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## **Jordan**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**

### **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

The report lists and describes certificates that should accompany food and agricultural products to Jordan. It also includes the purpose of each certificate and the governmental agency responsible. In general, an original invoice, bill of lading, health certificate, and certificate of origin are required to accompany any shipment. An export certificate matrix is included in this report. The requirements listed here are for consignments coming directly from the United States to Jordan, or transshipped in a sealed container with invoices stating clearly that the final destination is Jordan. If the consignment is destined to a third country or the container is unsealed in a third country, then other requirements may apply.

## SECTION I: REQUIRED EXPORT CERTIFICATES:

Product (s)	Title of Certification	Attestation Required	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All Products	Export Certificate (FDA Certificate of Free Sale or Sanitary/Health Certificate <sup>1</sup> )		Heath/Free Sale Certificate	MoA, JFDA
	Certificate of Origin (Generally issued by state authorities)		Origin of Product	MoA, JDFA, Customs Authority
Grains and Oilseeds	Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS)		Health Certificate	MoA
	Grain Inspection Certificate (FGIS)		Cargo matches terms of reference	
	Stowage Examination Certificate (FGIS)		Free of pests and contaminants	
Meat, Poultry, and Products <sup>2</sup>	Halal Slaughter Certificate		Religious Certification	MoA
	Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS)	NOTE: Specific attestations are required. See FSIS Export Library for details.	Health Certificate	MoA
Fish and Fish Products	Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA)		Health Certificate	MoA
Dairy Products <sup>3</sup>	Sanitary Certificate (AMS)		Health Certificate	JFDA, Customs Authority
Fruits and Vegetables	Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS)		Phytosanitary Certificate	MoA
Planting Seeds <sup>4</sup>	Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS)		Phytosanitary Certificate	MoA

## SECTION II: PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE

The Jordanian Institute of Standards and Meteorology Organization (JISMO) is responsible for the development of standards and ensuring conformity with existing product standards. General food issues are delegated to the Jordanian Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), while the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) regulates unprocessed agricultural products. The Jordanian Customs Authority reviews import documentation and may request additional documentation or challenge the authenticity of potentially fraudulent documents, prior to customs clearance. US exporters are encouraged to work closely with Jordanian importers in meeting documentation requirements.

The general purpose of required export certificates can be found in the matrix above.

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<sup>1</sup> Export certificates are issued by a number of US agencies, depending on product. Please see agency links for details on obtaining certificates: FDA – Processed Products; AMS – Dairy Products; FGIS – Grains and Oilseeds; FSIS – Meat and Poultry; NOAA – Fish and Seafood Products.

<sup>2</sup> Note that any processed products containing meat or poultry must meet the same requirements listed under Meat, Poultry, and Products.

<sup>3</sup> Exporters of dairy products should note that their facilities must be registered with JFDA prior to export.

<sup>4</sup> Product registration is required by the MoA prior to export of seeds for planting.

### **SECTION III: SPECIAL ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE Meat, Poultry, and Products**

Exporters of animal products are urged to work closely with Jordanian importers, as well as check the FSIS [Export Library](#) frequently for the latest updates – the requirements listed here are subject to change and are strictly scrutinized by customs authorities. In general, products from all federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Jordan; if accompanied by, a Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5) and a Halal Certification. In the case of fresh or frozen poultry, the Certificate of Wholesomeness must note that:

- The poultry originates from a state which is free of OIE List A poultry diseases.
- The poultry and poultry products were produced in accordance to the FSIS National Residue Program.

Jordanian Islamic slaughter practices require that:

- All meat and products of animal origin be accompanied by a halal certificate, with the exception of pork and pork products.
- The halal certificate may be issued by an Islamic association or institution in the state where the slaughter took place, or by any nationally recognized Islamic association.
- The halal certificate should be issued and signed by the approved and licensed Islamic center and each consignment should be accompanied by a halal certificate that includes the date of slaughter
- The halal logo should be on the original label from the producing establishment.

### **SECTION IV: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

According to Article 31 of the Customs Law of 1998 and its amendments, every customs declaration form must include the following:

- A maritime or air bill of lading.
- Commercial invoice indicating value, weight, freight and insurance charges. All invoices should be notarized by the Jordanian diplomatic mission in the country of origin.
- In cases where a Jordanian consulate is not available, certification by the local chamber of commerce is sufficient, subject to the approval of the customs department director.
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority in the exporter's local area.
- Value declaration form for shipments exceeding JD 2,000 (USD 2,820).

#### **Import Licenses**

Raw products arriving to Jordan require a pre-approved import license – these products include: fruits, vegetables, beef, poultry, fish, and eggs. Similarly, powdered milk used in industrial applications and any food product making special dietary claims (i.e. infant formula, nutritional supplements, etc.) must obtain an import license. The Jordanian importer is responsible for obtaining the license from the appropriate ministry, in most cases the Ministry of Agriculture.

Import licenses normally have a validity of three months, unless otherwise stated. For trans-shipments, the import license is valid for two months. Import licenses for chilled meat are normally valid for only one month.

Jordan does not require the original import license at the time of product entry. It will accept a photocopy or fax copy for perishable items (e.g., beef and fruit consignments). Jordan's Customs Authority will release shipments under bond until original documents are submitted. Importers can ship

multiple consignments to Jordan using the same import license until the license's expiration date or the quantity is fulfilled.

### **Registration Requirements**

A few specific products require registration prior to import to Jordan. Most notably, seeds for planting and products making special dietary claims require prior registration. Exporters are encouraged to work closely with Jordanian importers in fulfilling these requirements.

Exporters of dairy products are required to register their facilities with the Jordanian FDA prior to shipment. This registration is a simple verification of the exporting firm's HACCP certification. It requires that the Jordanian importer provide a copy of the exporter's HACCP certificate with a completed application to the JFDA.

A new requirement being implemented in 2017 will require US slaughterhouses to register prior to export to Jordan. This requirement does not require inspection, if the plant is under US federal inspection. The registration is only required once per facility, though it is yet unclear for how long the registration will be valid. Exporters are encouraged to contact the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture or FAS Amman prior to shipment for updates.

### **Banned Products**

Exporters should be aware that Jordan does occasionally ban the import of specific products due to sanitary or phytosanitary concerns. Importers and exporters alike should verify the most recent list of prohibited products prior to shipment. Recently prohibited products include poultry and products from the states of Minnesota and Iowa, as well as onions from all regions of the US.

As of January 2017, dairy products are no longer allowed to contain partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs). This new ban will apply to all processed dairy products, including processed cheese products or similar dairy products that replace milk fat with any other fat. Exporters of these or similar products should ensure that ingredient labels clearly state oil content, such that customs inspectors can easily verify that PHOs are not contained in their products.

The color Tartrazine E102 is now banned as a coloring in pickled preparations, according to Jordanian food standards. This new ban is based on Category 4.2.2 in the EU regulation and Category 4.2.2.3 in the Codex standard.

### **Labeling Requirements**

The Jordan Standards and Meteorology Organization sets labeling requirements. The requirements are fairly standard. A statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required. All labels must be in Arabic, or have an Arabic stick-on label. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer's name and address, net weight, fortifying matter (i.e. vitamins and minerals to powder milk), lot number, and "use before" or "best before" date. Local labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs). Nutritional labeling is mandatory in certain categories of food including infant formula and food for dietary use.

Jordanian officials will scrutinize product labels at border crossing points. Importers are held accountable for the product's content as specified on the label. Jordan has been known to reject

shipments due to labeling errors or omissions.

### Contamination and Testing

Any imported agricultural commodity or food may be inspected and tested to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. Virtually all prepared and mixed foods retested at the border. Products failing to meet standards or found unfit for consumption are removed from distribution and destroyed.

Exporters of raw animal products should note that amended standards for *salmonella* in meat and poultry have been implemented. If pathogenic strains of *salmonella* are found, product will be rejected or destroyed. Additionally, new standards for contaminants in fish have been implemented. The standards outline the maximum limits of infestation and foreign materials present in fish. Exporters are urged to closely review the new standards prior to shipment.

### SECTION V: OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDIATION REQUIREMENTS

Product (s)		
All Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial Invoice</li> </ul>	Must include value, weight, freight, and insurance charges. Must be notarized by the Jordanian diplomatic mission in the country of origin.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill of Lading</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value Declaration</li> </ul>	For all shipments exceeding JD 2,2000 (~USD 2,820).
Vegetable Oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate of Holds Inspection</li> </ul>	Indicates that the vessel is clean and prepared to haul edible oils.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration of Tank Metal</li> </ul>	Indicates the type of metal used to line the tank.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration of Tank Coating</li> </ul>	Indicates the type of paint or lining used.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cargo List</li> </ul>	List of materials carried by the vessel in its previous three trips.
Fruits and Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import License</li> </ul>	An advance import license is required by the MoA prior to shipment.
Meat, Poultry, and Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import License</li> </ul>	An advance import license is required by the MoA prior to shipment.
Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import License</li> </ul>	An advance import license is required by the MoA prior to shipment.
Dairy Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	First time importers of dairy products must first register exporting firms with the JFDA.
Powdered Milk (for industrial use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import License</li> </ul>	An advance import license is required by the MoA prior to shipment.
Products Making Special Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	Must be registered with the JFDA.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import License</li> </ul>	An advance import license is required by the MoA prior to shipment.
Planting Seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	Must be registered with the JFDA.

### CITS

Jordan Customs developed and launched the [Customs Integrated Tariff System \(CITS\)](#) in August 2005

to assist importers. Importers can use this system to monitor commodity tariffs, import requirements, and commodity trade agreements. The CITS system enables importers to review all regulations and requirements of the commodity or product being traded. All CITS system information is available in Arabic and English.

## **APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS**

**U.S. Certificate Issuers:**

USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service: [Dairy Sanitary Certificate](#)

USDA – Food Safety Inspection Service: [Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness](#)

USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [Phytosanitary Certificate](#)

USDA – Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration: [Export Information](#) (Grain inspection, stowage, and analysis certification)

FDA – [Food Export Certificate](#) (Certificate of Free Sale)

**Jordanian Ministries**

Jordan Food & Drug Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 4612663

Fax: (962-6) 4612663

Web-site: [www.jfda.jo](http://www.jfda.jo)

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/5663774

Fax: (962-6) 560-4691

Web-site: [www.mit.gov.jo](http://www.mit.gov.jo)

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate

OR

Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 5686151

Fax: (962-6) 5686310

Web-site: [www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)

Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology

Tel: (962-6) 5680139

Fax: (962-6) 5681099

Web-site: [www.jsmo.gov.jo](http://www.jsmo.gov.jo)

Jordan Customs Department

P.O.Box 90, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6

Fax: (962-6) 464-7791

E-mail: [Customs@Customs.gov.jo](mailto:Customs@Customs.gov.jo)

Web-site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Ministry of Environment

Tel: + (962-6) 5560113

Fax: + (962-6) 5560288

Web-site: <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/>

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority  
P.O.Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan  
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Fax: + (962-6) 3 203 0912  
Web-site: <http://www.aqabazone.com/>

For further assistance, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, PO Box 354, Amman, Jordan, Phone: (962-6) 5906056, Fax: (962-6) 5920146, E-Mail:  
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