

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution  
2025

**Date:** November 21,

0007

**Report Number:** HO2025-

**Report Name:** FAIRS Country Report Annual

**Country:** Honduras

**Post:** Tegucigalpa

**Report Category:** FAIRS Country Report

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**Report Highlights:**

SENASA and ARSA have made significant progress in expediting import procedures with the introduction of online options for requesting import permits and sanitary authorizations of imported raw materials that provide immediate electronic delivery to ports of entry. ARSA has approved and published updates to the national food and beverage regulations. These include a new law regulating energy drinks, certification for good manufacturing processes, and an agreement to establish the National Center for Foodborne Diseases (CENETA).

# **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (FAIRS)**

## **ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT 2025**

### **HONDURAS**

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
SECTION I. FOOD LAWS	3
SECTION II. LABELING	7
SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS	9
SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS	10
SECTION V. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS	11
SECTION VI. OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES	12
SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS/LAWS	19
SECTION VIII. TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	21
SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES	21
SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION	23
APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS	24
APPENDIX II. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS	25

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA) is Honduras' primary regulatory agency for food and agricultural imports and exports. It operates an online system that issues import permits for seeds, plant and animal products, by-products, and live animals. These electronic permits are typically processed within a day and linked to specific importers and ports of entry. SENASA is also working to integrate its system with the Honduras Customs Administration (ADUANAS) and the Secretariat of Economic Development (SDE) to streamline procedures and facilitate trade.

The Honduras Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA) oversees the importation of raw materials and additives used in food and beverage production. Importers obtain sanitary authorizations and registration numbers through ARSA's online platform. ARSA is collaborating with SENASA and SDE to improve customs clearance by cutting duplicate processes and reducing delays outside ports. SENASA has made available the online import permits for veterinary products as of August 2021 and a new fertilizer and pesticides online registry portal (PROFITOFER) since August 2024. This year, the Central American Digital Trade Platform (PDCC), managed by SIECA, has been launched as a regional public good to enhance trade competitiveness in Central America by streamlining trade operations and administrative processes through its innovative technological infrastructure, aligning with the Central American Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness Strategy (ECFCC). New regulations governing food laws are indicated in this year's report.

In Honduras, ARSA requires all agricultural companies handling food products to obtain a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificate, which verifies compliance with safety and regulatory standards across production, packaging, storage, and distribution.

## SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

The regulatory framework for food and agricultural products in Honduras is overseen by two main agencies: the National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA) and the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA). SENASA was created in 2016 under Decree 38-2016 and operates under the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, while ARSA was established in 2017 under Decree 032-2017 and reports to the Secretariat of Health. Both agencies function independently, and it is important to note that Honduran food and agricultural regulations apply equally to domestic and imported products.

SENASA is responsible for establishing regulations and ensuring compliance for imported plants, animals, and food products. It issues import permits for consumer-ready foods (dairy, seafood, honey, and meat), semi-processed plant-based foods (such as pre-cut and vacuum-packed fruits and vegetables), products shipped in bulk for repackaging, and raw inputs used in food processing for both human and animal consumption. SENASA also regulates imports of agricultural chemicals and veterinary products. Facilities that process, store, or distribute food and animal products must register with SENASA.

ARSA manages sanitary licensing and registration for businesses that distribute, handle, store, or sell food and beverages. It also issues sanitary registrations for processed foods and beverages, and authorizations for importing raw materials and additives used in production. ARSA grants special authorizations for importing donations, tasting samples, medical standards (through its Medical Devices Directorate), and personal consumption items, including those for embassies. ARSA conducts inspections and monitoring of wholesale and retail outlets, suppliers, and local establishments. It oversees processed and pre-packaged foods, raw materials, and additives during customs clearance, working jointly with OIRSA's Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) and the Honduras Customs Administration. ARSA is also georeferencing establishments that it licenses for food storage, distribution, and sales, including small and medium-sized processors. Beyond food oversight, ARSA regulates medicines, natural products, cosmetics, medical devices, and hygiene products.

To streamline procedures, ARSA now requires an affidavit from the importing company's legal representative instead of a laboratory test for product registration. Laboratory analysis is conducted later during market surveillance once the products are already available for sale.

### **National Regulations for Food and Beverages**

ARSA published updated food and beverage regulations ([agreement 0632-ARSA-2023](#)) in the government register of Honduras on August 13, 2023. The regulations, which address 1,300 comments, took effect on September 9, 2024. They cover procedures for licensing, including registration, renewal, and modification, as well as health and transportation licenses, food handler control, street vendor regulations, and food and drug delivery rules, among other areas. ARSA is considering additional issues for future updates, including good manufacturing practices (GMP), certification for nutritional supplements, and regulations on food transportation temperatures. All new food and beverage regulations can be downloaded from ARSA's website at <https://arsateca.arsa.hn/>

### **Energy Drink Regulation**

The Honduras National Congress approved the "Law for the Control and Regulation of Energy Drinks" through [Decree 46-2024](#), which bans the sale of energy drinks to minors under 18. The law took effect on June 6, 2024, and applies to schools, sports centers, museums, and other institutions. ARSA, the Honduran agency responsible for overseeing health-related products conducts nationwide operations to ensure compliance with the new law. After public consultation, ARSA drafted new regulations for the law and sent them to the SDE and Honduran academic institutions for feedback and is waiting for the consultation period to end.

### **Good Manufacturing Practices Certification**

ARSA requires all companies in the Honduran agricultural industry that handle food products to obtain Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification. The Good Manufacturing Practices Certificate validates that an establishment complies with the required standards to produce goods, including food, beverages, pharmaceutical products, and other health-related devices. This certificate ensures that production, packaging, storage, and distribution processes are carried

out safely and in accordance with established regulations. The steps to obtain this GMP can be observed [here](#).

### **Steps on obtaining the GMP certificate**

#### **1. Application**

The establishment must apply to ARSA, providing the required information and meeting the specific requirements for its sector.

#### **2. Inspection**

ARSA conducts inspections at the establishment to assess compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

#### **3. Report Evaluation**

Self-inspection reports and any reports of non-conformities identified during the inspection are reviewed.

#### **4. Certificate Issuance**

If all requirements are met, ARSA issues the GMP certificate.

### **Importance of the GMP Certificate**

- **Facilitates commercialization**

The GMP certificate is a requirement for obtaining health registrations and for the commercialization of products in Honduras.

- **Builds trust**

The certificate provides consumers and business partners with confidence in the quality and safety of the products.

- **Promotes competitiveness**

Compliance with GMP helps businesses improve their competitiveness and access new markets.

### **CENETA Center**

ARSA established the National Center for Foodborne Diseases (CENETA) to monitor foodborne illnesses, coordinate with other health agencies in Honduras, and track related cases. CENETA requires all companies handling food products to complete standardized forms for data collection and disease traceability.

Food safety laws and technical regulations for imports are enforced by both SENASA and ARSA. SENASA is responsible for registering and inspecting establishments that import, process, or store food and animal products. It issues import permits for plant and animal products and verifies compliance during inspections at ports of entry. ARSA, in turn, enforces regulations through product registration and inspections of pre-packaged foods, raw materials, and additives, as well as oversight of establishments that store, distribute, and sell food at the wholesale and retail levels.

Because SENASA and ARSA operate as independent agencies, they are still working to clearly define their respective jurisdictions, particularly concerning raw materials for food processing. Both agencies are also seeking to improve coordination of inspections during customs clearance to avoid duplication and delays.

Import policies in Honduras are further shaped by regional regulations established by the Council of Economic and Trade Integration Ministers (COMIECO), under the Central American Secretariat of Economic Integration (SIECA). COMIECO unanimously adopts resolutions that become binding Central America Technical Regulations (RTCA). These regulations aim to harmonize rules across the region in areas such as food and beverages, rules of origin, tariffs, and sanitary registration. Official RTCAs are issued in Spanish. Resolutions can be found at: [Resoluciones Archivos \(SIECA\)](#)

### Procedure to Grant Sanitary Registration and Sanitary Inscription

Central American countries reviewed a new procedure for granting Sanitary Registration and Sanitary Inscription (RTCA 67.01.31:20) and gathered public feedback. The new procedure fully replaces the previous one (RTCA 67.01.31:07). The process for obtaining product registration was updated under COMIECO Resolution 483-2023 and took effect on August 5, 2024. Refer to Table 10 for details on major changes.

In addition, import policies for food and agricultural products follow World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO), Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA-DR), and CODEX Alimentarius guidelines.

Table 1 shows the general food RTCAs governing imported foodstuffs. The web links show the information on the RTCAs in Spanish.

**Table 1. General Food RTCAs Governing Imported Foodstuffs**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food and Beverage Industry. Good Manufacturing Practices. General Principles	<b>RTCA 67.01.33:06</b> can be found in Annex 4 of Resolution 176-2006	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-176-2006-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-176-2006-comieco#</a>
Food. Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety	<b>RTCA 67.04.50:17</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 402-2018	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-402-2018-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-402-2018-comieco#</a>

## SECTION II. LABELING

### General Requirements

While the standard U.S. nutritional fact panel is acceptable, it must be translated into Spanish and provide the same information as the original label. Stick-on labels must meet all labeling requirements for product information but should not include the manufacturing or expiration date. Stick-on labels can be applied at the importer's facility before the product is sold at retail.

SENASA requests and enforces that products of animal origin display the production and expiration date on shipping carton(s) and are stamped on the primary package upon arrival at the port. Dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format. This requirement is closely inspected at the ports of entry.

Table 2 shows the RTCA that governs general labeling. The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish.

**Table 2. General Labeling RTCA for Pre-Packaged Food**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
General Labeling for Pre-packaged Foods	RTCA 67.01.07:10 can be found in Annex of Resolution 280-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-280-2012-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-280-2012-comieco#</a>

Below is an outline of the information provided in the RTCA which must appear on an imported food product label.

### Labeling Requirements for Imported Food Products

- Name of the product
- List of ingredients
- Net content
- Sanitary Registration Number (SRN)
- Name and address of the importer or distributor of the product
- Country of origin of the product
- Lot number
- Expiration date

## Other Specific Labeling requirements

**Table 3. Nutritional Labeling RTCA**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption of Population over Three Years Old	<b>RTCA 67.01.60:10</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 281-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-281-2012-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-281-2012-comieco#</a>

### New Projects Under Revision (in comments phase)

- **RTCA Nutritional Labeling Regulation** ([RTCA 67.01.60:23](#))

The RTCA nutritional labeling regulation is undergoing revision, having received over 300 international comments. The review process commenced on August 8, 2024, and a final rule is expected to be in place within four years.

- **Front of Package Nutritional Warning Label** ([COMISCA Resolution 01-2019](#))

COMISCA requested SIECA, via resolution 01-2019, to incorporate front-of-package labeling into Central American regulations. The nutritional labeling technical working group determined that once the update makes nutritional labeling mandatory, data will be available to advance discussions on warning labels. These discussions are expected to take place in 2025. At the time of this report's publication, they remain under review by COMIECO and the Ministries of Health.

The RTCA 67.01.32:06 (Table 4) provides special labeling requirements for sample-size products. The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish.

**Table 4. RTCA Requirements for Import of Tasting and Exhibition Samples**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Requirements for Import of Processed Food for Exhibition and Tasting	<b>RTCA 67.01.32:06</b> can be found in Annex 3 of Resolution 176-2006	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-176-2006-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-176-2006-comieco#</a>



All food products treated with ionizing radiation must state the nature of the treatment on the label. However, labels do not need to include information for bioengineered products, health and functional food claims, or product tracing.

Table 5 shows the RTCA for alcoholic beverages labeling requirements. The web link shows the RTCA in Spanish. RTCA for labeling of alcoholic beverages are found in resolution 332-2013 and it includes information on: definitions and terms, general labeling conditions, obligatory labeling requirement, expiry and consumption dates, country of origin.

**Table 5. RTCA for Labeling Alcoholic Beverages**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Alcoholic Beverages Labeling	<b>RTCA 67.01.05:11</b> and <b>RTCA 67.01.06:11</b> can be found in Resolution 332-2013	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-332-2013-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-332-2013-comieco#</a>

**The following products are excluded from expiration date labeling requirements**

- Alcoholic beverages containing 10 percent or more of alcohol by volume.
- Bakery products, which due to their nature, are generally consumed within 24 hours after production (it is, however, common practice for bakeries to put an expiration date on products).
- Vinegar, chewing gum, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

There are currently no labeling requirements for organic, halal foods or genetically modified organisms that apply to products, ingredients, additives or processing aids. There is no current RTCA or national labeling requirements for plant-based meat or dairy alternatives. Only the interpretation guide in RTCA 67.01.07:10 (general labeling) mentions them as examples.

### **SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS**

The Government of Honduras (GOH) does not require any special packaging or limitations on container size. Shipments of food inputs waiting to be processed or repacked do not require labeling. If they are sold as individual units at the retail level, a label is required. Containers can be made of plastic, metal, glass, cardboard or any other materials which comply with requirements to maintain the quality and safety of the product.

The web link in Table 6 indicates the quantity of product in pre-packed foods in Spanish. This references mass, length, or count terms, real and nominal quantity, tolerable errors and deficiencies among other terms and symbology used in metrology.

**Table 6. RTCA of Quantity of Product in Pre-Packed Foods**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Amount of product in pre-packed foods	RTCA 01.01.11:06 can be found in Annex of Resolution 168- 2006 and 291-2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-168-2006-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-168-2006-comieco#</a>

### Packaging Sustainability Measures

Currently, there are no RTCA or Honduran packaging sustainability and recycling regulations.

## SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

RTCA 67.04.54:18 Food Additives (Table 7) was last updated in 2019. The web link provides the information in Spanish. RTCA 67.04.54:18 is a positive list of additives (section 6) authorized for use in foods that do not include processing aids and substances usually utilized as ingredients.

**Table 7. Central American Food and Beverage Additive Regulation**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food and Beverages: Food Additives	<b>RTCA 67.04.54:18</b> can be found (in Spanish) in the Annex of Resolution 419-2019	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-419-2019-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-419-2019-comieco#</a>

The updated RTCA 67.04.54:18 incorporates the Codex Stan 192-1995 in its current version. The list of permitted additives varies by food category, as outlined in Codex 192-1995 and reflected in the updated RTCA. Additives approved with usage limits different from those in Codex Stan 192-1995 are detailed in Annex A, organized by food category and citing the corresponding source regulation (FDA, EU, etc.). Annex B includes additives that were authorized under the now-repealed RTCA 67.04.54:10 but are not listed in Codex Stan 192-1995.

Honduran authorities also permit flavorings accepted by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Flavors and Extracts Manufacturing Association (FEMA), and the European Union, in accordance with Section 6.3 of RTCA 67.04.54:18 Processed Food and Beverages: Food Additives.

Requests from industry to include an additive in one or more food categories, or to modify or exclude maximum limits for use, must follow the procedure established in Section 4.2, Update by Request from an Interested Party, of RTCA 67.04.54:18.

U.S. exporters can request information (in Spanish) on permitted or prohibited food additives via email by contacting ARSA at [alimentos@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:alimentos@arsa.gob.hn).

## SECTION V. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides and veterinary drugs are regulated by SENASA through its Plant and Animal Health Technical Directorates. Ministerial Decree No. 642-98 sets the requirements for their registration, importation, manufacturing, formulation, repackaging, rebottling, transportation, storage, sale, use, and overall management.

SENASA uses a list of pesticides approved for use in Honduras and applies the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for imported food products set forth by CODEX [here](#). If the tolerance levels are not covered by CODEX, then SENASA applies the MRLs from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Both the importer and the pesticide must be registered with SENASA's Plant Health Sub-Directorate, which follows international standards in its registration process. To register a pesticide, applicants must submit documentation such as a Certificate of a Registered Pesticide Product issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or USDA, and a Certificate of Qualitative and Quantitative Composition provided by the product's producer or manufacturer.

Additional requirements include toxicological and ecotoxicological studies. Once both the importer and the product are registered, the importer may request an import permit from SENASA. This application must include details such as a pro-forma invoice, the manufacturer's name and location, product lot number, and the quantity to be imported.

U.S. exporters can obtain information on approved pesticides and maximum residue limits (MRLs) from SENASA's Plant Health Sub-Directorate. For aflatoxin levels in corn, exporters should consult SENASA's Food Safety Sub-Directorate. Honduras applies Codex standards for aflatoxin limits in food products. Contact information for SENASA is provided in Appendix I.

The RTCAs shown in Table 8 provide pesticides regulations. The web link shows the RTCAs in Spanish.

**Table 8. RTCAs for Botanical and Microbiological Pesticides for Agricultural Use**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Botanical Pesticides for Agricultural Use. Requirements for Registration	RTCA 65.05.62.11 can be found in Annex of Resolution 346- 2014	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-346-2014-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-346-2014-comieco#</a>
Microbiological Pesticides for Agricultural Use. Requirements for Registration	RTCA 65.05.61:11 can be found in Annex of Resolution 297- 2012	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-297-2012-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-297-2012-comieco#</a>

## Veterinary Drugs

Veterinary drugs are controlled by SENASA's Animal Health Technical Directorate. The RTCA shown in Table 9 provides the regulation. The web link of the RTCA is in Spanish.

**Table 9. RTCA for Veterinary Medicine Registration and Control**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Veterinary Medicines and Related Products. Requirements for Sanitary Registration and Control	RTCA 65.05.51:08 can be found in Annexes of Resolutions 257-2010, 326-2013 and 362-2015	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-257-2010-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-257-2010-comieco#</a> <a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-326-2013-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-326-2013-comieco#</a>

## SECTION VI. OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

### Import License Registry and Permit Procedure for Rice, Poultry and Onions

The Government of Honduras implemented a new and complicated import permit system for the importation of rice, poultry and onions that has caused major problems for U.S. shippers of these products and their customers. All U.S. exporters of these products should work closely with their importers to navigate the process.

More information can be found in the GAIN report [New Import Permit Requirements for Rice and Poultry in Honduras Tegucigalpa Honduras HO2023-0005](#)

**Import Registry Procedure for Poultry: All companies must complete the following information:**

1. Name, denomination, or company name of the applicant, including a brief description of his economic activity.
2. Photocopy of the national identification document (DNI) in the case of a natural person. In the case of foreigners, they must present a photocopy of their residence card.
3. Name of the legal representative and certification of appointment in the case of a legal person.
4. Physical address and sketch of the location of the establishment
5. Photocopy of the national tax registry
6. Copy of deed of incorporation
7. Copy of current fiscal solvency, issued by the Honduras Revenue Administration Service.
8. Copy of the current Sanitary License issued by the Sanitary Regulation Agency

(ARSA)

9. Copy of the current registration of the establishment of importer and/or processor of animal products issued by the National Service of Agro-Food Health and Safety (SENASA).

Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses and certifications in force on the date of submission of the application.

**Import License Permit for Poultry: All companies must complete the following information**

1. The applicant must submit the application for the chicken meat import license at the window of the General Secretariat for Economic Development through a legal representative.
2. The application for a license to import chicken meat must include the following information:
  - General data (name or company name, telephone, address and email)
  - Chicken meat importer registration number (NRICP)
  - Description and tariff fraction of the product to be imported
  - Volume to be imported in kilograms and value in United States of America dollars; country of origin and probable date of importation
3. Documents that must be attached to the application:
  - Copy of the current Sanitary Registry, issued by the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA)
  - Copy of the authorization for the importation of raw materials, when applicable, issued by the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA)
  - Valid import Animal Health Permit, issued by the National Agri-Food Health and Safety Service (SENASA)
  - Copy of Commercial or Proforma invoice
  - Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses, and certifications in force on the date of filing the application

The import license permit for poultry has a validity of 60 days, renewable at any given time.

**Import Registry Procedure for Rice: All companies must complete the following information**

1. Name, denomination, or company name of the applicant, including a brief description of his economic activity
2. Photocopy of the national identification document (DNI) in the case of a natural person. In the case of foreigners, they must present a photocopy of their residence card.
3. Name of the legal representative and certification of appointment in the case of a legal person.
4. Physical address and sketch of the location of the establishment
5. Photocopy of the national tax registry

6. Copy of deed of incorporation
7. Copy of current fiscal solvency, issued by the Honduras Revenue Administration Service.
8. Copy of the current Sanitary License issued by the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA)
9. Copy of the current registration of the establishment of importer and/or processor of vegetable product issued by the National Service of Agro-Food Health and Safety (SENASA).
10. Document that certifies the storage and/or processing capacity per month and annually, in the case that it is a rice processing company, duly verified by an independent auditing firm.
11. Document that certifies that it is part of the National Humid Humid Rice Purchase and Sale Agreement, in the case that it is a rice processing company, issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).
12. In the event that the applicant for the Registration of Rice Importer is not a paddy rice processor, he must indicate the purpose of the import, attaching an equivalent document that supports said purpose, whether the product is distributed retail or wholesale.
13. Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses and certifications in force on the date of submission of the application.

**Import License Permit for Rice: All companies must complete the following information**

1. The importer must submit the application for a Rice import license at the window of the General Secretariat for Economic Development through a legal representative.
2. The application for a license to import Rice must include the following information:
  - General data (name or company name, telephone, address and email)
  - Rice importer registration number (NRIA)
  - Description and tariff fraction of the product to be imported
  - Volume to be imported in kilograms and value in United States of America dollars; country of origin and probable date of importation
3. Documents that must be attached to the application:
  - Copy of the current Sanitary Registry, issued by the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA)
  - Copy of the authorization for the importation of raw materials, when applicable, issued by the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA)
  - Valid Phytosanitary import
  - Permit, issued by the National Agri-Food Health and Safety Service (SENASA)
  - Copy of Commercial or Proforma invoice
  - Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses, and certifications in force on the date of filing the application

The import license permit for rice have a validity of 90 days, renewable at any given time.

**Import Registry Procedure for Onions: All companies must complete the following information**

1. Name, denomination, or company name of the applicant, including a brief description of their economic activity
2. Photocopy of the national identification document (DNI) in the case of a natural person. In the case of foreigners, they must present a photocopy of their residence card.
3. Name of the legal representative and certification of appointment in the case of a legal person.
4. Physical address and sketch of the location of the establishment
5. Photocopy of the national tax registry
6. Copy of deed of incorporation
7. Copy of current fiscal solvency, issued by the Honduras Revenue Administration Service.
8. Copy of the current Sanitary License issued by the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA)
9. Copy of the current registration of the establishment of importer and/or processor of vegetable product issued by the National Service of Agro-Food Health and Safety (SENASA).
10. Indicate client names and if it's for final consumer sale. Also indicate if it will be for processing, sold for processing, or packing; and used in restaurants, food processing plants, or processed foods
11. Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses and certifications in force on the date of submission of the application.

**Import License Permit for Onions: All companies must complete the following information**

1. The importer must submit the application for an onion import license at the window of the General Secretariat for Economic Development through a legal representative.
2. The application for a license to import Onions must include the following information:
  - General data (name or company name, telephone, address and email)
  - Onion importer registration number (NRIC)
  - Description and tariff fraction of the product to be imported
  - Volume to be imported in kilograms and value in U.S. dollars; country of origin and probable date of import
  - Description of the final use of onion making indicating client names and if it's for final consumer sale. Also indicate if it will be for processing, sold



for processing, or packing; and used in restaurants, food processing plants, or processed foods

**3. Documents that must be attached to the application:**

- Copy of the authorization for the importation of raw materials, when applicable, issued by the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA) in cases where fresh onions will be processed, handled or packed, in restaurants, food processing plants and will be used for food processed products
- Valid Phytosanitary Import Permit, issued by the National Agri-Food Health and Safety Service (SENASA)
- Copy of Commercial or Proforma invoice
- Receipt of TGR-1 for L.200.00 for the issuance of proof, licenses, and certifications in force on the date of filing the application

The import license permit for onions have a validity of 30 days, renewable at any given time.

### **Closed Season for Onions Imports into Honduras**

Ministerial Agreement [No. 038-2025](#), issued by the Secretariat of Economic Development of Honduras on May 31, 2025, establishes a regulatory framework for the importation of onions, aimed at protecting national production and ensuring adequate market supply. Ministerial Agreement 038-2025 establishes a license permit system for the importation of onions and specifically designates only certain specialized customs to allow the import onions into Honduras (Puerto Cortes, Corinto, El Florido, El Amatillo, El Poy and Roatan).

This agreement introduces the requirement to be registered in the National Onion Importer Registry (NRIC) and to obtain an Import License, which must be processed before the goods arrive in the country.

Onion importation is strictly prohibited by a closed season from February 1 to July 31 each year to safeguard the local harvest. Therefore, imports are only allowed from August 1 to January 31, and interested parties must submit their license applications within this permitted period.

### **To import onions during the authorized period, importers must have:**

1. A valid registration in the NRIC (one-time registration),
2. A formal license application including product details, country of origin, volume, and intended use,
3. A valid phytosanitary import permit issued by SENASA,
4. A proforma invoice and proof of payment.

The import license is non-transferable, valid only for the authorized applicant, and is valid for 30 calendar days, extendable with proper justification. It is restricted to



designated specialized customs points. Additionally, certain special import cases are exempt from both registration and license requirements, such as donations, non-commercial samples, cross-border traffic, or small non-commercial personal shipments.

This agreement repeals Ministerial Agreements No. 071-2024 and 121-2024, consolidating onion import control under a single, updated, and stricter regulatory framework.

## **Official Certificates and Documents**

Official certificates and documents that must accompany shipments can be found in the food and agricultural import regulations and standards (FAIRS) reports for Honduras:

- [Export Certificate Report](#)
- [Exporter Guide](#)

Regulations do not require a Certificate of Free Sale. Honduras does not require any inspection or testing procedures prior to shipment. Products are monitored at the retail level.

## **Facility Registration**

U.S. facilities do not need to be registered with a Honduran regulatory authority prior to export. Under the United States-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

## **Product Sanitary Registration**

Companies must follow a general procedure to register products for import: obtaining a Sanitary Registration Number (SRN) with ARSA. The SRN is required for imported and domestic processed foods to be sold at the retail and wholesale levels.

Requirements, documents, and application for an SRN are published in ARSA's website at: <https://new.arsa.gob.hn/registros-sanitarios-alimentos-y-bebidas/>

In April 2020, ARSA implemented an online submission to obtain an SRN. The authorization is sent with a CQR code to ARSA's customs representative and the importer. ARSA and the Customs Administration are discussing how to implement shared access of their online platforms for the customs clearance process.

The product must be registered by the company's legal representative responsible for importing or distributing it, though the involvement of a lawyer is not required. Manufacturers, whether

domestic or international, are also eligible to register the product directly.

**The specific and current (not-expired) documentation that must be submitted with the request of SRN is the following:**

1. Application,
2. Power of Attorney Letter,
3. Articles of Incorporation for the Company or Individual Merchant,
4. Copy of the Factory's Current Health License,
5. Certificate of Free Sale from the Product's Country of Origin or Source,
6. Original Label,
7. Sworn Declaration for New Health Registration of Establishment,
8. Recovery Fee for Services Rendered,
9. Sworn Declaration for New Health Registration for Food and Beverages,
10. Application for New Health Registration for Food and Beverages.

**For further information, companies can visit ARSA's website at:**

<https://new.arsa.gob.hn/registros-sanitarios-alimentos-y-bebidas/>

Note that the SRN process takes about 90 days. The importer's representative should regularly check ARSA's website to review if their sanitary registration number has already been processed.

ARSA has a price schedule system (based on Accord 003-2021) to expedite the process and can be accessed here: <https://arsateca.arsa.hn/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Acuerdo-ARSA-No.-003-2021.pdf>. Fees vary depending on time of delivery (working days). The SRN is valid for five years.

**ARSA has the following contact information to assist companies in the product registration process:**

- Product Registration: [consultas@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:consultas@arsa.gob.hn).
- Food and Beverage Product Registration: [alimentos@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:alimentos@arsa.gob.hn)
- Complaints: [denuncias@arsa.gob.hn](mailto:denuncias@arsa.gob.hn)

### **Procedure for Granting Sanitary Registration and Inscription**

The procedure for granting sanitary registration and inscription (RTCA 67.01.31:20) outlines the process for obtaining product registration (see Table 10). The web link provided displays the current RTCA in Spanish. The previous RTCA 67.01.31.07, which was reviewed by Central American countries and received public feedback, has been replaced by RTCA 67.01.31:20. This new procedure, which covers the granting, renewing, and modifying of sanitary registration, was implemented following COMIECO Resolution 483-2023 and took effect on August 5, 2024. Refer to the web link in Table 10 for details on major changes.

**Table 10. RTCA of Sanitary Registration and Inscription**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food. Procedure to Grant Sanitary Registration and Sanitary Inscription	RTCA 67.01.31:20 can be found in Annex of Resolution 483- 2023	<a href="#">Resolución N.º 483 - 2023 (COMIECO - CV) — Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA)</a>

ARSA also issues a sanitary inscription, which is the authorization granted to an importer or a distributor of a previously registered product. The sanitary registration number assigned will be the same registration number of the distributor who registered it initially. The sanitary inscription is also processed online and is valid for five years. The sanitary inscription process is also being reviewed.

### **Central America Mutual Recognition**

Members of the Central America Customs Union (CACU) have agreed that products produced or processed in a CACU country only need to obtain a Sanitary Registration Number (SRN) once; they do not require separate registration in other member countries. Products from the United States are not eligible for this exemption. Importantly, a product is considered of CACU origin if it is processed within a CACU country, even when the raw materials come from outside the region. To benefit from this exemption, the only requirement is to request a Registration Acknowledgment, which is standardized across Central America. This acknowledgment remains valid for the full duration of the product's registration, typically five years.

## **SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS/LAWS**

**Vitamin Enrichment:** The requirements are regulated by the RTCA 67.01.60:10 - Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption, (Table 11). Central American countries are reviewing the RTCA as it undergoes a public review.

**Special Use Foods:** The General Law of Food Fortification provides the framework for products that are widely used by the population. These products require added ingredients to provide an increase in their nutritional value and be properly labeled as fortified, such as:

1. Sugar for human consumption must be fortified with vitamin A.
2. Salt must be fortified with iodine.
3. Wheat flour must be fortified with iron, folic acid, vitamins B1 and B2, and niacin.

**Table 11. RTCA for Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Nutritional Labeling of Pre-Packed Foods for Human Consumption of Population over Three Years Old	<b>RTCA 67.01.60:10</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 347- 2014	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-347-2014-comieco">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-347-2014-comieco</a>

**Food Category-Specific Standards:**

Table 12 shows RTCAs governing imported dairy foods.

**Table 12. RTCA Standards for Dairy Products**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Dairy Products. Ultra-High Temperature Milk (UAT or UHT). Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.73:17</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 403-2018	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-403-2018-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-403-2018-comieco#</a>
Dairy Products. Cheeses. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.70:14</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 366-2015	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-366-2015-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-366-2015-comieco#</a>
Dairy Products. Non- Matured Cheeses, Including Fresh Cheese. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.72:17</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 396-2017	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-396-2017-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-396-2017-comieco#</a>
Dairy Products. Matured Cheeses. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.75:17</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 406-2018	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-406-2018-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-406-2018-comieco#</a>
Dairy Products. Butter. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.77:20</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 435-2020	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-435-2020-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-435-2020-comieco#</a>
Pasteurized Milk	<b>RTCA 67.04.66:12</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 337-2014	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-337-2014-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-337-2014-comieco#</a>
Dairy Products. Powdered Milk and Powdered Cream. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.76:18</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 413-2019	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-413-2019-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-413-2019-comieco#</a>

Table 13 shows RTCAs governing imported fruit, vegetable, grains, and seed products.

**Table 13. RTCA Standards for Plant Products**

Category	Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)	Web link
Processed Food and Beverages. Fruit Nectars	<b>RTCA 67.04.48:08</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 226-2008	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-226-2008-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-226-2008-comieco#</a>
Prepared Food and Beverages. Oils and Fats. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.04.40:07</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 215-2007	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-215-2007-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-215-2007-comieco#</a>
Flours. Fortified Wheat Flour. Specifications	<b>RTCA 67.01.15:07</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 201-2007	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-201-2007-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-201-2007-comieco#</a>
Agricultural Inputs. Requirements for the Production and Commercialization of Certified Basic Grain and Soy Seeds.	<b>RTCA 65.05.53:10</b> can be found in Annex of Resolution 259-2010	<a href="https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-259-2010-comieco#">https://www.sieca.int/?product=resolucion-259-2010-comieco#</a>

Currently, there are no national or regional standards regarding plant-based meat and/or dairy alternatives.

## **SECTION VIII. TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

GOH has taken steps to strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), beginning with the passage of a comprehensive IPR law in 1993. Under this framework, the GOH established an IPR Office within the Honduras Property Institute.

As a member of the WTO and a signatory to the Uruguay Round agreements, Honduras upholds the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) standard. It has also signed the CAFTA-DR agreement, which includes a dedicated IPR chapter. To receive protection under Honduran law, trademarks must be registered with the Secretariat of Economic Development. Registrations are valid for 10 years from the date of issuance. “Notorious marks” are recognized under the Pan-American Convention of 1917, to which Honduras is a party. However, if a notorious mark is illegally registered, the original holder must contest the registration in court.

## **SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES**

The GOH’s institutions involved in the customs clearance process for imported food and agricultural goods are the National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA), Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA) and the Honduran Customs

Administration (ADUANAS). Because of the recent creation of ARSA, the number of inspectors at customs is limited and cover more than one post.

The Government of Honduras has delegated responsibility for quarantine inspections and treatments of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). Through its Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA), OIRSA stations inspectors at borders, ports, and airports. SEPA enforces SENASA's requirements for raw plant and animal products, processed and consumer-ready foods (such as dairy, meat, seafood, and honey), as well as raw materials used in food processing. ARSA officials oversee additives, raw materials, and consumer-ready foods from other categories, while Customs (ADUANAS) verifies that invoices comply with tariff regulations.

**At ports of entry, SEPA, ARSA, and ADUANAS coordinate to review the following:**

1. **Import permit compliance:** ensuring the requirements approved by SENASA are met.
2. **Documentation consistency:** cross-checking information on the import permit, phytosanitary or zoosanitary export certificates, certificate of origin, commercial invoice, bill of lading, and packing list. Import documents do not require translation into Spanish.
3. **Physical inspection:** SEPA inspects shipments. SENASA requires animal-origin products to display production and expiration dates on both primary and shipping cartons, using the DD/MM/YYYY format. Missing dates—especially on bulk meat cuts or carton boxes, are a frequent cause of detention.
4. **Pest management:** entry of animal products depends on both product safety and the exporting country's health status. Quarantine pests trigger treatment by SEPA's Quarantine Treatment Services (SITC), while non-quarantine pests do not.
5. **Special categories:** product samples and mail orders are subject to the same import requirements as commercial shipments.
6. **Non-compliance:** discrepancies in documents or detection of pests result in SENASA issuing detention or rejection notices.

Random product sampling is conducted, particularly for animal products, seeds covered by import permits, and products where bacteria or fungi are detected. Samples undergo laboratory testing for physical, chemical, and biological characteristics.

**Port operations:** In Puerto Cortés, Honduras' main port, container operations are managed by Operadora Portuaria Centroamericana (OPC), while bulk grain and meal cargo is handled by Terminal Especializada de Honduras (TEH). In 2022, 96 percent of bulk imports from the United States entered through TEH, while 75 percent of containerized imports passed through OPC. Importers have reported delays and added costs due to understaffing at OPC and weak coordination among Customs, ARSA, and SEPA.

**Packaging requirements:** All wooden packing materials must carry the NIMF-15 (ISPM-15) stamp. Non-compliance has been a leading cause of seizures of U.S. agricultural products, 445 cases in 2020 and 95 percent of seizures in 2021. Exporters sometimes document NIMF-15 stamps with photos prior to shipment, though this is not officially required and does not guarantee avoidance of disputes.

**Enforcement trends:** SEPA temporarily retained 749 shipments of U.S. agricultural products in 2024, down 14 percent from 867 in 2023. The main causes were missing documentation, 36 percent lacked a U.S. Phytosanitary Export Certificate, 7 percent were missing a SENASA import permit, and 10 percent lacked an ARSA sanitary registration, as well as cases where the imported quantity exceeded the declared amount. As of June 2025, SEPA has reported 333 temporary retentions, indicating a continued downward trend.

For additional information see [the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) – Export Certificate](#).

## **SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION**

SENASA has an online “Imports Requirements System” platform with the requirements for imports of plants and animal products into Honduras. The exporter/importer should search for the product by country of origin, common or scientific name and the import requirements are displayed. The system can be accessed at:  
<http://importaciones.senasa.gob.hn/#/consultar-requisito>

In May 2020, SENASA started the process for importers to submit the import permit request electronically for products and byproducts of animal origin and live animals. By January 2021, six online services modules were fully operational, including new modules for plant products and seeds import permits. Importers can register into SENASA online Records Management System (GER) and obtain cloud-based storage of all their SENASA issued permits, certificates and lab analysis reports here:  
<https://ger.senasa.gob.hn/>

The system allows the importer to register with SENASA, enter all the data and required documents of the product to be imported, and have the import permit in a few hours. The average time it takes to issue an import permit has been reduced about 90 percent from over three working days to less than four hours. Then, SENASA transfers the import permit electronically to SEPA at the port of entry and the importer.

Importers of seeds, plant and animal products can access SENASA’s online system at: <http://importaciones.senasa.gob.hn/#/login>

SENASA has made available the online import permits for veterinary products as of August 2021 and a new fertilizer and pesticides online registry portal (PROFITOFER) dated August 2024.

PROFITOFER facilitates access to relevant information for the proper marketing of

phytosanitary products and fertilizers, providing essential details about authorized, prohibited, and restricted molecules in Honduras, ensuring that fertilizers and pesticides entering the market comply with current regulations.

Customs clearance of Agricultural products in Honduras is usually granted within a short period of time; however, depending on the workload at the port and whether all the SENASA and ADUANAS requirements are complete, the average release time can range from a few hours to a week.

In August 2021, the first private logistics hub nearby Puerto Cortes, which hosts ARSA, Customs Administration and SEPA inspectors, received authorization from SENASA for customs clearance operations outside OPC premises. This public-private partnership offers an alternative for importers to OPC. U.S. facilities do not need to be registered with a Honduran regulatory authority prior to export.

Under the United States-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

Common delays for plant and animal products are caused by data in the import permit request and documents required by SENASA not being consistent with the information provided about exporter, amounts, product description, origin, and point of shipping.

### **Central America Digital Platform**

The [Central American Digital Trade Platform \(PDCC\)](#), is a digital trade platform managed by SIECA, as a key component of the Central American Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness Strategy (ECFCC). This is an online service catalog with unique features, which provides technological infrastructure to streamline trade operations and administrative processes across the region, positioning itself as a Regional Public Good that enhances trade competitiveness in Central America.

The supporting Institutions of the Central America Digital Platform are: Migrations Office, Customs Administration, Foreign Trade Single Window, and Agricultural Health Offices from five Central American Countries including Panama, and with financing from IADB, the European Union, SIECA and SICA.

## **APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS**

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments