectual property registration procedures.

The law established the Salvadoran Institute of Intellectual Property (ISPI) (in Spanish), which administers intellectual property matters in El Salvador. It also established the Intellectual Property Bulletin, through which ISPI publishes official notices and information related to intellectual property proceedings.

In June 2026, El Salvador ratified the Patent Law Treaty, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs, the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, and the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, further aligning its intellectual property framework with international agreements.

El Salvador also strengthened intellectual property enforcement through an Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement between the National Center of Registries (CNR) and the General Directorate of Customs (DGA). The agreement enhances coordination and information sharing between the agencies and supports border enforcement measures to identify suspected counterfeit goods and other potential intellectual property rights violations.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

Usually, when clearing a product through customs, a customs inspector, a customs officer, and a MAG inspector are involved in the process. English is the commercial language used for importing documents. Customs clearance for animal and plant products under MAG's jurisdiction usually takes 15 to 20 minutes. 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:

- Once SRS and MAG have granted the import permit, the importer must take, among others, 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. In the case of MAG, payments are made at the time the import authorizations are issued through the Salvadoran Central Bank (BCR) one-shop-window (CIEX365-BCR-SISA).

- 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 (in Spanish).

SRS also has an online system for requesting import permits for food products (in Spanish). The 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 Salvadoran Central Bank (BCR). 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) (in 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 ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in July 2016, which entered into force in February 2017. The National Trade Facilitation Committee, relaunched in 2019, provides a forum for public- and private-sector coordination on measures to streamline the movement of goods and improve foreign trade procedures.

El Salvador has implemented several measures to modernize border and customs procedures. Integrated border posts operate at El Amatillo, with Honduras, and Anguiatú, with Guatemala. The Mandatory Advance Declaration is also operational at border crossings with Honduras and Guatemala, allowing certain customs procedures to be completed before goods arrive at the border.

The government has expanded the digitalization and integration of import and export procedures. Between 2024 and August 2026, 109 procedures were made available online. El Salvador's CIEX is interconnected with systems operated by the SRS, MAG, Ministry of Environment (MARN), and other government entities. Recent measures include advance authorization through CIEX for certain veterinary and related products regulated by SRS and electronic payment of import authorizations issued by MAG.

The USDA-funded Agricultural Trade and Climate-Smart Innovations (ATraCSI) project, in partnership with the Global Cold Chain Alliance, provided technical assistance to support El Salvador's use of electronic phytosanitary certification through the IPPC ePhyto Solution. Electronic phytosanitary certificates can replace paper documentation and facilitate the exchange of plant health certification information between trading partners.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

- Agency: Superintendencia de Regulación Sanitaria (Superintendence for Sanitary Regulation)
  Contact: Robinson Hernandez, Head of Cooperation and International Affairs
  Address: Boulevard Merliot y Avenida Jayaque, Urbanización Jardines del Volcán, Santa Tecla
  Phone: (503) 2507-0129
  e-mail: robinson.hernandez@srs.gob.sv
  Product regulated: Processed foods

- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
  Dirección de Ganadería (Livestock Division)
  Contact: Marlon Reyes, director
  Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador
  Phone: (503) 2210-1763/64
  e-mail: marlon.reyes@mag.gob.sv
  Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats

- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
  División de Inocuidad de Productos de Origen Animal (Animal Origin Product Safety Division)
  Contact: Ruth Saravia
  Address: Final 1 Ave. Norte, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, El Salvador
  Phone: (503) 2210-1941
  e-mail: ruth.saravia@mag.gob.sv
  Product regulated: Fresh/Frozen uncooked meats

- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
  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 Agricultura y Ganadería, Oficina de Cuarentena Agropecuaria (Agricultural Quarantine)
  Contact: Teodoro Gonzalez
  Address: Final 1 Avenida Norte, Santa Tecla,
  La Libertad, El Salvador.
  Phone: (503) 2210-1700
  e-mail: teodoro.gonzalez@mag.gob.sv

- Agency: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
  Oficina de Registro y Fiscalización de Insumos y Productos de Uso Agropecuario (Agricultural and Livestock Input and Product Registration and Inspection Office, ORFIPUA in Spanish)
  Contact: Katerin Martinez
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  La Libertad, El Salvador.
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- Agency: 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: OSARTEC- Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica (Salvadoran Body for Technical Regulations)
  Contact: Zaida Guzman
  Address: 1ra Calle Poniente, Final 41 Avenida Norte, # 18, Colonia Flor Blanca, San Salvador, El Salvador.
  Phone: (503) 2590-5313
  e-mail: zguzman@osartec.gob.sv
  Product regulated: All food and beverage products, infant formula

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

- Company: ASIMEX
  Contact: Iris Reyes
  Address: 7ma Calle Poniente, Edificio #5032, Colonia Escalón, San Salvador, El Salvador
  Phone: (503) 2212-6100
  e-mail: atencion_cliente@asimex.com.sv

Attachments:

No Attachments