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**Report Highlights:**

This report outlines specific requirements for importing food and agricultural products into Turkey and should be read in conjunction with the FAIRS Export Certificate report. While there were no major legislative or regulatory changes within the last year, there were some noteworthy developments, among which was the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry's decision to reinstate its requirement for original copies of health certificates/certificates of free sale, effective August 2022. The Ministry had previously relaxed this requirement during the pandemic. Another notable change restricted the use of small alcohol containers and required all alcohol (except beer) to be marketed in glass containers.

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### **Disclaimer:**

This report was prepared by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's Office of Agricultural Affairs in Ankara, Turkey for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. Please note that while every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that 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.

### **Executive Summary**

The Republic of Turkey shares a Customs Union with the European Union and is the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the world. The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was forecast at five percent in 2022, down from the previous year's high of 11 percent as the economy returns to a normal growth rate. Turkey has a young population of 85 million, with a median age of 32 years. The country has rapidly urbanized over the last two decades, with more than three-quarters of the population now living in urban areas. This mostly young, urban population, along with a growing middle class are among various factors contributing to increased consumption of consumer-oriented agricultural products. However, the country's challenging economic conditions during the last few years have tempered this upward trend in consumption. Currently persistent inflation, including higher food prices, is a major concern.

The United States is among the top suppliers of agricultural products to Turkey. Despite Turkey's challenging economic situation and the U.S. Dollar (USD) /Turkish Lira (TL) exchange rate fluctuations in the past year, there was a considerable increase (in USD terms) in food and agricultural exports to Turkey, up from \$1.4 billion in 2021 to nearly \$2.0 billion in 2022. Leading domestic export categories included cotton, soybeans, distillers dried grains, tree nuts (almonds, walnuts), animals and animal products (live cattle and bovine semen), food and animal feed preparations, forestry products, and alcoholic beverages.

Turkey has been a candidate country for membership in the European Union (EU) since 1999. As a candidate country, the main target of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize the related laws and regulations with the European Union *acquis communautaire*. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) is the authority that prepares and enforces most of the food and agricultural regulations and policies.

There are two main laws and more than one hundred implementing regulations which regulate food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, and agricultural biotechnology. In recent years, the Turkish government has been informing international bodies, such as the World Trade Organization, more often than in the past about possible or actual regulation changes, but not all regulatory changes impacting trade are notified. Exporters should be aware that there may be some variation among provinces in applying legislation.

In the past year, there were a couple noteworthy regulatory updates related to imports of certain agricultural products. As of August 1, 2022, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry ended the temporary Covid-related implementation allowing certificates of free sale/health certificates to be e-mailed directly to Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Directorates in Turkey. Original copies of these certificates, as in the case for Phytosanitary Certificates and Veterinary Health Certificates, are required to be sent at the time the product is imported to Turkey. Additionally, as of April 2, 2023, Turkey does not allow import of alcoholic beverages, with packaging volume of less than 5 cl and, excluding beer-more than 300 cl and requires these products, excluding beer, to be placed on the market only in glass packaging.

## Section I: Food Laws

As an EU candidate country, the main goal of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize the related laws and regulations with the European Union *acquis communautaire* in order to facilitate trade. In the scope of EU harmonization, the Turkish Government (GOT) issued Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed on June 13, 2010, with the objective of protecting and ensuring public health, food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, as well as plant health and consumer interests, while also taking environmental protection into consideration. The law covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of food, materials and articles that come in contact with food and feed, controls of residues of plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and other residues and contaminants, control of epidemic or contagious animal diseases and harmful organisms in plants and plant products, welfare of farm and experimental animals and pet animals, feeding of animals, animal health and plant protection products, veterinary and plant health services, entry and exit procedures of live animals and products to the country, as well as related official controls and sanctions.

The Law no. 5996 gives the authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MINAF) over food and feed safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues. Under MinAF, the General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) is the most important ministerial structure for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies, adoption of legislation related to these policies, relevant official controls and inspections at all stages of processing, distribution, and placing on the market, as well as ensuring animal health and welfare. The GDFC is the contact point for international organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The Law no. 5996 also gives authority to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the principles and procedures relating to the production, packaging, sale, import, and export of spring water, drinking water, natural mineral water and water for medical purposes, and the principles and procedures relating to compliance with technical and hygienic rules, ensuring fulfillment of quality standards and monitoring and control of quality standards of potable and utility water. MoH is also responsible for the principles and procedures relating to the production, import, export, and control of dietary foods for special medical purposes and approval of health claims to be used in the labels of foods and food supplements.

Another important law is Law no. 5977 on Biosafety, which was published in the Official Gazette in March 2010. The objective of this law is to establish and implement a biosafety system in order to prevent the potential risks of “genetically modified organisms” and products thereof obtained through modern biotechnological means; protect human, animal and plant health; safeguard and ensure the sustainable use of the environment and biological diversity; and to determine the procedures and principles governing the control, regulation and monitoring of these activities. It governs all activities, including, but not limited to, the research, development, processing, placement on the market, monitoring, utilization, importation, exportation, transportation, preservation, packaging, labeling, and storage regarding genetically engineered products and products thereof.

In the scope of this law, a Biosafety Board was established in 2011, but following the move to an Executive Presidency in Turkey in 2018, the approval process and authority for biotechnology approvals has been transferred to MinAF. The Biosafety Board was abolished on July 9, 2018 by Decree Law 703, and MinAF was authorized on August 1, 2018 to conduct its tasks and responsibilities. There are

currently 21 corn events and 15 soybean events approved for feed use in Turkey. No events are approved for food use or cultivation. For more information on Turkey's biosafety policies, please refer to the FAS GAIN Reports on [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual-2022 for Turkey](#) and [Turkey Updates List of Approved Biotech Events](#) for the current approved events in Turkey. Veterinary medicinal products, human medicinal products, and cosmetics which acquired a license or received approval from the MoH do not fall under the scope of the Biosafety Law.

Following the presidential elections held in June 2018, the Turkish Government was re-organized by Presidential Decree that was published on July 10, 2018. The re-organization resulted in merging forestry and water affairs issues with the food, agriculture and livestock issues under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF). The decree also established nine presidential advisory policy councils. One of these councils is Council of Health and Food Policies, which is responsible for developing policies and strategies to increase the production of plant and animal products, food safety, biotechnology, and protection of domestic gene sources related to agriculture and livestock. Members of the council were appointed in October 2018 and largely remain unchanged as of this year. The Council has been conducting meetings with stakeholders in food and agricultural areas and prepares reports to advise the President of Turkey and relevant government agencies on agricultural issues for policy making.

The legal infrastructure that governs agriculture is mainly based on regulations and/or communiqués and/or circulars rather than on laws. The reason for this is that the Turkish constitutional system does not allow laws to be adopted, amended, or abolished easily. Therefore, governments have traditionally preferred to publish regulations, communiqués, directives or circulars, etc.

The majority of the regulations on food and agricultural products are prepared and published by MinAF. However, there are also other applicable regulations published by other Ministries such as the Ministry of Health. More than one hundred implementing regulations of Law no. 5996 have been published and enforced by MinAF since 2011. In recent years, the Turkish government has been informing international bodies, such as the WTO, more often than the past about possible or actual regulation changes, but still not consistently. Exporters should be aware that there may be some variation among provinces in applying legislation. This may be due to the lack of guidelines for the enforcement of rules in some cases. Most Turkish food and agriculture-related laws, regulations, communiqués, directives, and circulars are available in the Turkish language on the website of the GDFC [here](#).

Enforcement of Turkish food and agriculture legislation is performed by 81 Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorates (PAFD) and 922 District Directorates (DD). The public laboratories of MinAF are involved in the official control system. These laboratories include: 39 Provincial Food Control Laboratories, one National Food Reference Laboratory, one Bursa Food and Feed Control Central Research Institute Laboratory, nine Veterinary Control Institute Laboratories, four Plant Quarantine Directorate (Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Mersin) Laboratories and seven Plant Protection Research Institute Laboratories, as well as 101 private food and feed control laboratories which are authorized and audited by MinAF. Auditing of directorates, districts, and laboratories is performed by GDFC officials.

## **Section II: Labeling Requirements**

On January 26, 2017, MinAF published two separate labeling regulations which included: The “Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers” (available [here](#) in the Turkish language) and “The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims”.

On April 20, 2023, MinAF abolished the previous “Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims” and published the “Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutritional Claims” (available [here](#) in the Turkish language), in parallel to the relevant EU regulation with the framework of EU harmonization. The Medicine and Medical Devices Agency (MMDA) of MoH, also, published the “Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements” (available [here](#) in the Turkish language) on the same day.

### **A - Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers**

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers establishes the general principles for requirements and responsibilities governing food information, and food labeling. It applies to food business operators at all stages of the food chain, including mass catering, and all foods intended for the final consumer. According to the regulation, food information should not be misleading the consumer:

- as to the characteristics of the food, its nature, identity, properties, composition, quantity, durability, country of origin, method of manufacture or production,
- by attributing to the food effects or properties which it does not possess,
- by stating that the food possesses special characteristics when in fact all similar foods possess such characteristics, by specifically emphasizing the presence or absence of certain ingredients and/or nutrients,
- by implying by means of the appearance, the description or pictorial representations, the presence of a particular food or an ingredient, while in reality a component naturally present or an ingredient normally used in that food has been substituted with a different component or a different ingredient.

Food information shall be accurate, clear and easy to understand for the consumer. Subject to derogations provided for by regulation(s) of foods for nutritional uses, food labeling information should not claim that the product can prevent, treat or cure a human disease, nor refer to such properties.

All the mentioned rules are applied to advertising and the presentation of foods, their shape, appearance or packaging, the packaging materials used, the way in which they are arranged and the setting in which they are displayed.

The importer is responsible for the imported food product’s information and label.

The importer must upload the original label and permanent “sticker” label in Turkish language of the product intended to be imported to MinAF’s Food Safety Information System at the time of Product Notification stage (for more detail about import procedures please see the Section IX: Import Procedures of this report).

An imported food item may arrive in its original package, but a permanent “sticker” label, in Turkish, must be attached to the package before it is marketed. Each food must be labeled clearly, completely and accurately in the Turkish language before placing it on the market. Other languages in addition to Turkish may also appear on the label; foreign language labels are not required to contain the mandatory information required by Turkish labelling regulation. However, information given through pictures, drawings, claims etc. on the original label of the product must also obey the rules set by Turkish labelling regulation. Labeling requirements are enforced by PAFD and DD (provincial and district directorates) officials. Turkish authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations.

The standard U.S. label may not comply with Turkish labeling requirements in the aspects of nutritional labeling, health claims, label size, etc.

### **Compulsory Information**

The following compulsory information must appear on the packaging or on a label attached to the product for domestically produced and imported foods. The information must be marked in such a way that it is easily visible, clearly legible, and indelible.

- (1) the name of the food
- (2) the list of ingredients
- (3) certain substances and products (listed in Annex-1 of the Regulation) causing allergies or intolerances
- (4) the quantity of certain ingredients or groups of ingredients
- (5) the net quantity of the food
- (6) the ‘use by...’ date or the ‘best before...’ date
- (7) any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use
- (8) the name or business name and address of the food business operator
- (9) facility registration number
- (10) country of origin
- (11) instructions for use where it would be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions
- (12) with respect to beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume, the actual alcoholic strength by volume
- (13) a nutrition declaration

### **Additional Compulsory Information**

In addition to the compulsory information listed above, additional information for specific types or categories of foods are given below.

(14) The statement **“packaged in a protective atmosphere”** for foods whose shelf-life has been extended by means of packaging gases is authorized pursuant to the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives,

(15) For foods containing sweeteners:

- the statement **“with sweetener(s)”** or **“contain sweetener(s)”** for foods containing a sweetener or sweeteners is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, this statement shall accompany the name of the food
- the statement **“contains sugar(s) and sweetener(s)”** or **“with sugar(s) and sweetener(s)”** for foods containing both an added sugar or sugars and a sweetener or sweeteners is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, this statement shall accompany the name of the food
- the statement **“contains aspartame (a source of phenylalanine)”** for foods containing aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives. The statement shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients only by reference to the E number. The statement **“contains a source of phenylalanine”** shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients by its specific name
- the statement **“excessive consumption may produce laxative effects”** for foods containing more than 10 percent added polyols authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives

(16) For foods containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt:

- Confectionery or beverages containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, at concentration of 100 mg/kg or 10 mg/l or above, the statement **“contains licorice”** shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients, unless the term ‘licorice’ is already included in the list of ingredients or in the name of the food. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.
- Confectionary containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 4 g/kg or above, the statement **“contains licorice – people suffering from hypertension should avoid excessive consumption”** shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.
- Beverages containing glycyrrhizinic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 50 mg/l or above, or of 300 mg/l or above in the case of beverages containing more than 1.2 percent by volume of alcohol, the statement **“contains licorice – people suffering from hypertension**

***should avoid excessive consumption***” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.

(17) For beverages with high caffeine content:

- The statement ***“High caffeine content. Not recommended for children or pregnant or breast-feeding women”*** applies to beverages, except for those based on coffee, tea or coffee or tea extract where the name of the food includes the term ‘coffee’ or ‘tea’, which:
  - are intended for consumption without modification and contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l, or,
  - are in concentrated or dried form and after reconstitution contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l,
- The statement shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the beverage, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg per 100 ml.

There is a vertical regulation on energy drinks that entered into force in 2017. There should be a warning on the **label of energy drinks** stating “Do not use this product with alcohol or by mixing with alcohol. Consumption of this product is not advised for children, people below 18 years old, elderly people, diabetics, people who have hypertension, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people who have metabolic disorder, kidney problem and those who are susceptible to caffeine. It is not a sport beverage; it should not be consumed before, during and after physical activity. It is advised not to consume more than 500 ml/day.”

Foods other than beverages, where caffeine is added with a physiological purpose, the statement ***“Contains caffeine. Not recommended for children or pregnant women”*** shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the food, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg per 100 g or mg per 100 ml. In the case of food supplements, the caffeine content shall be expressed per portion as recommended for daily consumption on the label.

(18) For foods or food ingredients with added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters, the following should be included:

- the statement ***“with added plant sterols”*** or ***“with added plant stanols”*** in the same field of vision as the name of the food,
- the amount of added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters content (expressed in percent or as gram of free plant sterols/plant stanols per 100 g or 100 ml of the food) shall be stated in the list of ingredients,
- a statement that the food is intended exclusively for people who want to lower their blood cholesterol level,
- a statement that patients on cholesterol lowering medication should only consume the product under medical supervision,

- an easily visible statement that the food may not be nutritionally appropriate for pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under the age of 5 years,
- advice that the food is to be used as part of a balanced and varied diet, including regular consumption of fruit and vegetables to help maintain carotenoid levels,
- a statement that the consumption of more than 3 g/day of added plant sterols/plant stanols should be avoided,
- a definition of a portion of the food or food ingredient concerned (preferably in g or ml) with the amount of the plant sterol/plant stanol that each portion contains.

(19) The statement "*...contains alcohol*" if ethyl alcohol is used as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of a food notwithstanding the amount of the alcohol.

(20) The statement "*contains ... obtained from pigs*" if the product contains any product/ingredient obtained from pigs, notwithstanding the amount of that product/ingredient.

(21) For frozen meat, frozen meat preparations, and frozen unprocessed fishery products; the date of freezing or the date of first freezing in cases where the product has been frozen more than once shall be on the label.

### **Shelf-Life Labeling Requirements**

Article 27 of the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labelling and Provision of Information to Consumers sets the rules for labelling "Use by" date, minimum durability date, and date of freezing.

In the case of foods which, from a microbiological point of view, are highly perishable and are therefore likely after a short period to constitute an immediate danger to human health, the words "*Use by...*" is used on the label to indicate the shelf-life of the product. After the "use by" date, a food shall be deemed to be unsafe in accordance with Law 5996. For other products, the words "*Best before...*" is used to indicate the minimum durability (shelf-life) of the product if they are stored under appropriate conditions.

#### ***"Use by..." date***

The "use by" date shall be indicated as follows:

(a) it shall be preceded by the words "use by ..."

(b) the words in point (a) shall be accompanied by:

- either the date itself, or,
- a reference to where the date is given on the labelling,

Those words shall be followed by a description of the storage conditions

(c) the date shall consist of the day, the month and, possibly, the year, in that order and in uncoded form

(d) the "use by" date shall be indicated on each individual prepacked portion

### ***Minimum durability (shelf-life) date***

The date of minimum durability shall be indicated as follows:

- (a) the date shall be preceded by the words:
- “Best before ...” when the date includes an indication of the day
  - “Best before end ...” in other cases
- (b) the words referred to in point (a) shall be accompanied by:
- either the date itself, or,
  - a reference to where the date is given on the labelling

If need be, these words shall be followed by a description of the storage conditions which must be observed if the product is to keep for the specified period

- (c) the date shall consist of the day, the month and possibly, the year, in that order and in uncoded form.

However, in the case of foods:

- which will not keep for more than 3 months, an indication of the day and the month shall be sufficient,
- which will keep for more than 3 months but not more than 18 months, an indication of the month and year shall be sufficient,
- which will keep for more than 18 months, an indication of the year shall be sufficient,

(d) subject to Turkish Food Codex provisions imposing other types of date indication, an indication of the date of minimum durability (best before...) shall not be required for:

- fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, which have not been peeled, cut or similarly treated (excluding sprouting seeds and similar products such as legume sprouts),
- wines, liqueur wines, sparkling wines, aromatized wines, and similar products obtained from fruit other than grapes, and beverages falling within CN code 2206 00 obtained from grapes or grape musts,
- beverages containing 10 % or more by volume of alcohol,
- bakers’ or pastry cooks’ wares which, given the nature of their content, are normally consumed within 24 hours of their manufacture,
- vinegar,
- cooking salt (excluding iodine salt)
- solid sugar,
- confectionery products consisting almost solely of flavored and/or colored sugars,
- chewing gums and similar chewing products,

### ***Date of freezing***

The date of freezing or the date of first freezing shall be indicated as follows:

- (a) it shall be preceded by the words “Frozen on ...”
- (b) the words referred to in point (a) shall be accompanied by:
- the date itself, or,

- a reference to where the date is given on the labelling,

(c) the date shall consist of the day, the month and the year, in that order and in uncoded form.

In addition to compulsory labeling, certain foodstuffs such as infant and follow-on formulas, wines, aromatized wines, spirit drinks, food supplements, energy drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, sugar, honey, coffee, meat and meat products, fruit juice, and dairy products each have additional specific labeling requirements in their vertical communiques, all of which are available on MinAF’s website of [here](#) in the Turkish language.

**B - Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutritional Claims**

This regulation applies to nutritional claims made whether in the labeling, presentation, or advertising of foods to be delivered as such to the final consumer. Nutritional claims may be used in the labeling, presentation and advertising of foods placed on the market. The use of nutritional claims shall not:

- (a) be false, ambiguous or misleading,
- (b) give rise to doubt about the safety and/or the nutritional adequacy of other foods,
- (c) encourage or condone excess consumption of a food,
- (d) state, suggest or imply that a balanced and varied diet cannot provide appropriate quantities of nutrients in general,
- (e) refer to changes in bodily functions which could give rise to or exploit fear in the consumer, either textually or through pictorial, graphic or symbolic representations

Nutritional labeling is mandatory when there is a nutritional claim made either on the label, or in some sort of presentation or advertisement of a foodstuff. Nutrition information of food supplements will be provided according to its vertical legislation. Nutritional claims of any food or food group will be made without prejudice to their vertical or horizontal legislation where it exists.

Nutritional labeling includes energy value, fats, carbohydrates, proteins (where required), fiber, and salt/sodium, vitamins and minerals. Reference Daily Intake Values for energy and nutrients are given below. For vitamins and minerals to be displayed on a label, the amount of vitamin/mineral that should be met is 15 percent of the reference intake values in 100 g or 100 ml foodstuff, for milk and dairy products and products other than beverages. For beverages, this amount should be 7.5 percent in 100 ml of product in question.

**Reference Daily Intake Values for energy and nutrients other than vitamins and minerals**

Energy – Nutrient*	Reference Intake Value*
Energy	8400kj / 2000 kcal
Sugars	90 g
Total Fat	70 g

Saturated fat	20 g
Salt	9 g
Carbohydrates	260 g
Protein	50 g
Fiber	25 g

\*These values are set for adults

### Reference Daily Intake Values for vitamins and minerals

Nutrient*	Nutrition Reference Intake*	Nutrient*	Nutrition Reference Intake*
Vitamin A (µg)	800	Chloride (mg)	800
Vitamin D (µg)	5	Calcium (mg)	800
Vitamin E (mg)	12	Phosphorus (mg)	700
Vitamin K (µg)	75	Magnesium (mg)	375
Vitamin C (mg)	80	Iron (mg)	14
Thiamin (mg)	1.1	Zinc (mg)	10
Riboflavin (mg)	1.4	Copper (mg)	1
Niacin (mg)	16	Manganese (mg)	2
Vitamin B6 (mg)	1.4	Fluoride (mg)	3.5
Folic Acid (µg)	200	Selenium (µg)	55
Vitamin B12 (µg)	2.5	Chromium (µg)	40
Biotin (µg)	50	Molybdenum	50
Pantothenic Acid	6	Iodine (µg)	150
Potassium (mg)	2000		

\*These values are set for healthy people over four years old.

Nutritional claims and their requirements are given in detail in the regulation. Some examples of nutritional claims *allowed* in the Regulation on Labeling are as follows:

- If the energy value in 100 grams of solid food is not more than 40 kcal (170kJ), a nutritional claim such as “low calorie/energy” might be on the label.
- If the energy value or nutrient amount is reduced 30 percent with respect to a similar product, the claim “reduced calorie/energy or nutrient” might be on the label.

- If the amount of alpha linolenic acid (ALA) amount is minimum 0.3 gr per 100 gr and 100 kcal food or the total amount of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) is at least 40 mg per 100 gr and 100 kcal food , the claim “source/contains/added Omega 3 fatty acids” might be on the label;
- If the 100 gr or 100 ml foodstuff contains less than 0.5 gr of sugar, the claim “sugar free” might be on the label.
- If the 100gr solid foodstuff contains not more than 3 gr fat or 100 ml liquid foodstuff contains not more than 1,5 gr fat, the claim “Low Fat” might be on the label.
- If the 100 gr or 100 ml foodstuff contains not more than 0.5 gr of fat, the claim “fat free” might be on the label.
- If the sum of the saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty acids does not exceed 1,5 gr per 100 gr solid foodstuff or 0,75 gr per 100 ml liquid foodstuff and in either case the sum of saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty-acids not providing more than 10% energy of total energy, the claim “Low-Saturated Fat” might be on the label.
- If the foodstuff does not contain any added mono or disaccharides or any other food used for its sweetening properties, the claim “With No Added Sugar” might be on the label. If sugars naturally present in the foodstuff, the indication “Contains Naturally Occurring Sugars” must be on the label.
- If the 100 gr solid or 100 ml liquid foodstuff contains not more than 0.12 gr sodium or 0.31 gr salt, the claim “Low Sodium/Salt” might be on the label.
- If the 100 gr solid or 100 ml liquid foodstuff contains not more than 0.005 gr sodium or 0.013 gr salt, the claim “Sodium-Free or Salt-Free” might be on the label.
- If the 100 gr foodstuff contains at least 3 gr of fiber or at least 1.5 gr of fiber per 100 kcal, the claim “Source of Fiber” might be on the label.
- If at least 20 percent of the energy value of the foodstuff is provided by protein, the claim “High Protein” might be on the label.

To see the whole group of nutritional claims and their requirements allowed, please see the regulation [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### **C - Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements**

The Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements applies to health claims made whether in the labeling, presentation, or advertising of foods and food supplements to be delivered as such to the final consumer. Health claims may be used in the labeling, presentation and advertising of foods placed on the market. The use of health claims shall not:

- (a) be false, ambiguous or misleading,

- (b) give rise to doubt about the safety and/or the nutritional adequacy of other foods and food supplements,
- (c) encourage or condone excess consumption of a food or food supplement,
- (d) refer to changes in bodily functions which could give rise to or exploit fear in the consumer, either textually or through pictorial, graphic or symbolic representations

According to the Regulation, health claims, excluding food supplements, are allowed on the label, in a presentation, or in an advertisement if at least two of the following conditions were met with respect to nutrient profile:

- maximum sodium amount is 100 mg/100 kcal
- maximum 10 percent of energy value comes from saturated fatty acids
- maximum 10 percent of energy comes from added sugar
- minimum 55mg/100kcal calcium inherent

Claims *not* allowed are those which refer to:

- negative effects on health unless foodstuffs are consumed
- weight loss amount or rate

Health claims for food supplements, foods for special dietary purposes, drinking water, natural mineral water and alcohol-free beverages produced by using natural mineral water are only allowed without prejudice to their vertical legislation.

Health claims are not allowed for foods for special medical purposes and beverages containing more than 1.2 percent alcohol.

MMDA published a draft guideline which determines principles and rules for health claims to be used for foods and food supplements via its website, on June 20, 2022 for public consultation. The public consultation was closed by August 2022. As of May 2023, the guideline has not been published yet.

The Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements allows products which have been already placed on the market with health claims authorized according to the abolished regulation, to be marketed until December 31, 2024.

Some examples of health claims which *were allowed* are as follows:

- “Biotin contributes to normal macronutrient metabolism”
- “Biotin contributes to the maintenance of normal hair”

- “Calcium contributes to normal muscle function”
- “Chitosan contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Choline contributes to the maintenance of normal liver function”
- “Glucmannan contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Lactase enzyme improves lactose digestion in individuals who have difficulty digesting lactose”
- “Monacolin K from red yeast rice (*Monascus purpureus*) contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels”
- “Walnuts contribute to the improvement of the elasticity of blood vessels”
- “Zinc contributes to normal DNA synthesis”
- “Plant sterols and plant stanol esters have been shown to lower/reduce blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a risk factor in the development of coronary heart disease”
- “Calcium helps to reduce the loss of bone mineral in post-menopausal women. Low bone mineral density is a risk factor for osteoporotic bone fractures”
- “Supplemental folic acid intake increases maternal folate status. Low maternal folate status is a risk factor in the development of neural tube defects in the developing fetus”
- “Vitamin D is needed for normal growth and development of bone in children”

The Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements is accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### **Labelling for Baby Foods**

Baby foods, except those used for medical purposes, are regulated by MinAF under two vertical Communiques, which are the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Infant and Follow-on Formulas and the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children. According to the Communiques, baby means children under the age of 12 months and young children means children aged between one and three years.

In addition to the compulsory information set by Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers, both Communiques set specific additional compulsory labelling requirements for products which fall in the scope of these Communiques.

### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Infant Formula***

An infant formula must have below additional requirements on the label:

- a statement that the product is suitable for infants from birth when they are not breast fed

- instructions for appropriate preparation, storage and disposal of the product and a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation and storage
- a statement concerning the superiority of breast feeding and a statement recommending that the product be used only on the advice of persons having qualifications in medicine, nutrition or pharmacy, or other professionals responsible for maternal and childcare

A nutrition claim is not allowed on the label of infant formula.

### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Follow-on Formula***

A Follow-on formula must have below additional requirements on the label:

- a statement that the product is suitable only for infants over the age of six months, that it should form only part of a diversified diet, that it is not to be used as a substitute for breast milk during the first six months of life and that the decision to begin complementary feeding, including any exception to six months of age, should be made only on the advice of persons having qualifications in medicine, nutrition or pharmacy, or other professionals responsible for maternal and child care, based on the individual infant's specific growth and development needs
- instructions for appropriate preparation, storage and disposal of the product and a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation and storage,

A nutrition claim is allowed on the label of follow-on formula in line with the rules set by Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers.

The labelling, presentation and advertising of infant formula and follow-on formula must provide the necessary information about the appropriate use of the products, so as not to discourage breast feeding.

The labelling, presentation and advertising of infant formula and follow-on formula must not use the terms ‘humanized’, ‘materialized’, ‘adapted’, or terms similar to them and must be designed in such a way that it avoids any risk of confusion between infant formula and follow-on formula and enables consumers to make a clear distinction between them, in particular as to the text, images, and colors used.

The statement “*lactose only*” may be used for infant formula and follow-on formula, provided that lactose is the only carbohydrate present in the product. The statement “*lactose free*” or “*does not contain lactose*” may be used for infant formula and follow-on formula provided that the lactose content in the product is not greater than 10 mg/100 kcal (2.5 mg/100 kJ).

When the statement “*lactose free*” is used for infant formula and follow-on formula manufactured from protein sources other than soy protein isolates, it should be accompanied by the statement “*not suitable for infants with galactosaemia*”, which should be indicated with the same font size and prominence as the statement “*lactose free*” or “*does not contain lactose*” and in close proximity to it.

Turkish Food Codex Communique on Infant and Follow-on Formulas is accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Supplementary Foods***

Supplementary baby foods are defined as baby foods which are processed cereal-based and baby foods other than processed cereal-based foods in the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children which is accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language.

In addition to the compulsory information set by Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers, the Communique on *Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children* sets specific additional compulsory labelling requirements for the products which fall in the scope of the Communique. A Supplementary Food for Baby and Young Children must have below additional requirements on the label:

- the stated age must not be less than four months for any product,
- the statement “This product should be used based on the advice of healthcare professional”,
- information as to the presence or absence of gluten if the indicated age from which the product may be used is below six months.

### **Labeling for Food and Feed Containing, Consisting of, or Deriving from Genetically Engineered (GE) Products**

In addition to general labeling rules, specific labeling rules for food and feed containing/consisting of, or deriving from genetically engineered products, are set in the Article 18 and 19 of the “Regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms and its Products” published in Official Gazette dated August 13, 2010 and amended twice in 2012 and 2014. Currently, there are no GE events approved for food use in Turkey. As of June 2023, there are 21 corn events and 15 soybean events approved for feed use. Imported feed into Turkey must be labeled “contains Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)” if it contains approved GE event content over 0.9 percent within a given shipment. This regulation is available [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### **Labeling for Organic Agricultural Products**

If a product is produced in Turkey and marketed domestically in line with the requirements of the Turkish organic legislation, then the label should have the Turkish organic logo and the word “organic”. Imported organic products are controlled / inspected according to the Turkish organic legislation and re-certified as organic if it complies with the organic legislation. This organic claim is also indicated on the label.

Both domestically produced or imported non-organic agricultural products should not have packages or boxes or labels designed as if the product is organic. For example, labels of non-organic products should not have the words, “bio”, “biyo”, “eco”, “eko”, “org” which implies and misleads the consumer that the product is organic. Ninety-five percent of agricultural ingredients of processed products should be produced in compliance with the organic laws in force for the product to be labeled as organic.

Please see Chapter Five of the Regulation on Organic Agriculture Principles and Practices [here](#) in the Turkish language. Part Five of Chapter Two of the regulation gives detailed requirements about packaging and labeling of organic agricultural products to be marketed in Turkey.

### **Labeling for Plant-based Meat/Dairy Alternatives**

Plant based meat and dairy alternatives are not regulated under specific regulation or communique. These products are subjected to the general rules of Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers. Ingredients of such products must clearly be given on the labels in descending order. The name, appearance, pictorial representation of the product in question must not mislead consumers by implying the food in question is substitute of meat/dairy or similar to meat/dairy.

### **Labeling of Irradiated Foods**

Irradiation of foodstuffs is regulated under the Regulation on Food Irradiation which was published in the Official Gazette dated October 3, 2019 and available [here](#) in the Turkish language. Foodstuff groups and irradiation doses are given in Annex-2 of the regulation. According to Annex-2, seven food categories are allowed to be irradiated in Turkey. They are:

- bulbs, roots, tubers, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables,
- cereals, milled cereals, stone fruits, oil seeds, pulses, dried fruits,
- raw fish, crustaceans and their products (fresh and frozen), frozen frog leg,
- poultry, red meat and their products (raw or frozen)
- dried vegetables, spices, dried aromatic herbs, seasonings and herbal tea
- animal-sourced dried foods

Chapter Four of the regulation sets the rules for the labeling of irradiated foodstuffs as follows:

- a) if the product is sold as packaged form, one of the words 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must be present on the label, in addition to the green international food irradiation symbol
- b) if the product is sold as bulk, the words 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must be present on the label or products' commercial documents, in addition to the green international food irradiation symbol
- c) if the product contains an irradiated ingredient, the words 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must accompany the ingredient in question on the label
- d) if the product contains composite ingredients which have an irradiated ingredient, the word 'irradiated' or the phrase 'treated with ionizing radiation' must accompany the ingredients of the composite ingredient in question, on the label.

### **Advertising**

The Ministry of Trade published the Amending [Regulation on Commercial Advertisement and Unfair Commercial Practices](#) in the Official Gazette on December 28, 2018. This regulation subsequently entered into force on June 30, 2019. Article 24/A of this regulation prohibits radio and television programs, or channels aimed at children from running advertisements at the beginning, during, or at the

end of shows of any foods or beverages that fall under the Ministry of Health’s “red category,” which includes chocolate, candy, wafers, energy bars, sweet sauces, desserts, cakes, cookies, chips, fruit juices, energy drinks, soda pop, sugars, and popsicles.

Additionally, advertisements in radio and television programs not aimed at children will need to contain written or verbal warnings, encouraging a proper and balanced diet as a clearly visible banner. In other mediums of advertisement, the written or verbal warnings should be included in a manner that is suitable to that medium. Additionally, the introduced article prohibits promotions and similar marketing tools aimed at children with the goal of increasing the sale of those foods.

### **Front of Package Nutrition Labeling**

In January 2019, MinAF notified a “Draft Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers” to the WTO. The proposed draft regulation requires red, yellow, or green color-coding, which resemble a traffic light, on all packaged foods, based on specified nutrient thresholds for salt, saturated fat, oil, and sugar. Some industry groups are concerned that this may lead consumers to avoid certain foods that may contain beneficial nutrients or contribute to consumer confusion. The regulation has not been published in the Official Gazette as of May 2023.

### **Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations**

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food was originally published by MinAF in the Official Gazette on December 29, 2011. It was subsequently replaced by a regulation published on April 5, 2018 and was later amended on February 8, 2019. The latest version of the regulation, which is available [here](#) in the Turkish language, applies to materials and articles, including active and smart packaging materials/food contact materials and articles, which in their finished state:

- are intended to be brought into contact with food,
- are already in contact with food,
- can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use and were intended for that purpose.

This regulation does not apply to materials and articles which are antiques, or covering or coating materials, such as the materials covering cheese rinds, prepared meat products or fruits which form part of the food and may be consumed together with this food, and fixed public or private water supply equipment. This regulation sets the general and specific requirements for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and specific requirements for active and intelligent food contact materials and articles and labeling of these.

Under this framework regulation, there are specific communiques for materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film, ceramic articles, and plastic materials and articles which set the specific rules for these materials and articles. These regulations are available [here](#) in Turkish language.

Except for alcohol, there is no special packaging or container size required or preferred under MinAF's regulations. According to the **Amendment to the Regulation on Procedures and Principles Concerning Domestic and Foreign Trading of Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverages**, published in the Official Gazette on February 2, 2023, alcoholic beverages with packaging volume of less than 5 cl and excluding beer-more than 300 cl, are not allowed to be imported, produced and placed in the market as of April 2, 2023. Additionally, alcoholic beverages other than beer must be placed on the market only in glass packaging as of April 2, 2023. Turkish alcoholic beverage importers have already refrained importing certain products because of the new packaging requirements. However, Post foresees that overall impact of the new requirements on trade will be minimal in near future. Please see the amending Regulation [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### **Packaging Sustainability Measures**

There is a Regulation on Waste Disposal Management which was announced by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change (MinEUCC) in the Official Gazette dated April 2, 2015 and updated on March 23, 2017. It is available [here](#) in the Turkish language. This regulation sets the rules and responsibilities of different parties about the management of waste disposal.

MinEUCC published a new Regulation on Packaging Waste Control on June 26, 2021. The new Regulation lays down provisions for the development and protection of the environment in a sustainable manner, relating to:

- responsibilities and liabilities of businesses for the production and marketing of packages with certain standards, conditions and qualifications,
- prevention of the formation of packaging waste, and reduction of the amount of unavoidable packaging waste to be disposed of by re-use, recycling and recovery methods,
- management of packaging wastes within a significant management system, including deposit management and zero-waste management systems,
- implementation of a deposit management system.

The Regulation on Packaging Waste Control applies to all packages and their wastes placed in the market. It aims to ensure the collection of packaging wastes within the scope of the zero-waste management system in line with the provisions of the [Zero Waste Regulation](#) which was published in 2019 and updated in 2021. According to the Article 13 of the Regulation on Packaging Waste Control, producers should ensure that the heavy metal (lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium) content amount of the packaging material must not exceed 100 ppm. Moreover, Section Six of the regulation requires responsible parties to target 55 percent recycling of materials between years 2021-2025, 65 percent between years 2026-2030 and 70 percent from the year 2031. The Regulation on Packaging Waste Control is accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language.

### **Section IV: Food Additives Regulations**

The food additives section of the Turkish legislation is quite detailed and was prepared in an effort to conform to EU regulations. However, there are discrepancies from EU regulations, especially for use of additives in traditional products.

The Revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives was published in the Official Gazette on June 30, 2013, and amended five times in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. GDFC has been working on the amendment of the current regulation but has not finalized it as of May 2023. This regulation specifies general conditions for inclusion and use of food additives in the list. It sets the food additive functional groups, names of food additives, defines the food categories, and lists maximum amounts and conditions of additives allowed in defined food categories, as well as exceptions and restrictions. The regulation is available [here](#) in the Turkish Language.

The regulation also lists food items in which food additives are not allowed to be used and lists certain food additives which are not allowed to be used for certain traditional foods, such as fermented sucuk (traditional spicy beef sausage), heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner, döner, köfte, pastırma, pekmez, pide, bazlama and ciğ köfte. For example, E-620-625 (Glutamic acid-glutamates) and E-626-635 (Ribonucleotides), which are flavor enhancers, are prohibited for use in cured meat products such as pastırma, sucuk, heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner and köfte. MinAF states that the reason for this prohibition is to protect the traditional nature of these products and prevent unnecessary usage of additives.

In addition, nitrites (E 249-250) are banned in the following traditional meat products: döner, poultry döner, and köfte. MinAF states that the aim of this prohibition is to prevent additives being used unless considered technically necessary. Enzymes are outside of the scope of this regulation.

For an additive to be added to the [list](#) of the regulation, the applicant should contact GDFC of MiNAF. The National Food Codex Commission which has the members from MiNAF, MoH, academia and food industry operating under GDFC has the authority to decide about the inclusion of an additive in question to the list.

## **Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

Pesticides are required to be approved by MinAF before being placed on the market. The validity of approval is 10 years. If the approval conditions are continued, the validity can be extended 10 more years.

MinAF abolished its previous pesticide regulation and published the revised [Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides](#) on September 27, 2021. This regulation covers foodstuffs of plant and animal origin to be used as fresh, processed and/or composite food in or on which pesticide residues may be present. The regulation has five Annexes:

- Annex-1, animal and plant origin foodstuff categories, sub-categories, and names of foodstuffs
- Annex-2, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) of Pesticides which are authorized in Turkey and also pesticides which of their MRLs are not required to set
- Annex-3, MRLs authorized for products to be imported

- Annex-4, Pesticides no longer authorized for usage -forbidden- in Turkey
- Annex-5, Pesticides which do not require MRLs for imported products

The regulation is updated occasionally by MinAF and available [here](#) in the Turkish language. For detailed information about plant protection products including pesticides, please see the FAS [GAIN Report on Plant Protection Products and Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides Regulations](#) dated January 09, 2020.

The current Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Pharmacologically Active Substances and Their Classification Regarding Maximum Residue Limits in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin was published in the Official Gazette on March 7, 2017 and was amended twice in 2019 and once in 2021. Pharmacologically active substances, animal type, target tissue, and other conditions, such as name of residue and maximum residue limits, are set in the Regulation, available [here](#) in the Turkish language.

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Contaminants was published in the Official Gazette no. 28157, dated December 29, 2011, and amended once in 2012. It sets the maximum levels of the certain contaminants (nitrates, mycotoxins, heavy metals, 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD), dioxins and dioxin- like PCBs, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and erucic acid) in foodstuffs. It is available [here](#) in the Turkish language.

All three of these regulations were prepared by MinAF within the scope of Turkey's harmonization to the EU; however, there are some differences compared to the EU legislation in these regulations. The Turkish Food Law maintains provisions for regulators to refer to the Codex Alimentarius or EU Directives if the pesticides, contaminants, or pharmacologically active substances are not contained in the Turkish Food Codex system. Enforcement of these regulations is carried out by Provincial Agricultural Directorates of MinAF.

## **Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures**

### **Facility Approval Requirements**

Turkey is gradually implementing approval requirements for facilities in exporting countries.

***For animal-sourced food products for human consumption***, if the model export certificate requires a facility approval number, then the facility must have an approval number from the related agencies of that country.

***For animal byproducts***, such as hides and skins, offal, dog chews, and blood or fish meal for not intended for human consumption, if the facility is already on the EU-approved list, there is no need to conduct approval procedures and the facility is directly accepted as approved by MinAF. If the facility is *not* in the EU-approved list, then approval by MinAF is required. Currently, MinAF has its own facility approval process for hides and skins. MinAF prepares the approval process and questionnaires in the Turkish and English languages, which can be received via importer. Once the facility is approved and no new problems arise, there is no expiration date for registration/approval of that facility unless approval conditions are changed. There is no cost or fee for the exporting facility/country for the

approval process. For approved establishments in foreign countries for the export of animal byproducts to Turkey, please click [here](#).

If there is no EU approval number, facilities producing animal byproducts in the United States should contact the relevant U.S. agencies for the approval procedures to be started. Then the U.S. agencies would need to inspect the facility according to Turkey's relevant requirements and guarantee that the facility is in compliance with the relevant Turkish requirements. MinAF may prefer to inspect the facility itself to determine the compliance of the facility with Turkish requirements. In this case, as a first step, MinAF will send a questionnaire to the relevant U.S. agencies for the exporting facility; communication between the two governments is crucial in this process. After receiving the completed questionnaire from the U.S. agencies, MinAF visits the exporting facility to audit it and meet with the relevant U.S. agencies.

***For bovine semen***, the facility must be on the EU-approved establishment list. Please click [here](#) to see the EU-approved establishment list by countries.

***For meat***, there are approval procedures in place for slaughterhouses in exporting countries which are authorized for meat import to Turkey. For the approved slaughterhouses in exporting countries, please click [here](#).

***For live cattle***, the assembly center, if any, must fulfil the conditions for its approval determined by the competent authority in the United States.

***For plant origin food products***, upon the importer's request, MinAF may register/approve the facility of the exporting country for the purpose of decreasing the frequency of the physical inspections at import (i.e., taking samples of the product at Turkey's border). The first step of the approval procedure is that MinAF will send the questionnaire (Questionnaire for pre-export checks in order to approve the establishment of the exporting country) to the importer. The importer then delivers the questionnaire to the exporter and the exporter provides all the necessary information related to the competent authority of the exporting country, legislation, facility information, and product information which is requested in the questionnaire. MinAF then reviews the filled-out questionnaire and visits the facility to inspect it and meets with the relevant agency which is responsible for the official controls of that facility.

After the visit, MinAF prepares an evaluation report and if the results of the visit comply with the Turkish requirements, then the facility is approved within about two months. Once the facility is approved, the products exported from this facility are subject to a decreased rate of testing during import controls. Testing frequencies may be decreased to the levels of three to five percent after the approval. Approval is valid for three years if all conditions remain the same. There is no cost or fee for the exporting facility/country for this approval process. MinAF suspended the facility approval process in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has not resumed it yet.

### **Product Registration Requirements**

There is no product registration or approval procedure in place for other animal or plant origin products, except food supplements.

***Food supplements*** are regulated by Turkish Food Codex Communique on Food Supplements published in the Official Gazette dated August 16, 2013 and updated twice in 2015 and 2017. The Communique is

accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language. Food supplements require product approval to be imported into Turkey. The food business operator (importer, producer, seller, etc.) should fill out an application for each product and submit it to MinAF with the required information given below:

- trade name or brand of product,
- name and address of the company
- ingredient list of product in percentages
- specification document of product
- recommended daily intake dose
- if applicable, HACCP and/or GMP documentation
- if product contains herb(s) as an ingredient, botanical and Latin names of the herb(s), part used
- fee payment document
- letter of commitment that the brand of product is not a brand of medicine
- if the product contains herbs, documents related to production methodology of this herb (like organic, GMP, etc.)
- other documents where MinAF requests

Food supplement applications are made to the provincial directorates of MinAF. Evaluations and approvals of the products for consumers (other than products for children ages 2-4) are made by provincial directorates of MinAF. The products for 2-4-year-old children are evaluated and approved by the committee established under the GDFC at the central government level. Once it is approved by the relevant provincial directorate, then it can be sold throughout the country. Applicants must pay an approval fee for each product approval, and the fee amount is updated each year. The approval fee was 18,413 TL/product (\$1,110 /product at average \$1=16.58 TL exchange rate) for the year 2022 and 33,143 TL/product (\$1710 /product at \$1=19.38 TL exchange rate on April 17, 2023) for the year 2023. There is no expiration date for approval unless conditions change.

### **Control Certificate**

For the importation of *animals and animal products* for which HS codes are given in Appendix-I-A, *propagation materials such as seed, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs* for which HS codes are given in Appendix-I-B, and *forest breeding materials such as saplings, seeds for trees, grafts* for which HS codes are given in Appendix I-C, a “**Control Certificate**” is required prior to import. This is considered as pre-import permission and it states whether the product is eligible for import or not.

### ***Control Certificates for animals and animal sourced products***

***For animals and animal sourced products*** for which HS Codes are given in the Appendix I-A and are subject to veterinary controls, a **Control Certificate** is required. The Control Certificate needs to be

approved by the GDFC or authorized PAFDs according to the type of product. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for four months. However, for the HS codes; 0504.00, 15.04, 1516.10, 15.17, 1518.00, 18.06, 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, 19.05, 2103.90.90, 21.04, 2105.00, 21.06, 2202.99, 2208.70, the Control Certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months. These time periods cannot be extended.

MinAF does not allow the import of live animals and animal products, and will not issue a Control Certificate, for products coming from countries or regions in which certain animal diseases exist. A current list of those countries, regions, diseases, and products are listed at the website of MinAF [here](#).

The importer should fill out an application and provide the following required documents in order to receive the Control Certificate:

1. Completed Control Certificate Form
2. Proforma invoice or invoice
3. Sample veterinary health certificate (not required for live cattle intended for slaughter, feeder and breeding and sheep/goats)
4. Country of origin document (not required if the veterinary health certificate includes the origin of the products)
5. Ingredient list
6. For food supplements, food for special dietary purposes and for products where national legislation does not exist, specification document
7. Label/draft label for products to be placed on the market for the ultimate consumer
8. CITES document if products to be imported are under scope of CITES
9. ICCAT document (BCD/eBCD) for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Pacific Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)
10. Commercial Activity Certificate or Trade Registry Gazette where importer is registered
11. Other documents, as MinAF requests, according to the nature of the commodity to be imported

After the Control Certificate is approved, the permission is registered in Turkey's Food Safety Information System for animal-sourced food products.

**For *animals and animal sourced products*** for which HS codes are given in the Appendix II, and are subject to veterinary controls, a Control Certificate is ***not*** required.

A Control Certificate is ***not*** required for live animals intended for:

- Racing or exhibitions for a certain period of time.

- Presents to be introduced to civil or military statesmen
- Exhibitions at private or public zoos
- Donations and scientific research for universities and other research institutes

***Control Certificates for plant products***

***For propagation materials such as seeds, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs*** for which HS codes are given in Appendix I-B, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by MinAF's central level or authorized PAFDs according to the type of the products prior to import. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for six months. This time period cannot be extended.

***For forest breeding materials such as saplings, seeds for trees, grafts*** for which HS codes are given in Appendix I-C, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by MinAF's General Directorate of Forest prior to import. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for four months. This time period cannot be extended.

The Biosafety Law does not allow for the production/cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Turkey, therefore, the importation of GE seed, seedlings, saplings, and certain plant materials for production, such as flower bulbs, is not allowed.

For seeds, seedlings, saplings, and production materials, an individual **preliminary permit application** is required for each Control Certificate. For the preliminary permit of ***seeds of field plant, vegetables, feed plants, grass plants, medicinal and aromatic plants***, the following documents are required:

- Petition for Application
- Filled Control Certificate Form
- Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro forma invoice:
  - Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months),
  - Type and variety of seed to be imported
  - Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported,
  - Name, authorized signature, and seal of importer
  - Contact details of exporter
- Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GE,
  - A document given by exporter certifying that seed is not GE. In cases where the document is a copy, it must be vouched for by the importer. Exporters can also declare non-GE statement on pro-forma invoice,
  - Unless a non-GE document is provided by the exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is non-GE shall be required
- Seed Certificate
  - There is no certificate requirement for imports designated for trials, breeding, providing material for the gene bank
  - For the imports of propagating materials:
    - An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants

- b. For other plant groups, OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- 3. For commercial purpose imports (trade purpose)
  - a. An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re-certificated in Turkey, an ISTA-Orange certificate is not required.
  - b. For grass seed an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required. For mixed grass seeds, these certificates or reports will be required for each seed in the mixture.
  - c. For tobacco seed, an OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
  - d. For flint corn seed, sweet corn seed, and vegetable seeds, an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate is required. If laboratory analysis results are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required.
  - e. For medicinal and aromatic herbs, OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- 4. For imports for export purpose:
  - a. An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants. If analysis results of laboratory tests for the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re-certificated in Turkey, an ISTA-Orange certificate is not required.
  - b. For other plant groups, an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- f. Preliminary import permit bank receipt demonstrating that the application fee has been paid,
- g. Other documents that MinAF requires.

For additional information on the seed sector in Turkey, please see the [FAS GAIN Report on Turkey Planting Seeds Sector Overview](#).

For a preliminary permit *of seedlings, saplings, and propagation materials* the following documents are required:

- a. Petition for Application
- b. Filled Control Certificate Form
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro-forma invoice:
  - 1. Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months)
  - 2. Type and variety of seed to be imported
  - 3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported
  - 4. Name, authorized signature, and seal of importer
  - 5. Contact details of exporter

- d. Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GE
  - A document given by exporter certifying that seed is not GE. In case such document is a copy, it must be approved by the importer. Exporter can also declare non-GE statement on pro-forma invoice
  - Unless a non-GE document is provided by the exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is non-GE shall be provided by importer
- e. Preliminary import permit bank receipt showing that the application fee has been paid,
- f. Other documents which are required by MinAF.

According to import control regulations, *food and feed of plant origin and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food* do *not* require Control Certificate approval to be imported. Instead, there is a **pre-notification system** in place for these commodities. The importer should register the required information for each product in the electronic system which is called the Food Safety Information System (FSIS) of GDFC, which is accessible by importers. The required information includes the product name, product category, country of origin, name of importer, name of exporter or manufacturer, ingredient list, and label of the product. This information is evaluated and approved by the authorized Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorate (PAFD) to determine whether it complies with the legislation in force. There is no pre-shipment testing requirement that must be met or inspections that must be conducted prior to shipment. PAFD's inspectors conduct official controls and inspections according to sampling and testing procedures at Turkish customs during the import stage.

For the detailed information about export certificates other than Control Certificate that GOT requires for agricultural products to be imported into Turkey, please see the **FAS GAIN Report on Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report 2023** for Turkey which is accessible [here](#).

### **Import Process Complexities and Exceptions**

While many U.S. and foreign foods are imported into Turkey without any problem, some companies have encountered difficulty understanding and complying with demands from import officials for certificates that are not normally issued in the United States. Requirements and standards for some imported foods may be stricter or different than both those currently applied in the EU.

**Requirements for sending samples** are slightly different for products intended for consumption. For the import of samples, there is no pre-permission or Control Certificate requirement. Technically, there are no documentation requirements if the sample is for an exhibition or scientific research.

For commercial samples, the importer needs to fill out a special form supplied by PAFD and provide a copy of the pro-forma invoice (if it is free of charge, just state the use on the invoice). Once the PAFD receives the filled-out form, they prepare a letter to the relevant customs office to notify them to release the sample. Note that there is no health certificate requirement. For the commercial sample amounts, please see Section IX.

### **Section VII: Other Specific Standards**

MinAF follows a dual approach in the preparation of food regulations. There is "horizontal" legislation which covers aspects which are common to all foodstuffs such as additives, contaminants, labeling,

hygiene, official controls, etc. The "vertical" legislation applies to specific products such as food supplements, wine, spirit drinks, meat and meat products, infant and follow-on formulas, honey, fruit juices, etc.

Some of the important horizontal regulations are below, and they are accessible [here](#) in the Turkish language:

<b>Name of the Regulation</b>	<b>Important articles</b>
<b>Official import controls of food and feed products of plant origin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed</li> <li>-Importers should get an electronic username and password for pre-notification</li> <li>-Importers should electronically fill attached-pre-notification form (form is attached to the regulation) for plant origin food; feed and food contact material and attached copies of certificate, ingredient list, and other documents which will be determined by MinAF.</li> <li>-Border inspection post or provincial directorates provide a date of inspection</li> <li>-Frequency of analysis is determined by risk analysis</li> <li>-If there is non-compliance, importers can either use special treatment, declare change in intent of use, send it back, or confiscate the product</li> <li>-If there is a protocol between two countries, an electronic certificate will be accepted</li> <li>-Turkish translation labeling should be done before actual import control is carried out</li> </ul>
<b>Measurements to monitor certain substances and their residue on live animals and animal products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 96/23/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 97/747/EC</li> <li>-If inspectors detect residues for imported animals or animal products, they will increase the frequency of analysis from the same country of origin</li> </ul>
<b>Food Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 852/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services,</li> </ul>

	<p>Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Defines general hygiene criteria for premises including HACCP criteria and good management practices</p>
<b>Plant Quarantine</b>	<p>- Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed</p> <p>- Includes the determination of harmful organisms hindering import and the issues that plants, plant products and other substances shall be subject to in terms of plant health in the entry and exit procedures for Turkey and also the official controls</p> <p>- Products brought into free zones from abroad, those imported into Turkey from free zones, and those dispatched to outside the customs area of Turkey from free zones are subject to the provisions of this regulation</p> <p>-Determines the rules for official control, entry-exit gates, import controls, transit controls, list of plants, plant products and other substances banned for entry, list of harmful organisms that are banned from entering Turkey, special conditions that plants, plant products, and other substances are subjected to, and Phytosanitary Certificates</p>
<b>Official controls of food and feed</b>	<p>- Based on Turkish Government Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-MinAF may delegate some of their control and inspection authority to accredited private food control offices or some NGOs. Import and export controls are excluded.</p> <p>-Authorizes MinAF to publish the list of approved establishments, approval-suspended premises, and approval-cancelled establishments, to increase transparency.</p> <p>-Defined traceability, responsibility, and general requirements for imports and exports</p> <p>-Establishes rapid alert system</p>
<b>Pre-notification and veterinary checks of animal and animal products entering the country</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation, 282/2004/EC</p> <p>-EU harmonization regulation, 136/2004/EC</p> <p>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pre-notification of imports of animals and animal products</li> <li>-Veterinarian responsibilities to check and sign forms</li> </ul>
<b>Specific rules for animal products official inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 854/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Approval of premises</li> <li>-General hygiene rules</li> <li>-Raw meat inspections</li> <li>-Role and duties of official veterinarian and their assistant</li> <li>-Live animal inspections and animal welfare</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks and pre-notification on animals and products entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 97/78/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Pre-notification and veterinary checks at the border inspection post</li> <li>-Issuance of veterinary entry document electronically or by using other communication tools.</li> <li>-Frequency of veterinary controls</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks on live animals entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 97/794/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-One day before arrival, importers should inform the amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection</li> <li>-Veterinary controls should consists of documentary checks, as well as physical checks</li> <li>-First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts</li> <li>- Turkish Government Official Veterinarians visit the exporting country and verify that animals to be exported to Turkey comply with the technical specifications determined by MinAF before export</li> </ul>

<b>Veterinary checks on products entering the country</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC</p> <p>- Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-One day before arrival, importers should inform the amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection</p> <p>-Veterinary controls should consists of documentary checks and physical checks</p> <p>-First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts</p>
<b>Animal and animal products entering the country are to be subjected to veterinary controls</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC</p> <p>-EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC</p> <p>-EU harmonization regulation, 2007/275//EC</p> <p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-A list which is attached to the regulation classifies which products are considered animals and animal products under control</p>
<b>Veterinary checks for products destined for introduction into free zones, free warehouses, customs warehouses or operators supplying cross border means of sea transport</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation 2000/571/EC</p> <p>-Specific rules for Art. 14 and 15 of the Regulation Veterinary checks on products entering the country</p> <p>-In case products that do not meet the national requirements entry into warehouses in free zones, free warehouses or customs warehouses, and cross border means of sea transport, , they are subjected to additional controls to ensure the correct handling of the products during their transport and storage.</p>
<b>Transshipment of products at the border inspection posts</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation 2011/215/EC</p> <p>-Specific rules for Art. 11 of the Regulation Veterinary checks on products entering the country</p> <p>-The regulation determines the responsibilities of person responsible for the load and the estimated time of unloading of the consignment.</p>
<b>Technical and Hygiene Rules on Meat Import</b>	<p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Based on the Regulation of Veterinary checks on products entering</p>

	<p>the country</p> <p>-Technical Criteria of Imported Meat</p>
<b>Animal Welfare Regulation</b>	<p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Defines required criteria of animal farms including barns, cages for chickens etc.</p>
<b>Animal welfare during animal transportation</b>	<p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Requirements of animal transportation vehicles including ships and trucks</p> <p>-Responsibilities, training, inspections, and reports</p>
<b>Animal byproducts that are not intended for human consumption</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation 1069/2009/EC</p> <p>-Categorization of byproducts</p> <p>-Collection and transportation criteria</p>
<b>Semen, ovum and embryo production center establishments regulations</b>	<p>-Registration, approval, and certification of centers</p>
<b>Special hygiene regulation for animal products</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation, 853/2004//EC</p> <p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Defines requirements for animal slaughtering and animal products processing facilities</p>
<b>Feed hygiene</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation, 183/2005//EC</p> <p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</p> <p>-Registration and approval of feed premises</p>
<b>Placing on the market and use of feed</b>	<p>-EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC</p> <p>-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services,</p>

	Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Principles of labeling and presentation
<b>Methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC -Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on maximum residue limits of pesticides</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1337/2008//EC -EU harmonization regulation, 2065/2003//EC -Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on food additives</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1333/2008//EC -Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulations, 1925/2006/EC and 307/2012/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on food enzymes</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulations, 83/417/EC, EU/1493/1999, 2000/13/EC, 2001/112/EC, EU/1332/2008
<b>Turkish food codex on microbiological criteria for foodstuff</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 2073/2005//EC
<b>Turkish food codex on food labeling</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed

	-EU harmonization regulation, EU 1169/2011
<b>Turkish food codex on nutrition and health claims</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, EU 1924/2006
<b>Turkish food codex on contaminants</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 1881/2006/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food</b>	-Based on Turkish Law no. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 1935/2004/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on composition and labeling of foodstuffs suitable for people intolerant to gluten</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 41/2009/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on sampling and testing methods for dioxin and similar products</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1881/2006/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on energy drinks</b>	-Went into effect on 6/30/2017 -Sets limits for caffeine, glucuronolactone, taurine, inositol and energy amount of product -Requires a warning on the label stating: “Do not use this product with alcohol or by mixing with alcohol. Consumption of this product is not advised for children, people below 18 years old, elderly people, diabetics, people who have hypertension, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people who have metabolic disorder, kidney problems and those who are susceptible to caffeine. It is not a sport beverage, it shouldn’t be consumed before, during and after physical activity. It is advised not to consume more than 500 ml/day”
<b>Regulation on food</b>	-Based on the Decree Law 560 and Turkish Law 2690 of Turkish

<b>irradiation</b>	Atomic Energy Agency -Principles of food irradiation, re-irradiation -Requirements for license, permit, registration -Labeling of irradiated foods
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Some food products are regulated by MinAF via **vertical legislation**, through individual Communiqués to meet special requirements. The production, processing, storage, transportation and placing on the market, product criteria, and specific labeling requirements are set in these Communiqués, available [here](#) in the Turkish language.

Some **vertical Communiqués** under Turkish Codex Regulation are:

- Communiqué on Aromatized Wines
- Communiqué on Wine
- Communiqué on Beer
- Communiqué on Spirit Drinks (hard alcohol)
- Communiqué on Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Communiqué on Fruit Juices and Similar products
- Communiqué on Coffee and Coffee Extracts
- Communiqué on Chocolate and Chocolate Products
- Communiqué on Food Supplements
- Communiqué on Fermented Milk
- Communiqué on Infant Formulas
- Communiqué on Follow-on Formulas
- Communiqué on Cereal-based Supplementary Baby Foods for Infants and Young Children
- Communiqué on Foods for Athletes (energy bars, isotonic/protein/carbohydrate drinks, etc.)
- Communiqué on Black Tea
- Communiqué on Frozen Food
- Communiqué on Gluten-Free Foods
- Communiqué on Ice cream
- Communiqué on Jams, Marmalades, and Jelly
- Communiqué on Lentils
- Communiqué on Pasta
- Communiqué on Rice
- Communiqué on Salt
- Communiqué on Sugar
- Communiqué on Vegetable Oils
- Communiqué on Olive
- Communiqué on Egg and Egg Products
- Communiqué on Meat and Meat Products
- Communiqué on Cheese
- Communiqué on Wheat Flour
- Communiqué on Honey

## Communiqué on Spices

A complete list of Communiqués is accessible at the website of MinAF [here](#) in Turkish language.

There is no specific legislation for production, **importing, or marketing of food and agricultural products to be halal in Turkey**. Currently, certification of halal products is voluntary in Turkey. The GOT established the Halal Accreditation Authority (HAA) under the Law no. 7060 published in the Official Gazette on November 18, 2017. The Authority provides halal accreditation services to conformity assessment institutions. According to the Article 10 of [Law no 7408](#), which was published in June 2022 and amending the Law no. 7060, halal conformity assessment institutions must now be accredited by the HAA. Even with this change, certification of halal products remains voluntary. For further information on Halal Accreditation Authority and its activities please see the FAS [GAIN Report on Turkey Established a Halal Accreditation Authority](#) dated December 20, 2017.

### Section VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

The Law on Industrial Property No. 6769 was adopted on December 22, 2016 by the Turkish Parliament and entered into force by its publication in the Official Gazette No. 29944, on January 10, 2017. This law consolidated and updated a number of existing decrees about intellectual property rights over the years into a single, enforceable piece of legislation regulating trademarks, patents, designs, utility models, geographical indications, and traditional product names in line with EU standards and Turkey's local requirements. It encompasses applications, registrations, and post-registration processes regarding trademarks, geographical signs, design, patent, utility model and traditional product names, and legal and criminal sanctions concerning the violation of these rights.

MinAF has jurisdiction over the implementation of geographical indications, but registration of GIs is handled through the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (Turk Patent). Post is unaware of specific instances where Turkey's current GI regulations have damaged U.S. companies' GI rights.

Many organizations are now applying for geographical indication (GI) protection of agricultural products in Turkey. Currently, of the 1325 protected products in a wide range of sectors, **13 foreign-origin agricultural products are protected GIs: Champagne, Cognac, Douro Port wine, Pisco, Prosciutto di Parma/Parma ham, Scotch Whisky, Zivania, Parmigiano Reggiano/Parmesan cheese, Grana Padano cheese, Hellim/Halloumi cheese, Gorgonzola cheese and White Korean ginseng**. There are 683 products, of which only **one is foreign-origin agricultural product, Tequila, that is pending registration**. Once GI applications are published in the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office Bulletin, there is a three-month period to register objections. For detailed information please see the FAS [GAIN report on Geographical Indications in Turkey](#) dated December 27, 2017.

### Section IX: Import Procedures

MinAF is the competent authority responsible for import policies, legislation, and official controls and inspections of food and agricultural products related to food and product safety.

Imports of food products into Turkey are allowed only if they comply with the regulations related to import controls and the Turkish Food Codex. Turkey is harmonizing its food import regulations and the

Turkish Food Codex Regulation with those of the EU. If the product in question is not covered by the Turkish Food Codex, officials can refer to international regulations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius, or relevant EU Directives. If Turkey is not harmonized to international or EU standards, importation will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

Custom Gates for the entrance of food and agricultural products which will be subjected to import controls and inspections by MinAF are designated by the Ministry of Trade.

**There are 47 custom gates designated for the import controls of animals and animal-sourced products.** On the other hand, MinAF has established 23 Veterinary Border Inspection Posts (VBIP) which are only authorized for carrying out import controls of animal and animal-sourced products. Please see names of provinces, VBIPs, and custom gates in Appendix III.

**There are 48 custom gates designated for the import controls of forestry products** with HS Codes 44.01, 44.03, 44.04, 44.06, 44.07, 44.15 and 44.16 which require quarantine controls (except wooden packages covering commodities). Please see the names of provinces and designated custom gates in Appendix IV for these commodities.

**There are 44 custom gates designated for the import controls of propagation materials** (seed, seedlings, saplings, flower bulbs) which require quarantine controls. Please see the names of provinces and designated custom gates in Appendix V for these commodities.

**There are 66 custom gates designated for the import controls of products other than propagation materials** which require quarantine controls. Please see the names of provinces and designated custom gates in Appendix VI for these commodities.

**There are 44 custom gates designated for the import controls of plant-origin food and feed stuffs** in the aspect of food and feed safety and **materials which are intended for contact with food stuffs** in the aspect of product safety. Please see the names of provinces and designated custom gates in Appendix VII for these commodities.

For animals and animal-sourced products which will be subjected to veterinary control, the importer should inform the VBIP, or designated custom gate in the absence of VBIP, about the arrival of the shipment at least one working day in advance for live animals and before arrival for animal products by filling and submitting the Veterinary Entrance Document (VED). The VED should be submitted electronically in advance for notice of import and transit procedures. When the commodity arrives at port/VBIP or the designated custom gate, import procedures are started.

For plant and plant products which will be subjected to plant health controls (quarantine controls), the importer should inform the Agricultural Quarantine Directorate (AQD) of MinAF via electronic “Plant Quarantine Registration and Tracking System”

- 4 hours before the arrival of commodity if it is transported via airway
- 12 hours before the arrival of commodity if it is transported via highway
- 24 hours before the arrival of commodity if it is transported via seaway

For food and feed of plant origin and articles intended to come into contact with food, the importer should notify the PAFD about the shipment details by filling the “Shipment Notification Form” through the Food Safety Information System (FSIS) and upload the Certificate and other required documents like ingredient list, label, invoice etc., related to the product between 3 to 20 days before the arrival of the commodity. PAFD evaluates these documents to decide if the commodity in question is eligible for import or not in line with the relevant legislation.

MinAF implements an exemption for the import controls of food which are **free of charge and not for commercial use** if intended for:

- scientific purposes, for exhibition, or for sportive or cultural activities
- consular or diplomatic representatives’ own use
- a donation during a time of crisis
- sample purposes only

Amounts of food for sample purposes to be exempted from import controls are as follows:

- Food additive up to 5 kilograms (kg) or 5 liters (L).
- Food flavor up to 0.5 kg or 0.5 L
- Bulk commodity (raw, processed, semi processed) up to 25 kg
- Prepackaged products for direct consumption up to 25 kg
- Packaging materials up to 25 units
- Alcoholic beverages up to 7 bottles if volume of each bottle is 0.7 L; 5 bottles if the volume of each bottle is 1 L; 3 bottles if the volume of each bottle is 1.5 L
- Foods for special dietary purposes up to 5 units or 5 bottles (if the unit amount of the product weighs more than 2 kg or 2 L, then, the total amount should not be weighing more than 25 kg or 25 L)
- Food supplements up to 5 units/boxes/bottles (if the unit amount of the product weighs more than 2 kg or 2 L, then, the total amount should not be weighing more than 25 kg or 25 L)
- Raw materials to be used in the production of food supplements or foods for special dietary purposes should not be weighing more than 500 g or 500 cl

## **Section X: Trade Facilitation**

There is no standardized process for advance ruling for agricultural products. The government has an internal single window system which was established by the Ministry of Trade. This internal window

was first opened in 2014 and is gradually being rolled out across the relevant government agencies to improve communication and coordination. This system is internal and unavailable to foreign exporters.

***Import procedures of plants, plant products, food and feed of plant origin, and articles intended to come into contact with food***

The importer notifies the PAFD about the shipment details by filling the “Shipment Notification Form” through the “Food Safety Information System” and then uploads the certificate related to the product that will be imported between 3 to 20 days before the arrival of the commodity.

When the product arrives at port/VBIP or designated custom, import procedures are started. **Depending on product type**, the importer should present the approved Control Certificate (if required for that commodity) together with the original invoice, ingredient list, certificate of origin, plant health certificate or certificate of free sale or health certificate, as well as other import documentation, such as the bill of lading, etc. After the identity and documentary verifications, PAFD inspectors carry out physical checks, including taking samples of food, feed of plant origin, and articles intended to come into contact with food according to the analysis frequency requirement, which is set by PAFD. If a sample is taken, it is sent to MinAF’s official laboratory or a private laboratory authorized by GDPC for physical, chemical, and microbiological analysis. If feed or food is a bulk or semi-processed commodity which requires quarantine control, it is additionally or only inspected by plant quarantine inspectors for consistency with the legislation in place. Plant quarantine checks are carried out according to the Regulation on Plant Quarantine which is accessible [here](#) in the English language.

Official controls for plant, plant products, and feed and food of plant origin in bulk or semi-processed form which require quarantine controls are carried out by the inspectors of AQD. There are currently 13 AQD throughout the country. AQD inspectors carry out quarantine checks including taking samples of the product according to the analysis frequency requirement which is set by AQD. If a sample is taken, it is sent to MinAF’s official laboratory designated by GDPC for quarantine control analysis.

The import control process normally takes up to one week depending on the type of product and the analysis. Importation of the product is allowed if the results of the checks and analysis are found to be acceptable and consistent with regulations. PAFD or AQD sends a conformity letter to the custom officials to release the product in question. If the inspection results do not comply with Turkish legislation requirements, the importer may request secondary sample tests which are sent to designated national reference laboratories within seven days. The reference labs’ results are final. In the case that the secondary test results show that the product does not comply with Turkish import requirements, the shipment is rejected by PAFD or AQD. Then, the shipment may be sent back to the exporting country or a third country by the request of importer/exporter or subjected to special treatment or destructed in the custom area in the absence of previous options.

Depending on the type of product, original documents must accompany the product at the time of import controls. Although MinAF temporarily accepted electronic phytosanitary certificates/ certificates of free sale/health certificates during the Covid-19 pandemic, MiNAF ended this temporary implementation for phytosanitary certificates as of August 1, 2021 and for certificates of free sale/health certificates as of August 1, 2022. Currently, MinAF again requires original copies of these certificates at the time of import controls.

Please see detailed information about export certificates in the **FAS GAIN Report entitled FAIRS Export Certificate for Turkey for 2023** which is accessible [here](#).

### ***Import procedures of live animals and animal products***

The importer should inform VBIP, or the designated custom gate in the absence of VBIP, about the arrival of live animals at least one working day before arrival by filling out and submitting the VED electronically. For animal-sourced products, the importer should inform the VBIP/designated custom gate in advance. A web-based registration system has been developed by MinAF for the approval procedures of the ‘control document’ which are carried out by the authorized Provincial Directorates and related General Directorates of MinAF and for the import procedures and controls of animal and animal products, which are carried out by the Veterinary Border Inspection Post Directorates and the authorized Provincial Directorates.

As of September 1, 2019, all import procedures have been carried out by this web-based registration. Since the system must be used by the companies and persons who are importing animal and animal products to Turkey, the relevant importer should apply to the Veterinary Border Inspection Post Directorates and the authorized Provincial Directorates to utilize this system without an additional registration fee. As of January 1, 2020, all transit procedures are carried out via the same system. All transit applications must be made by using this system with a Passport Number or Turkish Identity Card Number without any ‘password’.

When the commodity arrives at the port, the importer must provide the Control Certificate, if the product requires it, and other documents (ex: Veterinary Health Certificate, the list of animals with ID numbers, test documents, invoices, etc.) to the VBIP or custom gate to obtain custom clearance. MinAF Inspectors carry out the veterinary checks (documentary, identity, and physical checks if needed). If the results comply with the relevant laws, then the products are released.

Additionally, for live animals, once documentary and identity checks are carried out at the border, the animals are sent to a quarantine area (which might be at the importer’s farm) and tests are carried out by taking samples from the animals for diseases included on the health certificate. The frequency of samples is determined by GDFC according to a risk assessment or national monitoring plans. If the test results are compliant with the legislation, then the VBIP or PAFD sends a conformity letter to the customs officials to release the product in question. The process normally takes up to one week, depending on the type of analysis needed. Analyses are carried out by official control laboratories and private laboratories which are authorized by GDFC.

For animals and animal products’ certificates, according to the Turkish import regulation, export certificates must be signed by an official veterinarian in the exporting country two days prior to shipment, but exporters should note that MinAF removed the two-day requirement for semen shipments since they are frozen. Since February 2018, MinAF now accepts bovine export certificates from the United States that are endorsed within the validity period, which is 30 days. For more information, please see the **FAS GAIN Report on [Turkey Revises Livestock Genetics Import Process Harmonizes Certificate with the EU](#)**, dated October 7, 2019.

Electronic Veterinary Health Certificates are not accepted by MinAF and the original copy of the Certificate must accompany the commodity at the time of import. Please see more detailed information

about export certificates in the FAS GAIN Report on FAIRS Export Certificate for Turkey for 2023 which is accessible [here](#).

**APPENDIX I: HS Codes of commodities which require a Control Certificate**

**A- HS Codes of animal and animal sourced products**

01.01	04.01	1603.00
01.02	04.02	16.04
01.03	04.03	16.05
01.04	04.04	18.06
01.05	04.05	19.01
01.06	04.06	19.02
02.01	0407.00	19.04
02.02	04.08	19.05
02.03	0409.00	2103.90.90
02.04	04.10	21.04
0205.00	0504.00	2105.00
02.06	05.06	21.06
02.07	05.07	2202.99
02.08	0510.00	2208.70
0209.00	05.11	23.01
02.10	15.01	30.01
03.01	15.02	30.02
03.02	1503.00	3503.00
03.03	15.04	38.22
03.04	1506.00	7101.21.00.00.00
03.05	1516.10	-
03.06	15.17	-
03.07	1518.00	-
03.08	1601.00	-
03.09	16.02	-

The Control Certificate is valid for 4 (four) months for the commodities above. However, for those HS codes 0504.00, 15.04, 1516.10, 15.17, 1518.00, 18.06, 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, 19.05, 2103.90.90, 21.04, 2105.00, 21.06, 2202.99, 2208.70, the control certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months.

**B- HS Codes of propagation materials such as seeds, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs**

0601.10.10.00.00	0602.90.91.00.00	1005.10.90.00.00
0601.10.20.00.00	0602.90.99.00.00	1006.10.10.00.00

0601.10.30.00.00	0701.10.00.00.00	1007.10.10.00.00
0601.10.40.00.00	0703.10.11.00.00	1007.10.90.00.00
0601.10.90.10.00	0703.20.00.00.12	1008.21.00.00.11
0601.10.90.90.00	0712.90.11.00.00	1008.21.00.00.12
0601.20.30.00.11	0713.10.10.00.11	1008.50.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.12	0713.10.10.00.19	1008.60.00.00.11
0601.20.30.00.13	0713.20.00.00.11	1201.10.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.14	0713.31.00.00.11	1202.30.00.00.00
0601.20.90.10.11	0713.32.00.00.11	1204.00.10.00.00
0601.20.90.10.19	0713.33.10.00.11	1205.10.10.00.00
0601.20.90.90.00	0713.33.10.00.19	1205.90.00.00.00
0602.10.10.00.00	0713.34.00.00.11	1206.00.10.00.00
0602.10.90.00.00	0713.35.00.00.11	1207.10.00.00.00
0602.20.10.00.00	0713.39.00.00.11	1207.21.00.00.00
0602.20.20.00.00	0713.40.00.00.11	1207.30.00.00.00
0602.20.30.00.00	0713.50.00.00.11	1207.40.10.00.00
0602.20.80.00.19	0713.60.00.00.11	1207.50.10.00.00
0602.30.00.00.00	0713.90.00.00.13	1207.60.00.00.00
0602.40.00.00.00	1001.11.00.00.00	1207.70.00.00.00
0602.90.30.00.00	1001.91.10.00.00	1207.91.10.00.00
0602.90.45.00.11	1001.91.20.00.11	1207.99.20.00.11
0602.90.45.00.12	1002.10.00.00.00	1207.99.20.00.19
0602.90.46.00.00	1003.10.00.00.11	1207.99.91.00.00
0602.90.47.00.00	1003.10.00.00.19	12.09
0602.90.48.00.00	1004.10.00.00.00	1212.99.41.00.00
0602.90.50.00.00	1005.10.13.00.00	1212.99.49.00.00
0602.90.70.00.11	1005.10.15.00.00	-
0602.90.70.00.12	1005.10.18.00.00	-

**C- HS Codes of forest breeding materials such as seeds, saplings for trees, grafts**

0602.90.41.00.11	0602.90.41.00.29
0602.90.41.00.12	1209.99.10.00.00

**APPENDIX II: HS Codes of commodities, which do not require a Control Certificate but are still subject to veterinary controls and inspections**

0502.10	2835.25.00.00.00	3926.90
05.05	2835.26.00.00.00	41.01
0508.00	2922.49	41.02
05.11	2925.29.00.00	41.03
0602.90.10.00.00	29.30	4205.00.90
1212.99.95	2932.99	4206.00.00.00.00
1213.00.00.00.00	2942.00	43.01
1214.90	3006.92.00.00.00	51.01
1501.90.00.00.00	3101.00	51.02
15.04	3105.10	51.03
1505.00	32.04	6701.00
1521.90	33.02	95.08
1522.00	35.01	9602.00
17.02	35.02	97.05
20.04	3504.00	-
20.05	35.07	-
23.01	3913.90	-
23.09	3917.10	-

**APPENDIX III: VBIP and Custom Gates designated for the import controls of animal and animal sourced products**

No	Province	VBIP or Custom Directorate	Live Animal	Animal Sourced Products subjected to veterinary controls
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				<b>For human consumption</b>	<b>Not for human consumption</b>
1	Ağrı	Gürbulak VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
2	Ankara	Esenboğa Airport VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
3	Antalya	Antalya Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
4	Antalya	Antalya Airport VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
5	Ardahan	Çıldır-Aktaş Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
6	Ardahan	Demir İpekyolu Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
7	Ardahan	Türkgözü Custom Directorate	-	-	Authorized
8	Artvin	Sarp VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
9	Balıkesir	Bandırma Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
10	Bursa	Gemlik Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
11	Çanakkale	Çanakkale Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
12	Edirne	İpsala VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
13	Edirne	Kapıkule VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
14	Edirne	Kapıkule Railways Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
15	Gaziantep	Karkamış Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
16	Hatay	Cilvegözü VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
17	Hatay	İskenderun Port- VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
18	Hatay	Zeytin Dalı Custom Directorate-	-	Authorized	Authorized
19	İğdır	Dilucu VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
20	İstanbul	Ambarlı VBIP	-	Authorized	Authorized
21	İstanbul	Atatürk Airport Cargo Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
22	İstanbul	Haydarpaşa Pendik Port Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
23	İstanbul	İstanbul Airport VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
24	İstanbul	Pendik Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
25	İstanbul	Sabiha Gökçen Airport VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
26	İzmir	Adnan Menderes VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
27	İzmir	Aliğa Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
28	İzmir	Çeşme Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
29	İzmir	İzmir VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
30	Kars	Kars Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
31	Kilis	Çobanbey Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized

32	Kilis	Öncüpınar Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
33	Kocaeli	Derince VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
34	Kocaeli	Dilovası Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
35	Kocaeli	Körfez Petrokimya Custom Directorate	-	-	Authorized
36	Mersin	Mersin VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
37	Mersin	Mersin Free Trade Zone Custom Directoarte	-	Authorized	Authorized
38	Mersin	Taşucu Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
39	Muğla	Milas Airport Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
40	Sakarya	Sakarya Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
41	Samsun	Samsun Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
42	Şırnak	Habur VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
43	Tekirdağ	Tekirdağ Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
44	Trabzon	Trabzon Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
45	Van	Kapıköy Custom Directorate	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
46	Yalova	Yalova Custom Directorate	-	Authorized	Authorized
47	Zonguldak	Zonguldak Port VBIP	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized

**APPENDIX IV: Custom Gates designated for forestry products with HS Codes 44.01, 44.03, 44.04, 44.06, 44.07, 44.15 and 44.16 which require quarantine controls (except wooden packages covering commodities)**

No	Province	Custom Directorate
1	Adana	Yumurtalık Free Trade Zone
2	Ağrı	Gürbulak
3	Antalya	Antalya
4	Antalya	Antalya Free Trade Zone
5	Ardahan	Çıldır-Aktaş
6	Ardahan	Demir İpekyolu
7	Artvin	Hopa
8	Artvin	Sarp
9	Bartın	Bartın
10	Bursa	Gemlik <sup>(1)</sup>
11	Bursa	Mudanya

12	Edirne	İpsala
13	Edirne	Kapıkule Railway
14	Edirne	Kapıkule
15	Giresun	Giresun
16	Hatay	İsdemir
17	Hatay	İskenderun
18	İstanbul	Ambarlı
19	İstanbul	Haydarpaşa
20	İstanbul	İstanbul Posta
21	İstanbul	Pendik
22	İstanbul	Sabiha Gökçen Airport
23	İzmir	Adnan Menderes
24	İzmir	Aliğa
25	İzmir	Çeşme
26	İzmir	Ege Free Trade Zone
27	İzmir	İzmir
28	Kars	Kars
29	Kastamonu	İnebolu
30	Kocaeli	Derince
31	Kocaeli	Dilovası <sup>(1)</sup>
32	Kocaeli	Gebze <sup>(1)</sup>
33	Kocaeli	İzmit
34	Mersin	Mersin
35	Mersin	Mersin Free Trade Zone
36	Mersin	Taşucu
37	Ordu	Ordu
38	Ordu	Ünye
39	Rize	Rize
40	Sakarya	Sakarya
41	Samsun	Samsun
42	Tekirdağ	Çorlu Airport
43	Tekirdağ	Tekirdağ
44	Trabzon	Trabzon
45	Van	Kapıköy
46	Yalova	Yalova

47	Zonguldak	Karadeniz Ereğli
48	Zonguldak	Zonguldak

(1) import controls of US origin oak with bark is carried out only at these custom directorates

**APPENDIX V: Custom Gates designated for the import controls of propagation materials (seeds, seedlings, saplings, flower bulbs) which require quarantine controls**

No	Province	Custom Directorate
1	Adana	Adana
2	Adana	Yumurtalık Free Trade Zone
3	Ankara	Esenboğa Airport
4	Antalya	Antalya
5	Antalya	Antalya Airport
6	Antalya	Antalya Free Trade Zone
7	Ardahan	Çıldır-Aktaş
8	Ardahan	Demir İpekyolu
9	Artvin	Sarp
10	Artvin	Hopa
11	Bursa	Gemlik
12	Bursa	Mudanya
13	Edirne	İpsala
14	Edirne	Kapıkule Railway
15	Edirne	Kapıkule
16	Gaziantep	Karkamış
17	Hatay	Cilvegözü
18	Hatay	İsdemir
19	Hatay	İskenderun
20	Hatay	Zeytin Dalı
21	İstanbul	Ambarlı
22	İstanbul	Atatürk Airport Cargo
23	İstanbul	Haydarpaşa
24	İstanbul	İstanbul Posta
25	İstanbul	İstanbul Airport
26	İstanbul	Pendik

27	İstanbul	Sabiha Gökçen Airport
28	İzmir	Adnan Menderes
29	İzmir	Aliğa
30	İzmir	Çeşme
31	İzmir	Ege Free Trade Zone
32	İzmir	İzmir
33	Kars	Kars
34	Kilis	Çobanbey
35	Kilis	Öncüpınar
36	Mersin	Mersin
37	Mersin	Mersin Free Trade Zone
38	Mersin	Taşucu
39	Sakarya	Sakarya
40	Samsun	Samsun
41	Sanliurfa	Ceylanpınar
42	Trabzon	Trabzon
43	Van	Kapıköy
44	Yalova	Yalova

**APPENDIX VI: Custom Gates designated for the import controls of products other than propagation materials which require quarantine controls**

<b>SIRA NO</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Custom Directorate</b>
1	Adana	Adana
2	Adana	Yumurtalık Free Trade Zone
3	Ağrı	Gürbulak
4	Ankara	Esenboğa Airport
5	Antalya	Antalya
6	Antalya	Antalya Airport
7	Antalya	Antalya Free Trade Zone
8	Ardahan	Çıldır-Aktaş
9	Ardahan	Demir İpekyolu
10	Ardahan	Türkgözü

11	Artvin	Hopa
12	Artvin	Sarp
13	Balıkesir	Bandırma
14	Bursa	Gemlik
15	Bursa	Mudanya
16	Çanakkale	Çanakkale
17	Edirne	İpsala
18	Edirne	Kapıkule Railway
19	Edirne	Kapıkule
20	Gaziantep	Karkamış
21	Giresun	Giresun
22	Hakkari	Esendere
23	Hatay	Cilvegözü
24	Hatay	İsdemir
25	Hatay	İskenderun
26	Hatay	Zeytin Dalı
27	İğdır	Dilucu
28	İstanbul	Ambarlı
29	İstanbul	Atatürk Airport Cargo
30	İstanbul	Haydarpaşa
31	İstanbul	İstanbul Posta
32	İstanbul	İstanbul Airport
33	İstanbul	Pendik
34	İstanbul	Sabiha Gökçen Airport
35	İzmir	Adnan Menderes Airport
36	İzmir	Aliağa
37	İzmir	Çeşme
38	İzmir	Dikili
39	İzmir	Ege Free Trade Zone
40	İzmir	İzmir
41	Kars	Kars

42	Kastamonu	Inebolu
43	Kilis	Çobanbey
44	Kilis	Öncüpınar
45	Kocaeli	Derince
46	Kocaeli	Dilovası
47	Kocaeli	Gebze
48	Kocaeli	İzmit
49	Mersin	Mersin
50	Mersin	Mersin Free Trade Zone
51	Mersin	Taşucu
52	Ordu	Ordu
53	Ordu	Unye
54	Rize	Rize
55	Sakarya	Sakarya
56	Samsun	Samsun
57	Şanlıurfa	Akçakale
58	Sanliurfa	Ceylanpinari
59	Şırnak	Habur
60	Tekirdağ	Çorlu Airport
61	Tekirdağ	Tekirdağ
62	Trabzon	Trabzon
63	Van	Kapıköy
64	Yalova	Yalova
65	Zonguldak	Karadeniz Ereğli
66	Zonguldak	Zonguldak

**APPENDIX VII: Designated Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorates for the import controls of plant-origin food and feed stuffs in the aspect of food and feed safety and materials which are intended for contact with food stuffs in the aspect of product safety**

No	Provincial Directorate
1	Adana

2	Ađrı
3	Ankara
4	Antalya
5	Ardahan
6	Artvin
7	Aydin
8	Balıkesir
9	Bursa
10	Bolu
11	Çanakkale
12	Edirne
13	Erzurum
14	Eskişehir
15	Gaziantep
16	Giresun
17	Hakkari
18	Hatay
19	Iđdır
20	İstanbul
21	İzmir
22	Kars
23	Kastamonu
24	Kayseri
25	Kilis
26	Kocaeli
27	Konya
28	Kütahya
29	Malatya
30	Manisa
31	Mardin
32	Mersin
33	Muđla
34	Ordu
35	Rize
36	Sakarya
37	Samsun
38	Şanlıurfa

39	Şırnak
40	Tekirdağ
41	Trabzon
42	Van
43	Yalova
44	Zonguldak

## **APPENDIX VIII: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts and Industry Associations**

### **General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC)**

#### **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF)**

Address: Üniversiteler Mah. Dumlupınar Bulvarı, No: 161, 06800, Yeni Bina 4-5-6-7.kat Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 287 33 60

Fax: + 90 (312) 258 76 93

E-mail: [tarimbilgi@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:tarimbilgi@tarim.gov.tr)

### **The Main Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authorities:**

#### **Istanbul Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Address: Bağdat Caddesi. No.307 Erenkoy, Kadıkoy, Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (216) 468 21 00

Fax: + 90 (216) 355 37 15

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

#### **Izmir Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Address: Kazim Dirik Mahallesi Sanayi Caddesi No: 34 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (232) 435 10 02

Fax: + 90 (232) 462 24 93

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

E-mail: [izmir@tarimorman.gov](mailto:izmir@tarimorman.gov)

#### **Mersin Provincial Agricultural Directorate**

Address: Gazi Mahallesi 1303 Sokak No:13/A Yenisehir, Mersin, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (324) 326 40 06

Fax: + 90 (324) 326 40 12

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

E-mail: [mersin@tarimorman.gov](mailto:mersin@tarimorman.gov)

### **There are 41 provincial food and feed control laboratories, the four largest being:**

#### **National Food Reference Laboratory-Ankara, Turkey**

Address: Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvarı No:70 Yenimahalle, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 327 41 81

Fax: + 90 (312) 327 41 56

E-mail: [ugrl@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:ugrl@tarimorman.gov.tr)

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@gthb.hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@gthb.hs01.kep.tr)

#### **Ankara Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Ankara, Turkey**

Address: Gayret Mahallesi, Sehit Cem Ersever Caddesi No:11/1 Yenimahalle, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 315 00 89

Fax: + 90 (312) 315 79 34

E-mail: [ankara.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:ankara.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr)

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

#### **Istanbul Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Istanbul, Turkey**

Address: Florya Caddesi, No:78 Senlikkoy, Florya, Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (212) 663 39 61 or + 90 (212) 663 39 62

Fax: + 90 (212) 663 42 96 or + 90 (212) 662 42 13

E-mail: [istanbul.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:istanbul.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr)

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

#### **Izmir Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Izmir, Turkey**

Address: Kazimdirik Mahallesi, Sanayi Caddesi No:34/7, Bornova, Izmir, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (232) 462 61 18 or + 90 (232) 435 62 56

Fax: + 90 (232) 462 41 97

E-mail: [izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr)

Registered E-mail: [izmir.gidalab@gthb.hs01.kep.tr](mailto:izmir.gidalab@gthb.hs01.kep.tr)

#### **Private Sector Food Traders Associations Contacts**

##### **Turkish Food and Drink Industry Association Federation**

Chairman: M. Demir Sarman

General Secretary: Ayse Nihal Mortepe

Address: Altunizade Mahallesi, Kısıklı Caddesi Tekin Ak İş Merkezi No:3 Kat:2 Daire:7 34662

Bağlarbaşı-Üsküdar, Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (216) 651 86 81

Fax: + 90 (216) 651 86 83

E-mail: [genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr](mailto:genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr)

Registered E-mail: [tgdf@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tgdf@hs01.kep.tr) <mailto:tgdf@hs01.kep.tr>

Web: <http://www.tgdf.org.tr>

##### **All Food Importers Association**

Chairman: Mustafa Manav

General Secretary: Melehat Ozkan

Address: Büyükdere Cad.Somer Apt.No:64 Kat:5 D:13 Mecidiyeköy. İstanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (212) 347 25 60

Fax: + 90 (212) 347 25 70

E-mail: [tugider@tugider.org.tr](mailto:tugider@tugider.org.tr)

Web: <https://www.tgdf.org.tr/en/tugider/>

### **Association of Food Ingredients and Improvers Manufacturers (GIDABIL)**

Chairman: Dr. Mehmet Çetin DURUK

General Secretary: Canan Elibollar

Address: Kısıklı Caddesi Tekin Ak İş Merkezi K:2 No:3/7 Altunizade, Üsküdar, İstanbul, Turkey

Phone: + 90 532 416 66 57 and :+90 216 651 86 81-82

Fax: + 90 216 651 86 83

E-mail: [gidabil@gidabil.org.tr](mailto:gidabil@gidabil.org.tr)

Web: <http://www.gidabil.org.tr/>

### **Turkish Feed Manufacturers Association**

Chairman: Murat Ulku Karakus

General Secretary: Serkan Ozbudak

Address: Oveçler Mahallesi Cetin Emec Bulvarı Lizbon Caddesi No:38/7 Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 472 83 20 (pbx)

Fax: + 90 (312) 472 83 23

E-mail: [info@yem.org.tr](mailto:info@yem.org.tr)

Web: <http://www.yem.org.tr>

### **Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey**

Chairman: Kamil Ozcan

General Secretary: Ibrahim Karakoyunlu

Address: Eskişehir Yolu üzeri Mustafa Kemal Mah. 2120 Cd. No:5 Gözüm İş Merkezi D:1-2 06520 Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312) 219 45 64

E-mail: [dsymb@dsymb.org.tr](mailto:dsymb@dsymb.org.tr)

Web: <http://www.dsymb.org.tr/>

### **Turkish Red Meat Producers Association**

Chairman: Bulent Tunc

General Secretary: Adnan Gultek

Address: Umit Mahallesi 2527. Sokak No:7 Umitkoy, Ankara, Turkey

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E-mail: [info@tuketbir.org.tr](mailto:info@tuketbir.org.tr)

Web: <http://tuketbir.org.tr>

### **Association of Poultry Industrialists and Breeders (BESD-BİR)**

Chairman: Naci Kaplan

General Secretary: Ahmet Ergun

Address: Umit Mahallesi 2527. Sokak No:7 Umitkoy, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: + 90 (312)472 77 88

Address: Cetin Emec Bulv. 1314. Cad. 1309 Sok. 5/A, 06460 Oveçler, Ankara, Turkey

E-mail: [besd-bir@besd-bir.org](mailto:besd-bir@besd-bir.org)

Web: <https://besd-bir.org/en>

### **Grain Suppliers Association (HUBUDER)**

Chairman: Gulfem Eren

General Secretary: Hikmet Ozkan  
Address: Ebulula Caddesi, Yildirim Oguz Goker Sakak No:1 Carlton 17 Blok D Akat, Besiktas, Istanbul.Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (212) 265 0571-72  
Cell: + 90 (531) 105 62 40  
E-mail: [hubuder@hubuder.org.tr](mailto:hubuder@hubuder.org.tr)  
Web: <https://www.hubuder.org.tr/>

#### **Turkish Seed Industry Association (TURKTED)**

Chairman: M. Mete Komeagac  
General Secretary: Kenan Yalvac  
Address: Guvenlik Caddesi, Guvenlik Apt. No:7/1, 06540, Asagi Ayranci, Ankara, Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (312) 419 00 32  
E-mail: [turkted@turkted.org.tr](mailto:turkted@turkted.org.tr)  
Web: <http://turkted.org.tr/>

#### **Feed Additives' Manufacturers, Importers and Distrubutors Association (TUYEKAD)**

Chairman: Cengiz Ozkan  
General Secretary: Gokalp Aydin  
Address: Söğütözü Mahallesi Anadolu Blv. Anadolu Sitesi 2182 Sokak Blok No: 3D/A4 No:3 Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (312)820 3688  
E-mail: [info@tukeyad.org.tr](mailto:info@tukeyad.org.tr)  
Web: <https://tuyekad.org.tr/>

#### **Turkish Patent and Trademark Office**

President: Cemil Baspinar  
Address: Gazi Mahallesi Hipodrom Caddesi No:13 (06560) Yenimahalle-Ankara, Turkey  
Phone: + 90 (312) 303 10 00  
Fax: + 90 (312) 303 11 73  
E-mail: [contact@turkpatent.gov.tr](mailto:contact@turkpatent.gov.tr)  
Web: <https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr>

#### **APPENDIX IX: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

U.S. exporters are advised to contact the FAS offices in Ankara or Istanbul for additional information and/or a list of private sector firms which can provide assistance with customs clearance and import regulation issues. In most cases, the importing company or agent should be familiar with (and ultimately responsible for) existing regulations.

#### **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Offices in Turkey:**

**The U.S. Embassy**  
1480 Sokak. No:1  
Cukurambar Mahallesi,  
06530 Cankaya

**The U.S. Consulate, Istanbul**  
Kaplicalar Mevki Sokak  
Istinye, 334460 Istanbul  
Istanbul - Turkiye

Ankara - Turkiye  
Phone: +90 (312) 294 00 00  
E-mail: [agankara@state.gov](mailto:agankara@state.gov)

Phone: +90 (212) 335 90 00  
E-mail: [agistanbul@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agistanbul@fas.usda.gov)

**APPENDIX X: Acronyms used in the report**

**AQD:** Agricultural Quarantine Directorate  
**DD:** District Directorates  
**EFSA:** European Food Safety Authority  
**EU:** European Union  
**EPPO:** European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization  
**FSIS:** Food Safety Information System  
**GE:** Genetically engineered  
**GDFC:** General Directorate of Food and Control  
**GMOs:** Genetically Modified Organisms  
**GMP:** Good Manufacturing Practices  
**HACCP:** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points  
**HAA:** Halal Accreditation Agency  
**ISO:** International Standardization for Standardization  
**MinAF:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (formerly MinFAL)  
**MinEUCC:** Ministry of Environment and Urbanization  
**MMDA:** Medicine and Medical Devices Agency  
**MoH:** Ministry of Health  
**MRLs:** Maximum Residue Limits  
**OIE:** World Organization for Animal Health  
**PAFD:** Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorates  
**PVMS:** Product Verification Monitoring System  
**VBIP:** Veterinary Border Inspection Post  
**VED:** Veterinary Entrance Document  
**WTO:** World Trade Organization

**Attachments:**

No Attachments