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Report Highlights:

The Food Act No. 26 of 1980, Animal Feed Act No. 15 of 1986, Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999, and Import and Export Control Act No. 1 of 1969 are the main laws that govern food imports into Sri Lanka. Import regulation are in the hands of several state institutions, making the process complicated and time consuming. Although several regulations have been in place for decades, new regulations are in the pipeline. In seeking to meet the commitments of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Sri Lanka is streamlining the processes of regulatory authorities. To streamline import and export trading processes, Sri Lanka has initiated two online platforms: The Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal and the National Single Window.

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DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Colombo – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) prepared this report to serve as a reference for U.S. stakeholders wishing to export food and agricultural products to the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka. Updates only from calendar years 2019 to 2022 (May) are included in this report. Readers should utilize the USDA-FAS Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) to find the relevant GAIN FAIRS Country and Export Certificate reports for previous years. The description of existing regulations is comprehensive; however, exporters should always verify the latest product import requirements with their Sri Lankan import partner(s) prior to product shipment. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka’s government has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Sri Lankan officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access links if they do not open with Internet Explorer].

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, declared a state of emergency on May 6, 2022, in the wake of anti-government protests and mass strikes. Protesters seek the ouster of the president over his administration’s mismanagement of the economy, which has resulted in food, fuel, and medicines shortages. Increases of domestic and imported foods, electricity, cooking gas, and fuel are driving consumer prices to the highest levels in decades. Sri Lanka will experience severe food shortages in the coming months, as domestic agricultural production collapsed due to the lack of farming inputs such as fertilizer, and as imported commodities become expensive and banks struggle with insufficient dollars to finance them.

The Food Act No. 26 (1980), the Animal Feed Act No. 15 (1986), the Plant Protection Act No. 35 (1999), along with the Import and Export Control Act No. 1 (1969) define import controls. There are number of ancillary laws and regulations that expand and support the foregoing acts. Traders, seeking to import, must meet state regulatory requirements. The main national competent authorities include:

- The Food Control Administration Unit (FCAU)
- The Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture (DOA)\National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS)
- The Department of Animal Production and Health
- The Department of Imports and Exports Control
- Sri Lanka Customs
- Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI)

Sri Lanka, to meet commitments made under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), seeks to improve import-export regulatory authorities’ coordination, as well as access to and transparency of their processes. To streamline the import-export trading processes, Sri Lanka is implementing the Sri Lanka Trade and Information Portal and the National Single Window platforms.

Sri Lankan labeling, packaging, food additives, standards and intellectual property rights’ regulations are comprehensive, as well as, at times, restrictive. Sri Lanka is developing new regulations for cereals, pulses, legumes, and meat and meat products. Regulations for fish and fish products, food mycotoxins, trans-fat foods, in addition to new food labeling and advertising regulations are in the draft stage.

SECTION I – FOOD LAWS

The [Food Act No. 26 \(1980\)](#), the [Animal Feed Act No. 15 \(1986\)](#), the [Plant Protection Act No. 35 \(1999\)](#), and Import and Export Control Act No. 1 (1969) regulate Sri Lanka's import controls. A Sri Lankan trader, attempting to import, must meet the requirements of state regulatory institutions.

The main national competent authorities include:

- [Food Control Administration Unit](#) (FCAU)
- [Department of Agriculture](#) (DoA)\[National Plant Quarantine Service](#) (NPQS)
- [Department of Animal Production and Health](#) (DAPH)
- [Department of Imports and Exports Control](#)
- [Sri Lanka Customs](#)
- [Sri Lanka Standards Institution](#) (SLSI)

The Food Act No. 26 (1980): The act regulates the manufacture, import, sale, and distribution of food in Sri Lanka. This act establishes the formation of the “Food Advisory Committee (FAC).” The Director of Health Services chairs the FAC, while the Assistant Director of Health Services in charge of the FCAU is the Secretary of the Food Advisory Committee.

The Food Advisory Committee has the mandate to advise the Minister of Health on matters arising out of the administration of the Food Act No. 26 (1980), as well as implement functions assigned under the act. The Food Advisory Committee appoints sub-committees, as it deems fit to exercise powers and perform the duties and or discharge functions of the FAC as delegated. The FAC appoints members to these sub committees. The act provides for a food authority at the local administrative level to execute and enforce the act's provisions. The Director of Health Services serves as the chief food authority, supervising, guiding, and coordinating the work of subordinate, local-level food authorities.

The Ministry of Health's Deputy Director General for Environmental Health, Occupation Health and Food Safety leads the Food Control Administration Unit. The Director for Environmental Health, Occupational Health, and Food Safety, reporting to the Deputy Director General supervises daily activities in the Food Control Administration Unit.

Sri Lanka's Food Control Administration Unit implements import control procedures at the national borders to ensure the safety of the food for human consumption. Live animals, raw meat, and feed, which are controlled by the Department of Animal Production and Health, and plant products which are controlled by the Department of Agriculture\National Plant Quarantine Service, are not regulated by the Food Control Administration Unit. All parties, however, conduct coordinated regulation as necessary under required circumstances.

Animal Feed Act No. 15 (1986): This act regulates Sri Lanka's animal feed imports. The act regulates, supervises, and controls the manufacture, sale and distribution of animal feed and related matters. The act establishes the Animal Feed Advisory Committee, consisting of the Director of Animal Production and Health, a representative from the animal feed trade, and three specialists with animal feed technical knowledge and experience, as appointed by the Minister of Health.

The Animal Feed Advisory Committee advises the Registrar of Animal Feed on: 1) the licensing of animal feed and the manufacture, storage, preparation for sale, and the sale of animal feed; 2) establishes the minimum standard as to the composition, strength, quality and purity of any approved animal feed; 3) fixes the maximum level of deleterious or inert material allowable in approved animal feed; 4) makes recommendations to the Controller of Imports and Exports on matters relating to the import and export of animal feed, and ingredients; 5) sets out the manner in which approved animal feed shall be analyzed; and 6) takes other steps as prescribed that are connected with or incidental to the aforesaid matters.

The Department of Animal Production and Health is the state institution responsible for providing technical leadership to the livestock industry and its stakeholders. It controls the import of livestock, animal products, animal byproducts, and animal feed at the border. However, if the animal feed derives from a plant ingredient(s), the DAPH and the NPQS share responsibility. The import of such requires prior approval of both the DAPH and National Plant Quarantine Service. The Animal Feed Act No. 15 (1986) stipulates that no person shall manufacture or import any animal feed or animal feed ingredient without a valid license issued by the Registrar of Animal Feed. Entities desiring a license to manufacture any animal feed for sale must apply to the Registrar.

Four categories of consignments requiring animal quarantine inspection and sampling:

- Live animals
- Animal product and animal byproducts
- Animal feeds and feed ingredients
- Veterinary drugs and biologicals

Plant Protection Act No. 35 (1999): The National Plant Quarantine Service is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of the Plant Protection Act No. 35 (1999) as it pertains to plant quarantine activities. The Director General of Agriculture is responsible for the general administration of the act, nominating officers necessary for assisting in conducting the act's provisions. The Plant Protection Act No. 35 (1999) requires that exports to Sri Lanka adhere to phytosanitary requirements (including quarantine) specified in the NPQS issued import permit.

Agricultural product imports require a phytosanitary certificate. However, not all commodities require an import permit. Low-risk, regular bulk commodities enter freely without import permits and or without phytosanitary certificates.

Sri Lanka's sole law specific to the issue of genetic engineering (GE) is the [Control of Import, Labeling and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods Regulations \(2006\)](#) (known as the GM Food Regulations) under the [Food Act No. 26 \(1980\)](#). Provisions of existing laws, however, are used to control, check, and ban the introduction of GE products. The import and sale of GE products, including ingredients for human consumption are highly restricted. Products intended for human consumption that contain GE ingredients must receive the approval of Sri Lanka's Chief Food Authority.

Sri Lanka's general quarantine procedure for the import of plant and plant products does not permit the entry of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and living modified organisms (LMOs). The absence of a functioning approval mechanism effectively bans the sale of seeds and other agricultural products derived from genetic engineering. Sri Lanka has yet to approve food products with GE ingredients.

Import and Export Control Act No. 01 (1969): The Import and Export Act No. 01 (1969) established Sri Lanka's Department of Imports and Exports Control, with the objective of controlling imports and exports. The department implements the government's import and export policy decisions premised on national security, economic considerations, public health, environmental concerns, and or other determinants, in accordance with the act. It is the regulatory body responsible for imports and exports subject to licensing requirements. The department establishes and publishes regulations for the implementation of the government's import and export policies. These regulations control the import and or export of select commodities or items subject to import and export licensing.

Sri Lanka Customs, a non-ministerial organization established by the Customs Ordinance No. 17 (1869), processes food items' inspection and certification. The Director General of the Customs is the chief authority, and, in addition, there are five Additional Director Generals. Major functions of the department include the collection of customs duties, levies on the behalf of other government authorities, and securing the nation's ports-of-entry.

World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement: On May 31, 2016, Sri Lanka submitted its Trade Facilitation Agreement's (TFA) instrument of ratification to the World Trade Organization. To meet its requirements, in June 2014, Sri Lanka established the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC). The Director General of Customs and the Director General of Commerce co-chair the NTFC, which consists of twelve state agencies and seven private sector chambers of commerce. The committee coordinates interagency TFA implementation activities, as well as other trade facilitation initiatives.

Major Trade Barriers Identified

Sri Lanka requires poultry meat to meet stringent, trade restrictive microbiological standards. The standards require that product samples be salmonella-free. Sri Lanka's draft [Food \(Meat and Meat Products\) Regulations \(2018\)](#) include the same standards for meat and meat products. The Food Act No. 26 (1980) designates that only the [Medical Research Institute \(MRI\)](#) based in Colombo can conduct microbiological testing, which results in the testing being time-consuming and subject to delay.¹

Since March 2020, Sri Lanka has implemented temporary import controls and tariff revisions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19's effects on the economy. On July 16, 2020, the government again revised temporary import controls. The July 2020 regulation applies to commodities/products loaded on or after July 17, 2020, though differing dates are stipulated for specific commodities/products (based on the payment terms). The regulation is flexible for the import of raw materials for local value addition, and export processing. The measures are affecting U.S. food and agricultural commodity exports to Sri Lanka (see, [GAIN-SRI LANKA | CE2020-0012 | Sri Lanka Revises Import Control Regulations Further on July 16 Due to COVID-19](#) and the [Sri Lanka Department of Imports and Exports Control](#)).

¹ The city of Colombo is Sri Lanka's business capital. The country's official administrative capital is in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (Kotte). Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is a small satellite city, located within the urban area of Sri Lanka's de facto economic, executive, and judicial capital, Colombo.

SECTION II – LABELING REQUIREMENTS

General Labeling Requirements

The [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2005\)](#) regulate general food labeling in Sri Lanka. The regulations require package or container labeling with the label printed in any two of the three languages (i.e., Sinhala, Tamil, or English). The label must be indelibly printed, painted, or affixed on the main panel (for imports, affixing a supplementary label is permissible). The regulation does not apply to packaged food weighed, counted, and or measured in the consumer's presence.

Packaging main panel must contain:

- The bolded common name of the contents which must appear in two of the three languages.
- Brand or trade name, if any, in any one or more of the three languages.
- Net contents of the package expressed in international symbols: grams (g); kilograms (kg); milliliters (ml); and or liters (l).

Packaging needs to contain on a panel, except in the case of prepacked food products that do not exceed 25 grams, the following:

- Permitted food additives by name or INS number.
- Storage and use instructions.
- Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor in Sri Lanka.
- Batch number.
- Date of expiry and manufacture (imported bulk food – date of manufacture and repacking) in the format of DD/MM/YY or YY/MM/DD. The expiry date can be on the bottle closure for bottled milk and carbonated milk cans – lid or top/bottom of the can. A date of expiry is not required for sugar, tea, cereals, and pulses sold in wholesale packs, fresh vegetables, fruits, roots, and tubers, and for bread (other than sliced bread).
- List of ingredients by common names in descending order of their proportions.
- Country of origin (for imported food).
- For foods treated with ionizing radiation, or utilizing ingredients of same effect, it must carry a written statement in proximity to the common name of the food, indicating the international weight/volume symbol.
- Any other declarations required by regulations.

Special regulations apply for, but are not limited to:

- Blended oil.
- Fruit-based beverages for direct consumption or reconstitution.
- Carbonated soft drinks.
- Vinegar.
- Use of fruits and pictorial presentation of fruits on non fruit-based confectionaries, chocolates, biscuits, similar products, drink mixes, dessert preparations.
- Special nutritive values.

- Enriched food.
- Special dietary use.
- Use of terminology relating to medicinal property and use for specified illnesses.
- Irradiated products, or when an irradiated product is used an ingredient of a product.
- Use of “butter” in the label of chocolates and flour confectionary products.
- Use of “natural.”
- Use of “substitute.”

Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Health’s draft Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2021) are currently under review. Once approved, and implemented, these regulations will replace the [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2005\)](#). The ministry has also drafted in 2021 the Food (Trans-Fat) Regulations (2021), which are also under review. This regulation requires all packaged foods to declare the total amount of trans-fat on the label as per 100 grams or 100 milliliters. Food products manufactured exclusively for export are exempted from the regulation’s requirements.

Shelf Life of Imported Food: Under the [Food \(Shelf Life of Imported Food Items\) Regulation \(2011\)](#), the Food Control Administration Unit regulates the shelf life of imported food products. At the point-of-entry into Sri Lanka, the food should still have a minimum of 60 percent of its shelf life. The regulation states that the shelf life of an imported food is determined from the date-of-manufacture and the date-of-expiry declared by the manufacturer. During this time, the product is considered safe for human consumption and of satisfactory quality in terms of nutritional value, flavor, texture, and appearance. [Exemptions: An August 14, 2015 amendment exempts imported sugar, cereals and pulses in wholesale packs, fresh fruits and vegetables, bulbs, roots and tubers which have not been peeled or cut from the food shelf life regulation].

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Labeling Food Sweeteners: The [Food \(Sweeteners\) Regulations \(2014\)](#) provides labeling guidelines for use of combined, permitted sweeteners. The label shall provide the total percentage of the combination of sweeteners, not to exceed one hundred percent.

The label must contain:

- A description with “contains permitted sweeteners “X” and “Y.”
- A warning “Excessive consumption may induce laxative effects” when it contains polyols (Sorbitol, Xylitol, Lactitol, Mannitol, Maltitol, Erythritol) or Isomalt.
- When aspartame is present, the warning “Shall not be used by phenylketonurics” and “Not recommended for children.”

Labeling Food Antioxidants: As per the [Food \(Antioxidants\) Regulations \(2009\)](#), every package, or container of food with permitted antioxidants must include a legible label stating:

- For each permitted antioxidant, the common or usual name, the appropriate International Numbering System (INS) number, and the percentage of each antioxidant present in the preparation in the container.

- Where any other substance is present in the preparation, the common or usual name or an appropriate INS number of each such substance.
- If two or more such substances are present, the proportion of each permitted antioxidant and of each other substance present in the preparation.

Labeling Food Preservatives: The [Food \(Preservatives\) Regulation \(2019\)](#) mandates that the label on every package or container of food declares the added permitted preservative as specified in the Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulation (2005). The regulation requires a label stating:

- For each permitted preservative, the common name, and INS number.
- Where more than one substance is present, the common NAMES and INS numbers.
- Where a permitted preservative is admixed with a diluent, the proportions of the diluent and the preservative present, in the diluted preparation.

Labeling Food Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers: The [Food \(Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers\) Regulations \(2013\)](#) require the labeling of flavoring substances and enhancers to comply with the provisions of the Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2005). The label printed on, or attached to the package of food should state:

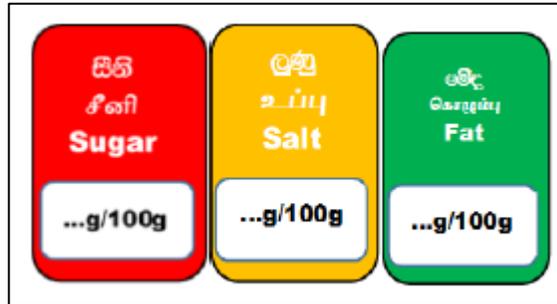
- A natural flavoring substance as an ingredient, including the words “natural (X) flavor” - (X).
- The description of the flavor (e.g., natural mango flavor, natural chicken flavor).
- Nature - identical flavoring substance as an ingredient, include “nature - identical (X) flavor.”
- An artificial flavoring substance as an ingredient, include the words “artificial (X) flavor.”
- Any flavor enhancer or enhancers as an ingredient, include the words “flavor enhancer used” or “flavor enhancers used,” along with the common name or names and the INS number.
- Number or numbers.
- The label printed on or attached to the package of food shall not describe any nature - identical flavors in conjunction with any food as “natural flavors.”

Labeling of GE Food: Sri Lankan trade regulations require the mandatory labeling of imported goods with genetically engineered ingredients under [Control of Import, Labeling and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods Regulations \(2006\)](#) under the [Food Act, No. 26 \(1980\)](#) (known as the GM Food regulations). All food product imports with a content greater than 0.5 percent (by volume) of GE-derived ingredients require prior approval.

Labeling of Sugar, Salt, and Fat Containing Foods: The [Food \(Color Coding for Sugar, Salt and Fat\) Regulations \(2019\)](#) regulate solid and semi-solid food. Locally manufactured and imported foods retail containers require labeling for sugar, salt (sodium) and or fat content (see, [GAIN-SRI LANKA | CE2020-0001 | Food Color Coding for Sugar-Salt-Fat Regulations 2019](#)). The regulation’s effective date is June 1, 2019, with an extended grace period running until June 30, 2021.

For each of the components (sugar, salt, and or fat), the regulation: 1) defines the dimensions of the logo; 2) requires that the logo be displayed in Sinhala, Tamil, and English languages; 3) indicates the format of the quantitative descriptions of the package content; and 4) the color coding to be specified for each component on the packaging. For each component (sugar, salt, and fat), the logo will display in

green, yellow, or red color, based on the content of those ingredients in 100 grams. Green signals healthy and safe levels of sugar, salt, or fat. Yellow suggests caution. While red signals an unhealthy level of sugar, salt, and or of fat.



The provisions of the regulation do NOT apply to the following:

- Primary agricultural products.
- Spices, condiments, curry mixtures or flavoring mixtures sold in a separate pack.
- Food for special dietary uses.
- Any food package, where the food is of the nature, quality, quantity, origin, or brand requested by the purchaser and which are weighed, counted, or measured in the presence of the purchaser.
- Bulk packages if the retail packages meet the specified regulations.
- Infant milk formulations.
- Products packaged solely for export purposes.
- Any solid or semi-solid food upon reconstitution as per directions of the label of the container of such food where such food becomes a liquid at consumption level; or
- Solid or semi-solid food manufactured before the date on which these regulations took effect.

Labeling Animal Feed: The Animal Feed Act No. 15 (1986) requires affixing or printing a label on every container of animal feed sold. The label should include the following details in three languages (Sinhala, Tamil, and English):

- The trade name of the approved animal feed.
- The common names of the active ingredients of the approved animal feed.
- A statement of the composition of the approved animal feed expressed on a weight percentage basis, and in the case of liquid formulation, expressed as grams per liter.
- The name and address of the manufacturer.
- A statement as to whether the approved animal feed is a simple feed or a compounded feed
- The statement “Approved animal feed under the Animal Feed Act No. 15 of 1986” shall be the symbol indicating that the animal feed has been declared as an approved animal feed under this act and the license number assigned to it by the Registrar.
- Any other particulars as may be prescribed by the act.

SECTION III – PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

The [Food \(Packaging Materials and Articles\) Regulations \(2010\)](#) regulate any food packaging material, or article, which under normal conditions is injurious to human health and or deteriorates organoleptic properties. It regulates packaging material used in food imports into Sri Lanka. This regulation extends to the manufacture, transport, advertisement for sale, sale, packaging, storing, use or distribution of any food packaging material in Sri Lanka.

The regulation prohibits import of food under the following circumstances:

- If the food is packed in any packaging material or article made of enamel or glazed earthenware which is capable of imparting lead, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, or any other toxic substance or if the material is not resistant to acid as prescribed by the regulation.
- If the food is packaged in rigid or semi-rigid packaging material or article or any vessel made of polyvinyl chloride that contains more than 1 milligram (mg)/kg of vinyl chloride monomer.
- If the food contains more than 0.05 mg/kg of vinyl chloride monomer.
- In any damaged package or container.
- Any vinyl chloride plastic in coating applied to fresh fruits to retain freshness.
- Any bottle, box or other container made of or containing acrylonitrile plastic or container.

Other food packaging requirements (but are not limited to):

- Plastic laminates used for packaging food, all components of laminate, including adhesives and inks, need to be certified by the manufacturer of each individual component, to be of required food grade quality, in compliance with international standards.
- Food may not be packed in packages, containers intended or used for non-food products.
- Some defined food products may not be packed in materials used for any other purpose.
- Any package, container that made from recycled plastic.
- The regulation defines tests for the packages, appliances, containers, and vessels used for storage of food and cooking.

No special packaging instructions are available for animal feed. However, the act authorizes the relevant ministry to issue packing methods and specification regulations.

Packaging Sustainability Measures

On January 21, 2021, the Ministry of Environment published in the Official Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka [notification](#) of revisions to National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980. The 2021 revision (effective March 31, 2021) prohibits the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Their use as packaging materials for agrochemicals is prohibited. Both PET and PVC are utilized in food packaging. The use of these plastic products is prohibited in any process, trade (i.e., for sale or offer for sale), or industry, including sachets having less than or equal to a net volume of 20 milliliters/net weight of 20 grams (except for packing food and medicines).²

² The regulation defines “plastic item” as being a product manufactured using polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, polystyrene, biodegradable plastic, or any

SECTION IV – FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

Food Additives: Depending on the type, food additives fall under several regulations. However, the [Food \(Additives – General\) Regulations \(2019\)](#) sum up all the different types of regulations. The regulation identifies the food additives permitted in food imports, their manufacture, sale, advertisement, and storage and or distribution.

The regulation permits food additives used for technological functions. These are specified in the regulation and covered by the list and limits for the substances published in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, unless regulated by food additives specified in product standards established under the Food Act.

TABLE 1: Sri Lanka, Regulated Food Additives - Technological Functions

CLASS OF FOOD ADDITIVE	TECHNOLOGICAL FUNCTION
Acidity regulators	Alerts or controls the acidity or alkalinity of a food.
Anticaking agents	Reduces the tendency of articles of food to adhere to one another.
Antifoaming agents	Prevents or reduces foaming.
Flour treatment agents	A substance added to flour to improve its baking quality and color.
Color retention agents	Stabilizes, retain, or intensifies the color of food.
Emulsifiers	Substances which when added to food can facilitate uniform dispersion.
Firming agents	Make or keep tissues of fruits or vegetables firm and crisp or interacts with gelling agents to produce or strengthen a gel.
Foaming agents	Make it possible to form or maintain a uniform dispersion of a gaseous phase in a liquid or solid food.
Glazing agents	A substance which is applied to the external surface of a food.
Humectants	Prevents food from drying out by counteracting the effect of a wetting agent atmosphere having a low degree of humidity.
Propellants	A gas, other than air, which expels a food from a container.
Raising/leaving agents	A substance or combination of substance which liberate gas and thereby increase the volume of a dough.
Sequestrant/emulsifying salt	Reacts with trace metals in food, forming tightly bound complexes thereby preventing the auto-oxidation of fats and oils and fat-based products.
Stabilizers	Substances which, when added to food, stabilize emulsion.

Source: Food (Additives – General) Regulations (2019).

The following regulations permit food additives:

- [Food \(Preservatives\) Regulation \(2019\)](#)
- [Food \(Sweeteners\) Regulations \(2014\)](#)
- [Food \(Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers\) Regulations \(2013\)](#)
- [Food \(Antioxidants\) Regulations \(2009\)](#)
- [Food \(Coloring Substances\) Regulation \(2006\)](#) and its amendments

other similar raw material or any mixture thereof. The September 30, 2006 notification of revisions (published in the official gazette on October 10, 2006) to the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980, prohibited (effective [January 1, 2007](#)) the manufacture of polythene or any polythene product of 20 microns or below in thickness for in country use, as well as the sale or use of polythene or any polythene product which is 20 microns or below in thickness.

The draft [Food \(Cereals, Pulses, Legumes and Derived Products\) Regulations \(2020\)](#) establish suggested food additives, as well as their limits in wheat flour, wheat bread, whole meal bread, other leavened products, biscuits, crackers, cookies, wafers, extruded snacks, instant noodles, cakes, processed cereal foods, and malted foods.

The draft [Food \(Fish and Fish Products\) Regulations \(2020\)](#), under review in 2021, list the approved/ permissible food additives for fresh, frozen, chilled and canned fish, Maldives fish,³ dry fish, smoked fish, comminuted fish products, fish (includes prawns and shrimp) paste, and fish sauce.

Food Sweeteners: Sri Lanka does not permit the use of any sweetener in, or on any food specially prepared for infants or young children as per the Food (Sweeteners) Regulations (2014). The regulation establishes the maximum usage amount of each sweetener category depending on the food type.

TABLE 2: Sri Lanka, Permissible Sweeteners

INS NUMBER	PERMITTED SWEETENER	FOODS IN OR ON WHICH PERMITTED SWEETENERS MAY BE USED
420	Sorbitol	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous*
421	Mannitol	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous
950	Acesulfame K	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
951	Aspartame	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
953	Isomalt	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous
954	Saccharin and its sodium potassium and calcium salts	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
955	Sucrose	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
960	Steviol glycoside	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
961	Neotame	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Non-alcoholic drinks, Miscellaneous
965	Maltitol/Maltitol syrup	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous
966	Lactitol	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous
967	Xylitol	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous
968	Erythritol	Desserts and related products, Confectionery, Miscellaneous

Source: Food (Sweeteners) Regulations (2014).

Food Preservatives: Sri Lanka regulates the food preservatives that can be imported and used in food. The Food (Preservatives) Regulation (2019) lists permitted food preservatives per food category.

³ Maldives fish is a cured (dried) tuna fish traditionally produced in the Maldives islands and exported regionally. It is a staple of the Maldivian and Sri Lankan cuisine, as well as of the Southern Indian states and territories of Lakshadweep, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Sri Lanka produces “Maldives fish,” using a similar process and the same geographical labeling nomenclature.

TABLE 3: Sri Lanka, Permissible Preservatives

PERMITTED PRESERVATIVE	INS NUMBER	ALTERNATIVE FORM THE PERMITTED PRESERVATIVE MAY BE USED	INS NUMBER
Sorbic acid	200	Propionic acid	280
Benzoic acid	210	Sodium sorbate	201
		Potassium sorbate	202
		Calcium sorbate	203
Sulphur dioxide	220	Sodium benzoate	211
		Potassium benzoate	212
		Calcium benzoate	213
Ortho-phenyl phenol	231	Sodium sulfite	221
		Sodium hydrogen sulfite	222
		Sodium metabisulfite	223
		Potassium metabisulfite	224
		Potassium sulfite	225
		Potassium hydrogen sulfite	226
		Calcium sulfite	227
Nisin	234	Sodium ortho-phenylphenate	232
Potassium nitrite	249	Sodium propionate	281
Sodium nitrite	250	Calcium propionate	282
		Potassium propionate	283

Source: Food (Preservatives) Regulation (2019).

TABLE 4: Sri Lanka, Food Categories, Permissible Preservatives

SPECIFIED FOOD (CATEGORY)	PERMITTED PRESERVATIVES
Dairy Products	Sorbates/ Propionates/ Nisin
Fat emulsions of type water-in-all	Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates
Fruits, vegetables, and artificially flavored drinks	Sulfites/ ortho-phenyl phenol/ Sodium ortho-phenylphenate/ Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates
Water based flavored drinks	Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates/ Benzoates
Vegetable products (including mushrooms, roots, tubers, pulses, legumes, and nuts)	Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates
Carbohydrates, cereals, and their products	Sorbates/ Sulfites
Cereals and cereal products	Sorbates/ Propionates/ Nisin
Egg, fish, poultry, meat, and their products	Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates/ Nitrites
Sauces, soups, and miscellaneous items	Sorbates/ Sulfites/ Propionates

Source: Food (Preservatives) Regulation (2019).

Antioxidants: Sri Lanka permits food with certain antioxidants under the Food (Antioxidants) Regulations (2009). The regulations list permitted antioxidants and the maximum permissible levels are for use in edible fats and oils, margarine, fat spread, salad oils, lard and drippings and essential oils. The regulation does not allow the use of antioxidants on food intended for infants or young children. The regulation provides the type of food and antioxidant with the amounts permitted for each.

TABLE 5: Sri Lanka, Permissible Antioxidants

ANTIOXIDANT	INS NUMBER
Propyl gallate	310
Octyl gallate	311
Dodecyl gallate or Mixtures thereof	312
Butylated Hydroxy anisole (BHA)	320
Tert-Butyl hydroquinone (TBHQ)	319
Ascorbyl palmitate/ Stearate	304 305

Source: Food (Antioxidants) Regulations (2009).

Flavoring and Flavor Enhancers: Sri Lankan regulations define a negative list of food flavors under the Food (Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers) Regulations (2013). The regulations identify a positive list of flavor enhancers. Permissible flavor enhancers, however, may not be in any food for infants or children below three years of age, or any food listed under any the food categories in Table 7.

The flavoring substance or flavor enhancers require certification as safe and suitable for use in food by the relevant authority in the country of origin or manufacturer. Permissible solvents in flavoring substances found in the regulation (other than water), must conform to British or U.S. pharmacopoeia standards.

TABLE 6: Sri Lanka, Permissible Food Use Flavorings, Enhancers

FLAVORING SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED IN FOOD USE		FLAVOR ENHANCERS PERMITTED IN FOOD USE
(1) Aloin	(11) Eugenol methyl ether	(a) Monosodium glutamate - INS 621
(2) Berberine	(12) Hypericin	(b) Disodium 5' – guanylate - INS 627
(3) Beta-azarone and cinnamyl anthracillate	(13) Nitrobenzene	(c) Disodium 5' – inosinate - INS 631
(4) Cade oil	(14) Pyroligenous acid	
(5) Calamus oil	(15) Safrole and Iso-safrole	
(6) Cocaine	(16) Santonin	
(7) Coumarin	(17) Sassafras oil	
(8) Diethylene glycol	(18) Thujone, Iso-thujone, (& β thujone)	
(9) Diethylene glycol mono-ethyl ether	(19) Tonka bean (<i>Dipteryx odorata</i>)	
(10) Estragole	(20) Any other flavoring substance that is injurious or likely to be injurious to health	

Source: Food (Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers) Regulations (2013).

TABLE 7: Sri Lanka, Permissible Solvents, Foods in Which Flavor Enhancers are Prohibited

PERMITTED SOLVENTS	FOODS IN WHICH FLAVOR ENHANCERS ARE PROHIBITED	FOODS IN WHICH FLAVOR ENHANCERS ARE PROHIBITED
(1) Dacetine (glycerin diacetate, glyceryl diacetate, glycerol diacetate)	(1) Milk and Milk Products	(13) Sago
(2) Diethyl ether	(2) Ice cream and frozen desserts	(14) Pastas and noodles (only dried products)
(3) Ethyl acetate	(3) Fats and oils	(15) Malt-based foods and milk-based foods
(4) Ethyl alcohol	(4) Margarine and Fat Spreads	(16) Bakery products
(5) Glycerol	(5) Fresh, surface treated, peeled, or cut fruits and vegetables	(17) Fresh meat, poultry and game, whole pieces, or cuts or comminuted
(6) Isopropyl alcohol	(6) Mushrooms and their products	(18) Fresh fish and mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms
(7) Propylene glycol	(7) Fruit wines	(19) White sugar, brown sugar and sucrose, fructose, glucose (dextrose), xylose, sugar solutions and syrups, also (partially) inverted sugars, jaggery, treacle, sugar toppings, other sugars and syrups, bee honey
(8) Triacetin (glycerin triacetate, glyceryl triacetate, glycerol triacetate)	(8) All fruit and vegetable products except fruit powders, vegetable powders, instant fruit, and vegetable chutney	(20) Sugar confectionery
(9) Water	mix (dry)	(21) Ice - candies
	(9) Vinegar	(22) Culinary herbs, spices, condiment powder and curry powder except special curry mixtures and flavoring mixtures in sachets
	(10) Food grains, pulses, oil seeds and ground/powdered food grains	(23) Black tea, green tea, coffee, herbal extracts, and cereal beverages
	(11) Whole, broken, or flaked grains, including rice	(24) Baking powder
	(12) Edible flours and starches	(25) Cocoa butter and Cocoa products

Source: Food (Flavoring Substances and Flavor Enhancers) Regulations (2013).

Irradiation: Sri Lanka requires that imports of irradiated food comply with the [Food \(Irradiation\) Regulations \(2005\)](#). The shipping documents must accompany consignments and include:

- Proper labeling documentation.
- Documentation that the food irradiation facility concerned is duly licensed; and
- A certificate from the country of origin's competent authority attesting to the inspection of the food by it.

SECTION V – PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Sri Lanka does not have import control regulations for maximum-residue-levels (MRLs) or allowable limits for heavy metals. However, some regulations specify testing for pesticides in food products such as dry chili, fresh fruits, potatoes, and onions. The draft [Food \(Cereals, Pulses, Legumes and Derived Products\) Regulations \(2020\)](#) indicate the allowable limits for the presence of heavy metals in cereals, pulses, legumes, and derived products thereof should not exceed: 0.23 mg/kg Lead (as Pb); 0.1 mg/kg Arsenic (as As); and 0.2 mg/kg Cadmium (as Cd). The regulation specifies MRLs for rice, maize, sorghum, and wheat flour and mycotoxin limits for cereals and cereal products.

Products such as milk powder and infant formula require certification confirming that such products are free of melamine and DCD. The Food (Melamine in Milk and Milk Products) Regulations (2010), effective January 1, 2011, prohibit both the import and domestic use of milk or milk products containing melamine in levels exceeding 1.0 mg/kg (parts per million). The health certificate from the national food safety authority of the country of origin and/or of the country of export, must conform to the regulation's specified levels. The Atomic Energy Board (AEB) of Sri Lanka assesses consignments for radioactive level conformity. Fresh or frozen fish require testing for formaldehyde contamination levels. Fish- and shrimp-meal export certificates require declarations of freedom from non-protein nitrogenous compounds, including melamine or its derivatives.

In 2019, Sri Lanka similarly drafted regulations for mycotoxins. The draft Food (Mycotoxins) Regulations (2020) establishes the maximum permissible level for mycotoxins in imported and domestic foods sold within the country.

The draft [Food \(Fish and Fish Products\) Regulations \(2020\)](#), stipulate permissible levels for the presence of heavy metals in fresh, frozen, chilled and canned fish, Maldives fish, dried fish, smoked fish, comminuted fish products, fish paste (includes prawns and shrimp), and fish sauce.

SECTION VI – OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

General Requirements

The certification requirements for imported food products differ by product. Veterinary certificates are required for meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products. Further product processing in a third country during transit requires appropriate certification from the transit country.

Animal Feed Imports

Only registered animal feed importers and licensed animal feed manufacturers can import permitted raw materials for their own feed mixing operations. They must refrain from selling raw material in the local market. The Department of Animal Production and Health's Registrar of Animal Feeds is the authorized registration officer. Separate [applications](#) are required for different feeds; Sri Lanka considers differing nutrient compositions as different feeds.

The importer and or feed manufacturer must submit a request letter along with a proforma invoice, veterinary health certificate, draft label, composition of feed, and other required information for approval. The Animal Feed Advisory Committee (AFAC) reviews new products, requiring submission of product registration in the country of export, product registration in other countries, records of evaluations, certification of composition stability, and other requested details in the application.

The import of animal feed raw material is permissible only from states free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). For product coming from plants in the proximity of HPAI presence, the site location must be over 100 kilometers from reported outbreak areas. Import clearance requests require the following:

- An HPAI-free certificate issued by the competent national veterinary authority.
- A map or sketch indicating HPAI infected areas, storage, and transportation route to the port of loading.
- Compulsorily fumigation using methyl bromide prior to loading. An original fumigation certificate is required for clearance.

The Department of Animal Production animal feed import guidelines are publicly available at [Animal Feed Import Guidelines](#).

Import of Fish- and Shrimp-Meal: Fish- and shrimp-meal imports are permissible only from registered and accredited exporters or suppliers operating in accordance with the respective regulatory requirements of the exporting countries. The international veterinary export certificate should carry additional declarations including freedom from non-protein nitrogenous compounds, including melamine or its derivatives and that the product is heat processed to ensure the destruction of all pathogenic organisms including the HPAI virus. Sri Lanka's draft [Food \(Fish and Fish Products\) Regulations \(2020\)](#) specify quality standards, microbiological standards, heavy metal contamination levels, approved food additives for the import of fish- and shrimp-meal.

Import of Pet Food: Import of pet food containing ruminant materials is permissible only from *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*- (BSE) free countries.

Import of Meat and Bone Meal (MBM): MBM is a licensed product under the Import and Export Control Act, to prevent the entry into Sri Lanka of *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*. Imports are permissible only from BSE-free countries. Imports require the following:

- Details of the manufacturing or processing establishment including the profile of the company, manufacturing process, and the registration number assigned by the responsible national competent authority of the respective country.
- Quality assurance certification obtained from accredited certifying agencies/bodies.
- Certificate of analysis for composition and stability data obtained from an accredited laboratory.
- Certification of country of origin and original invoice are required at the time of inspection.

Import of Meat, Meat Products, By-Products, Poultry and Poultry Products

The Import and Export Control Act regulates the import of ruminants, ruminant products, and ruminant by-products to prevent the entry of *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*. Such product imports require BSE clearance from the Director General of the DAPH; [import procedures are available at this link](#).

All other animal products and by-products imports require prior approval from the Department of Animal Production and Health Director General. Approval to [import meat, meat products](#), and [frozen fish](#) requires submission of the following:

- An application.
- A *proforma* invoice.
- Country of origin certificate (if the country of export is different).
- Microbiological test report (evaluated to assess suitability for human consumption – depending on the product, the requirements may differ).
- Specimen of the International Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the national authority.

Meat, meat products, [gelatin, and edible offal](#), [poultry meat products and egg products](#), require declarations pertaining to processing procedures, processing plant registration, and certification from the exporting country. Poultry meat and processed poultry products require additional declarations on the veterinary health certificate for freedom from HPAI, for processed poultry products - certification of time/temperature combination process followed to destroy influenza viruses. The Department of Animal Production and Health regularly reviews disease outbreaks and conducts risk analyses. The department makes determinations based on risk assessments that take three-to-seven days. Meat, meat products, frozen fish, gelatin, and edible offal consignments failing to meet Sri Lanka Standards Institution standards require re-export or destruction.

Sri Lanka does not allow chicken imports except for its Temporary Importation for Export Processing scheme ([TIEP](#)).

Sri Lanka will not release poultry products not fit for human consumption.⁴ The importer or the agent must submit upon arrival of goods for clearance the following:

- Customs declaration form (duly endorsed).
- Import Permit/Import approval original from the DAPH (importers copy).
- International Veterinary Health Certificate and other declarations (originals).
- Certificate of Origin - Country of Origin (originals).
- Bill of Lading.
- Invoice.
- Packing list.
- Delivery Order.
- Other certificates ex: Treatment certificate (fumigation certificate, phytosanitary certificate, CITES, fisheries approval).

⁴ Poultry products include mechanically deboned meat, other types of poultry meat, chicken powder, egg powder, and other types of chicken and egg products.

Plant Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements

Sri Lanka requires that all phytosanitary certificates reference the import permit corresponding to the shipment, but not all commodities require an import permit. Low-risk regular bulk commodities are permitted entry without import permits or without phytosanitary certificates. Permit issuance normally takes two weeks, and the validity period of an import permit is three months. National Plant Quarantine Service [import requirements are publicly available at this link](#).

Sri Lanka prohibits/restricts imports of tropical fruits and vegetables⁵. Other fruits and vegetables for consumption are not permissible from countries where fruit flies (family *Tephritidae*) occur. The exporting country must specify that the products be from an area free of the fruit fly, with the products treated in an approved manner. [A list of prohibited/restricted plant products is available at this link](#).

The import clearance process requires the original NPQS-issued import permit (IP), original copies of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country, treatment certificates, additional declarations, and other documents as required in the import permit.

Facility Registration: Registration details of the establishment assigned by the exporting country are required for select products including meat and meat products, poultry products, gelatin, and edible offal imports. The import of baby chicks is permissible only from hatcheries registered with the DAPH, through the importer. Registration recurs every six months. Other live animal imports take place in accordance with negotiated bilateral health protocols between the two countries.

Product Registration - Prior Approval: Not all products require prior approval for import. Food and feed products requiring importing licensing, due to domestic policy priorities, require prior approval of the Department of Imports and Exports Control. Certain food products with biosecurity risks require an import permit from the National Plant Quarantine Service. The restriction or prohibition of import is sometimes a decision of biosecurity, but otherwise a policy decision. Of food imports, mainly fresh vegetables, tropical fruits, temperate fruits (usually not allowed), rice, wheat, maize for animal feed, grains for animal feed, groundnut, beans, coconut, and spices require the NPQS' [import approval](#). All animals, animal products (except dairy products) and animal feed require prior DAPH approval.

Infant formula and bottled drinking water require prior FCAU approval. Sri Lanka has an adopted standard for infant milk formulae under the [Food \(Adoption of Standards\) Regulation \(2008\)](#). Imports of both infant formulae and follow up formulae should comply with the SLS1387 and SLS651. Product registration must be renewed annually or if the composition is changed. The application for approval accompanies the analytical report of the product on chemical, microbiology, DCD, melamine and radioactivity, product sample, and the product label.

⁵ The Plant Protection Ordinance (Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 165/2, of Monday, November 02, 1981) lists prohibited/restricted plants. The import into Sri Lanka of the plants is prohibited or restricted except if imported under Regulation 14 or Regulation 15: any plant capable of further growth or propagation, and originating in the American tropics or any country in which South American Leaf Blight (*Microcyclusulei*) occurs; South American countries where leaf blight is present (Brazil, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fr. Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela).

Wheat Grains Import Regulations: Sri Lanka's NPQS has revised wheat grains import regulations. Previously the national authority had issued a blanket approval for the import of wheat for flour milling for human consumption. The blanket approvals were revoked in December 2020 and were replaced with import permits valid for one-year. Permits for U.S.-origin wheat consignments now include additional declarations. FAS Colombo\New Delhi (Post) and APHIS New Delhi's successfully negotiated with the NPQS additional declaration language that meet Sri Lanka's phytosanitary requirements, while remaining consistent with APHIS export certification policy. Sri Lanka is now also permitting wheat imports for animal feed milling, but under highly restrictive entry conditions. Sri Lanka's import requirements effectively disallow U.S.-origin feed wheat imports (see, [GAIN-SRI LANKA | CE2021-0006 | Sri Lanka Updates Foreign-Origin Wheat Import Requirements](#)).

Import of Alcoholic Beverages

The [Excise Department of Sri Lanka](#) regulates alcoholic beverages production and distribution within the country. It regulates imports of alcoholic beverages.

Import of Fertilizers and Agrochemicals

On May 6, 2021, Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance Mahinda Rajapaksa, in accordance with Section 20 read together with Sub-Section 4(1) and Section 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Act No. 48 of 1985 and Act No. 28 of 1987, promulgated the "Imports and Exports (Control) Regulations No. 07 of 2021 (regulation), effective its publication in the Sri Lanka Gazette (No. 2226/48 of May 6, 2021). The Sri Lankan government is restricting and banning the import of fertilizers and agrochemicals (including insecticides and herbicides) (see, [GAIN-SRI LANKA | CE2021-0007 | Sri Lanka Restricts and Bans the Import of Fertilizers and Agrochemicals](#)). The regulation is applicable to the import of goods with bills of lading/air waybills issued on or after May 6, 2021. Following months of mass protests by farmers and a surge in food price inflation, the Sri Lankan government on December 1, 2021, removed the ban on the use and import of chemical fertilizers. The seven months that the ban was in place devastated agricultural production in the Yala 2021 (May to end of August) and Maha 2021-22 (September to March) seasons, with rice production yields dropping no less than 50 percent.

SECTION VII – OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Imported products must conform to the standards listed in the [Food \(Adoption of Standards\) Regulation \(2008\)](#), and the [Imports and Exports Control \(Standardization and Quality Control\) Regulation \(2017\)](#). Food product evaluation follows conformity assessment procedures and the guidelines of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution. Compliance certificates issued by an accredited laboratory of the country of export go to the SLSI Director.

The draft Food (Trans-Fat) Regulations (2021) specify labeling requirements for trans-fats. It defines the maximum level for trans-fat (other than naturally occurring animal origin fat) in imported food or food for final consumer use. The level is not to exceed 2.0 grams/100 grams of total fat contained in the food. The regulation restricts the use of partially hydrogenated oils in the manufacture, import, or any other use, restricting its use in food preparation or use as a food ingredient.

Halal Certification: In Sri Lanka, halal certification is voluntary. There are no specific laws or regulations regulating halal certification. The Halal Accreditation Council (Guarantee) Limited (HAC) is the sole certifying body; it conducts internationally accepted halal compliance audits.

SECTION VIII – TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

In 2002, Sri Lanka passed the [Intellectual Property Act No 36](#). The act establishes the [National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka](#) for the registration, administration of industrial designs, patents, marks, and any other matters. Provisions of the act include, but are not limited to, regulation of the rights of an owner of an industrial design and rights of an owner of a patent. The Intellectual Property Act also introduces amendments to the Custom Ordinance; it prohibits the import and export of counterfeit trademark goods or pirated copyright goods or any other goods in contravention.

SECTION IX – IMPORT PROCEDURES

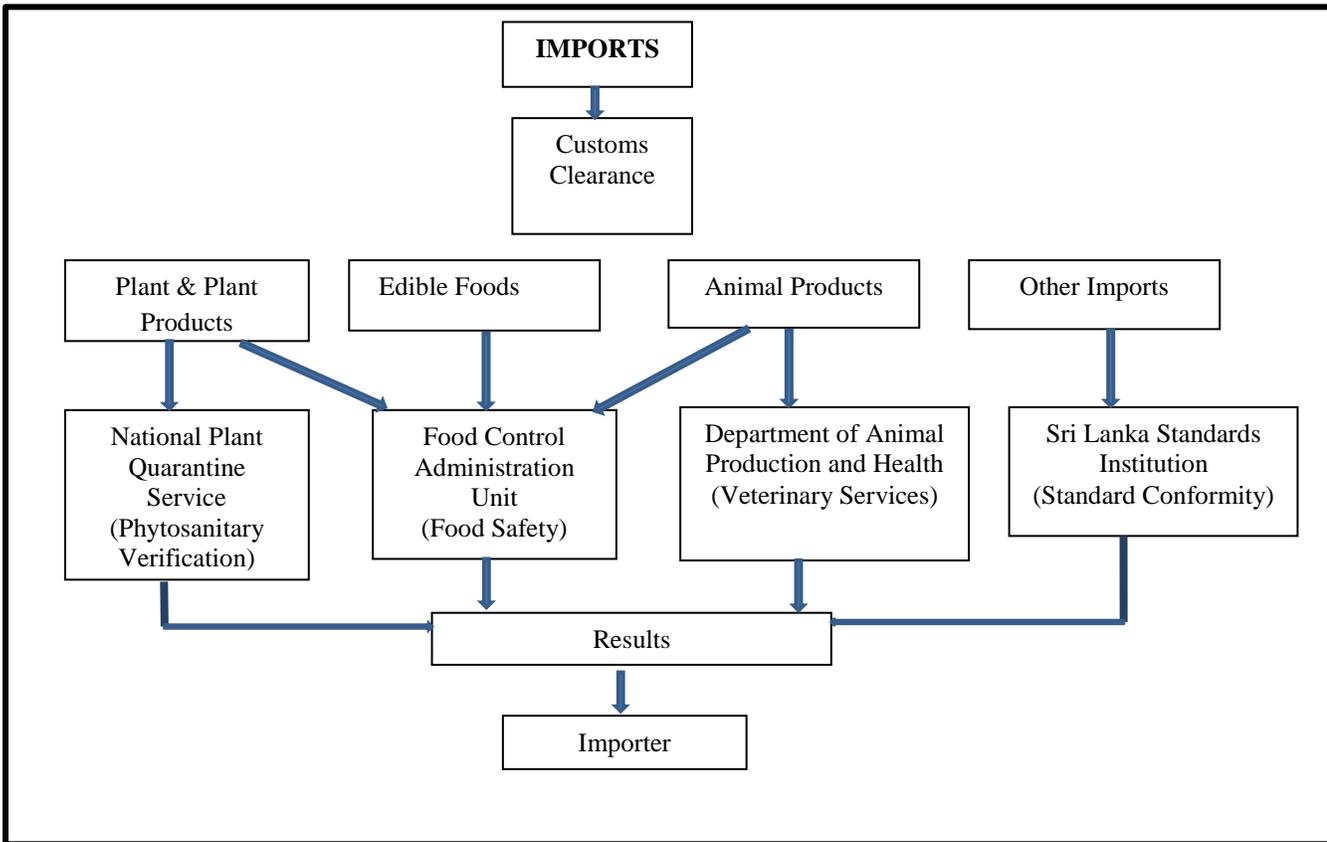
Sri Lankan regulations require prior registration of all importers. Registration for a tax identification number and payment of related value added tax, in compliance with paragraph 115A of the Customs Ordinance are mandatory. The importer signs the ‘Importers Proxy, while a licensed customs house agent signs the ‘Acceptance Proxy.’ Except for the licensed products, which require an import license from the Department of Imports and Exports Control of Sri Lanka and that are not subject to specific sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, other products can proceed with the importation by submitting a declaration to Sri Lanka Customs. Importers often rely on customs brokers or their own staff to check on shipments and to clear products through customs. There is no requirement for translation of documents to the local language.

Importers declare imports through the ASYCUDA system’s CUSDEC (customs declaration). After payment of duties and levies, submission of hard copies of the following documents occurs for shipment release. Calculation of duties follows the transaction value as per the commercial invoice.

- Copy of the CUSDEC.
- Bill of lading.
- Original commercial invoice.
- Certificate of origin (varies by product).
- Export/health certificate (varies by product).
- Packing lists.
- Certificate of insurance.
- Payment guarantees from a local bank advising of payment transfer to the supplier.
- Import permit (issued to Sri Lankan importer for licensed products).

Sri Lanka’s three major ports are Colombo, Trincomalee, and Hambantota, with most food imports clearing at the Port of Colombo.

FIGURE 1: Sri Lanka, Import Control Procedures



Source: FAS Sri Lanka office research.

Food Sample Imports (Trade Show, Non-Commercial Distribution)

Sri Lanka permits food sample imports in small quantities. The import of a food sample is dependent on the product being imported and is determined on the food safety risk associated with the product and the justification for its import. Imports of small quantities of most food products, apart from high-risk items (e.g., fish, eggs, meat, meat products, and milk), are permissible without prior approval.

What is required for food sample(s) import clearance is that the commercial invoice include a cover letter with a justification for the import. Only low-risk food sample products may enter the country without an import permit or prior approval. At the time of clearance, the food sample(s), requires labeling stating “testing (or exhibition) purposes only.” Food products that otherwise normally require import permitting and or clearance from Sri Lanka’s national plant quarantine authority are treated on a case-by-case basis.

Animal products, animal by-products, and meat products that are food samples require prior approval from Sri Lanka’s Department of Animal Production and Health. Import procedures for these do not differ from normal, commercial shipments, and follow customary import procedures; import approval is subject to case-by-case consideration. Similarly, animal feed and nutrition supplements samples require the DAPH’s prior import approval. Animal feed sample(s) imports, however, do not require registration; submission of the feed’s technical information is required when requesting the import permit.

SECTION X – TRADE FACILITATION

Sri Lanka is initiating measures to improve transparency and facilitate trade. To assist trade, it is providing access to the national regulatory agencies through online systems.

The [Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal](#) is a one-stop point for import-export information on all government and semi-government regulatory institutions (hosted by the Department of Commerce). Although launched in 2018, newer, more user-friendly functionality continues to expand. The portal improves transparency regarding the country’s trade legislation and procedures. This initiative aligns with the government’s commitment to the WTO, in compliance with the TFA’s Article 1. The portal provides a repository of import-export and in-transit regulatory and procedural information.

The [National Single Window](#) provides access to regulatory agencies’ online systems. This portal facilitates online permit applications, as well as monitors the progress of applications. Sri Lanka’s DAPH, the NPQS, and the Sri Lanka Standards Institute are currently online. Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Finance\Department of Information Technology brought online the country’s regulatory agencies – Sri Lanka Standards Institute, the National Plant Quarantine Service, and the Department of Public Enterprises online in 2021.

The Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal serves as the starting point for an import’s automated processing linking to the National Single Window. The system serves as a single-entry point for opening import permitting applications.

TABLE 8: Sri Lanka, Institutions on the Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal Website

1. Sri Lanka Customs	2. Department of Rubber Development
3. Department of Commerce	4. Department of Agriculture
5. Department of Import and Export Control	6. Board of Investment
7. Department of Foreign Exchange	8. Sri Lanka Standards Institution
9. Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	10. Sri Lanka Tea Board
11. Department of Forest Conservation	12. Sri Lanka Export Development Board
13. Department of Ayurveda (indigenous medicine)	14. Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka
15. Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council	16. National Medicines Regulatory Authority
17. Food Control Administration Unit	18. National intellectual property office of Sri Lanka
19. National Gem and Jewelry Authority	20. The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH)
21. National Dangerous Drugs Control Board	22. Sri Lankan Cargo
23. Department of Trade and Investment Policy	24. The Department of Export Agriculture
25. Ministry of Industry and Commerce	26. The Department of Excise
27. Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development	28. Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA)
29. Department of Inland Revenue	30. Coconut Development Authority
31. Geological Survey and Mines Bureau	32. Department of Wildlife Conservation
33. The Department of Archaeology	34. Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA)
35. Central Environmental Authority	

Source: [Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal Website, 2021](#)

APPENDIX I – GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

U.S. Embassy Sri Lanka\USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs
Physical Address: 210, Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Phone: +94-112-498500/ +94-112498721 • Fax: +94-112-437345 • agnewdelhi@fas.usda.gov

U.S. Embassy New Delhi\USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs
Physical Address: Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi, 110021, India
Phone: +91-112-419-8000 • Fax: +91-112-419-8530 • agnewdelhi@fas.usda.gov

(* NOTE: SEARCH GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>. The GAIN Report System was redesigned in 2019 and includes reports from all previous legacy systems going back to 1995. Because these reports were created in different systems, it might be necessary to try a variety of search options to retrieve older reports. If you have any questions about the GAIN search engines or wish to report unavailable reports, please contact 1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov.

Ministry of Health\Food Control and Administrative Unit

Contact: Dr. Thilak Siriwardhana, Deputy Director
No. 26, Medi-House Building, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10.
Tel: +94-0112-112718 • Tel/Fax: +94-0112-112720
Website: <http://eohfs.health.gov.lk/food/>

Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka

Contact: Dr. W.M.W. Weerakoon, Director General
P.O. Box 01, Peradeniya
Tel: +91-812-388331/32/34 • Email: dgagriculture@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.doa.gov.lk/>

Department of Agriculture\National Plant Quarantine Service

Contact: Dr. WART. Wickramarachchi, Deputy Director
Canada Friendship Road, Katunayake
Tel: +94-112-252028/29 • Fax +94-112-253709 • Email: npqs@doa.gov.lk
Website: www.doa.gov.lk

Department of Animal Production and Health

Contact: Dr. Hemali Kothalawala, Director General
13 Colombo- Kandy Road, Kandy 20400
Tel: +94-812-388195 • Email: dgdaph@sltnet.lk
Website: www.daph.gov.lk

Department of Animal Production and Health

Contact: Dr. V.R.N. Munasighe, Director, Veterinary Regulatory Affairs Division
13 Colombo- Kandy Road, Kandy 20400
Tel: +94-812-389342 • Email: daphimport@yahoo.com
Website: www.daph.gov.lk

Department of Animal Production and Health

Registrar, Animal Feed, Veterinary Regulatory Affairs Division

Contact: Dr. N. Priyankarage

Tel: +94-812-385061 • Email: daph.animalfeed@gmail.com

Website: www.daph.gov.lk

Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Contact: Dr. Siddika Senaratne, Director General

17 Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08

Tel: +94-112-671567-72 • Email: dg@slsi.lk

Website: www.slsi.lk

Department of Commerce

Contact: Mr. Ananda Dharmapriya, Director General of Commerce (Acting)

Rakshana Mandiraya, 21 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02

Tel: +94-112-329733/ +94-112-346114/ +94-112327191/ +94-112-325524/ +94 112-430068

Email: dgc@doc.gov.lk • fortrade@doc.gov.lk

Website: www.doc.gov.lk

Sri Lanka Customs

Contact: Major General (Retired.) G. Vijitha Ravipriya, Director General

No.40, Main Street, Colombo 11

Tel: +94-112-221602-3/ +94-112-221607 • Customs Information Center: +94-112-143434

Email: dgc@customs.gov.lk

Website: <http://www.customs.gov.lk/>

APPENDIX II – OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS**The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce**

50, Navam Mawatha, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94-112-421745-7/ +94-112-5588800 • Fax: +94-112-437477, 2449352, 2381012

Email: info@chamber.lk

Website: <https://www.chamber.lk/>

Attachments:

No Attachments