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Prepared By: Shaza Omar and Tayo Akingbe

Approved By: Kurt Seifarth

Report Highlights:

In June 2022, Egypt launched a trial phase of the Advanced Clearance Information system (ACI) on airfreight. The government is expected to fully apply the electronic ACI system in October 2022. This comes after the October 1, 2021, launch of the ACI in sea ports. Traders must register within the designated platforms (CargoX for exporters and ACI for importers). The Egyptian government will no longer require Egyptian embassy authentication on certificates of origin. According to the Minister of Finance, when successfully implemented, the new customs system will reduce the average clearance time from the current 28 days to one day. Egypt decided to import chicken parts including leg quarters from US and other countries. The decision is coming after the global developments that caused unprecedented rises in inflation rates. Egypt's halal requirement on dairy and dairy products is still under question.

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Executive Summary

In June 2022, Egypt launched a trial phase of the Advanced Clearance Information system (ACI) on airfreight. The government is expected to fully apply the electronic ACI system in October 2022. On October 1, 2021, Egypt launched the Advanced Clearance Information system (ACI). The newly developed customs system was initially launched in a trial mode on April 1, 2021 and was officially launched in October. Traders must register within the designated platforms (CargoX for exporters and ACI for importers). The Egyptian government will no longer require Egyptian embassy authentication on certificates of origin as noted by the general manager of Misr Technology Services (MTS). According to the Minister of Finance, when successfully implemented, the new customs system will reduce the average clearance time from the current 28 days to one day. A unique ID number is developed by uploading the shipment's documents on the ACID platform and is required on all shipment documents. However, control agencies such as plant quarantine, veterinary quarantine and food safety authority agreed not to include the ACID on the phytosanitary/sanitary and health certificates. In June 2022, Egypt launched a trial phase on Advanced Clearance Information system (ACI) on airfreight. The government is expected to start the application of this system in October 2022.

On December 1, 2021, Egypt published a WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) notification on the expansion of products requiring halal certificates. The products notified included milk and dairy products, along with meat, poultry, and their products. On April 4, the government of Egypt issued a WTO/TBT addendum waiving the requirement of halal certificates until September 30, 2022. This comes after two communications issued in March by the General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS). Both communications included instructions for exporters that certificates were required but without fees (see GAIN [EG2022-0008 Egypt's Prime Minister Waives Halal Certification Fees for Milk and Dairy Products Until October 1 22 - Halal Certification Requirement Still in Question](#)). Conversely, this WTO notification completely removes the requirement of both the halal certificates on milk and dairy products, as well as the fees for issuing the certificates, until September 30, 2022.

It is unclear what the requirements will be after October 1, 2022. The draft halal standard that has been developed by the Egyptian Organization for Standardization (EOS) has yet to be approved or notified. On August 15, the government of Egypt issued a WTO TBT addendum highlighting products requiring halal certification and procedures for obtaining a certificate.

The United States is the largest exporter of soybeans to Egypt. In 2021, Egypt's total imports of soybeans reached 4.93 million metric tons (MMT), an increase of 1.23 percent from 2020 soybean imports which amounted to 4.87 MMT. Egypt sourced 62 percent of its soybeans from the United States in 2021 (3.1 MMT) and 75.5 percent in 2020 (3.68 MMT). U.S. soybeans represented 76 percent of the total value of U.S. agricultural products exported to Egypt in 2020. Egypt is the largest export market for U.S.-origin frozen beef livers. In 2020, Egypt imported around 89,000 MT of beef liver, 50,000 MT of which was sourced from the United States.

On June 2, 2021, the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) Board of Directors approved mandatory technical regulations on the permissible residue levels of pesticides for food of plant and animal origin (See [GAIN EG2021-0022 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Pesticides Technical Regulation](#)).

Section I – Food Laws

Egypt's National Food Safety Authority

The Egyptian government is consolidating its national food safety system. The implementation is through Prime Ministerial Executive Regulation 412 (February 2019) – National Food Safety Authority (NFSA). On January 2, 2017, Egypt's parliament approved Law No. 1 (2017) establishing the National Food Safety Authority, publishing it in the country's official gazette on January 10, 2017. Prime Ministerial Decrees 683 (2017) and 1733 (2017) established the NFSA's board of trustees and board of directors. (See GAIN [EG-19010 Egypt – Establishment of the National Food Safety Authority](#)). In June 2020, the NFSA Board of trustees was reformed. According to its legislation, the board would undergo reformation every three years.

The National Food Safety Authority's Functions and Authorities: The implementing regulation mandates that NFSA assumes full responsibility from other ministries, public institutions, government agencies, and municipalities for the regulation of foodstuffs. This law eliminates the previous patchwork of food-related regulation, which created confusion and inefficiencies for Egyptian exporters and importers.

NFSA's functions and authorities according to article (3) of the implementing legislation are as follows:

- Set mandatory food safety criteria, in accordance with the applicable international criteria, provided that these criteria are not in contradiction with the national requirements. The National Food Safety Authority's board of directors shall issue a decree specifying such criteria.
- Control food handling in accordance with the relevant food safety laws and decrees and in accordance with special programs to ensure that mandatory standard conditions and specifications are fulfilled during all stages of food handling.
- Set procedures and conditions for issuing certificates necessary for the export of locally produced food, control the issuance of these certificates, and check the extent of their compliance with the aforesaid rules and conditions.
- License, inspect, and control food handling and the workers in this field to ensure that fulfillment of provisions of relevant laws and decrees.
- Contract government accredited laboratories with the capability to run required analytical tests effectively and efficiently. The agency may contract other private accredited laboratories in case of unavailability of accredited governmental laboratories.
- Control food imported or produced locally, prohibit handling of food unfit for human consumption, and combat fraud and deception.
- Establish procedures for emergencies that threaten locally produced or imported food exposed to hazards or risks, as well as crisis management, warning, withdrawal and recall systems.
- Establish procedures for risk assessment, analysis, use, management, and communication and awareness including establishing inspection priorities; account for risk assessment, analysis, and management methods followed by relevant international organizations.
- Develop mandatory systems that ensure food safety, develop a traceability system and require food producers, manufacturers and other food handlers to implement these systems; especially Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and measures necessary product recall.

- Propose and comment on food safety and handling draft laws and regulatory decrees.
- Establish necessary procedures for identifying unlicensed food production units, propose appropriate solutions, and integrate these within legal productions.
- Raise food safety awareness issuing pamphlets and other publications on the NFSA’s objectives, including provision of food safety information and data in coordination with media channels.
- Develop protocols and rules for food advertising, as well as mandatory labeling criteria.
- Coordinate with national and international entities and organizations dealing with food safety and human health. Participate in conferences and organizing these as necessary.
- Regulate approval or rejection of special foods, genetically engineered foods, or foods containing components that are genetically engineered or irradiated where they relate to food safety, and set rules regulating the use of food additives, treatment catalysts and other ingredients of which food is composed, and which affect its safety according to Codex Commission criteria and standards adopted by international bodies.
- Conduct food safety studies and research; collect scientific and technical data.
- Establishing procedures and rules for registration, licensing and labeling of:
 - food for special dietary uses (FSDU);
 - genetically engineered foods; and
 - irradiated food.

The National Food Safety Authority is evaluating local processing facilities to ensure compliance with NFSA standards. It is the lead agency responsible for setting rules governing the registration and handling of foods for special dietary uses. (see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG-19011\) Egypt – National Food Safety Authority Modernizes Egyptian Regulatory Framework: Regulatory Management of Special Foods in Accordance with Decree No. 1 of 15 August 2018](#)).

The National Food Safety Authority is expanding its regulatory reach and the authority assumed full regulatory control in mid-2020. Egyptian entities previously charged with overseeing food safety are now working with NFSA to apply food safety functions. These entities include:

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI):

- The General Organization of Export and Import Control (GOEIC): Working together through the appeal committee. The committee reviews exporters’ appeals on rejections and decide if a second testing can be accepted. The NFSA did not establish its own appeal committee, and appeals related to authority rejections go through GOIEC established committee. More information on the appeal committee can be found in Section IX: Import procedures.
- The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS): EOS standards are still being applied, while NFSA continues to develop its own risk-based standards, that shall substitute the EOS’s standards

Ministry of Health (MOH):

- Food Safety and Control Administration
- National Nutrition Institute
- Central Health Laboratories

NFSA uses the MoH laboratories for testing and prioritize sending the samples to public laboratories.

- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR)
- The General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS)
- The Central Administration for Plant Quarantine (CAPQ)
- The Reference Laboratory for Safety Analysis of Food of Animal Origin
- The Regional Center for Food and Feed (RCFF)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation's GOVS and CAPQ continue to carry out their respective mandates regarding animal and plant health. There is no conflict with NFSA's new responsibilities. However, with animal products, some of the technical functions overlap and cause confusion especially for traders.

NFSA harmonized the food safety regulations and implementation by means of signing protocols with national regulatory bodies. To date, NFSA has signed protocols with EOS, CAPQ, the Horticultural Export Improvement Association (HEIA), GOEIC, the Port Said Chamber of Trade and GOVS. The protocols specify the means of cooperation and mechanisms that allow each organization to implement its scope of work. They also specify the means for licensing and issuing certificates according to the organization's mandate.

Currently, NFSA uses the laboratories from both the Reference Laboratory for Safety Analysis of Food of Animal Origin and the Regional Center for Food and Feed (RCFF).

Revised Policy related to Veterinary Drugs Residue in beef and beef products

On November 4, 2020, NFSA's board convened and agreed on Decision No. 13/2020, setting new maximum residue limits (MRL) for veterinary drugs – including ractopamine – that are more closely aligned with Codex standards. This changes Egypt's long-standing zero tolerance policy for ractopamine MRLs. The decision was published in the Egyptian official gazette on November 15, 2020 (see [GAIN EG2020-0056 Egypt Endorses a Science-Based Decision on Veterinary Drugs](#)).

Temporary Release of Imported Food Consignments:

On December 19, 2021, NFSA released Decision No. 9/2021, Handling of Imported Food Consignments Subject to Temporary Release. This decision specifies that temporary release shall be applied to consignments held by NFSA while it is in the custody of the importer. The consignments are not granted approval to enter the Egyptian market pending an official notification from NFSA upon completion of compliance verification procedures. (See: [GAIN EG2022-0020 Egypt National Food Safety Authority Regulates Temporary Release of Imported Food Consignments](#))

Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Exporting Food Consignment to Egypt:

On December 19, 2021, NFSA released Decision No. 10/2021, the Provisions of Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Competent Authorities in the Context of Imported Food Control. The purpose of establishing a recognition agreement with countries exporting food products to Egypt is to allow the optimum level of protection for the consumer against the risks of food

imports, whilst enhancing the efficiency of their final release. This is intended to be implemented through the adoption of preventive measures based on the risk level of food imports, and by following appropriate procedures for the release of these food imports. (See: [GAIN EG2022-0019 - Egypt Applies Recognition Agreements for Food Safety](#))

Technical Regulations Governing the Permissible Maximum Levels for Chemical Contaminants in Food

On May 16, NFSA issued Decision No. 6/ 2022 concerning the binding technical basis for maximum residue levels (MRLs) for chemical contaminants in food. NFSA changed the limit for ergot sclerotia in cereals. The previous limit was set by CAPQ at 0.05 percent, while the new regulation issued by NFSA set it at 0.02 percent (0.2 gm/kg)., making it more restrictive. (see: [GAIN EG2022-0022 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Technical Regulation for the Maximum Residue Levels of Chemical Contaminants in Food](#))

Major Trade Barriers

The Ministry of Health's implementation of Egyptian National Standard 7135 (2010) and its amendments requires 100 percent sampling and testing of meat and offal imports for drug residues for certain. Even though NFSA has taken on the responsibility of all Egyptian food imports, the 100 percent sample on beef and beef products remains in place (see Table 3: Imported Commodities Registered with NFSA eligible for the Application Certificates of Conformity). These products, if obtained certificate of conformity, will have reduced sampling. Beef and beef products are not included in the list.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in Ministerial Decree 448 (2012) banned the import of heat-treated feather meal. Egypt cites avian influenza (AI) contamination and nutritional value concerns as a justification for the ban. Although Egypt has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO), its notification omits references to it having similar concerns with its own domestic feather meal production. This ban contradicts World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) findings and is inconsistent with Egypt's WTO obligations. However, contacts indicate that the ban currently applies only to animal feed. Imports of treated feather for industrial uses are permitted upon the approval of GOVS technical committee on a case-by-case basis.

Egypt requires that beef come from cattle that are less than 48-months old for deboned meat, and less than 30-months of age for bone-in meat only for special cuts. These standards are not in line with OIE guidelines.

Live cattle, calves for slaughter, and calves for fattening are subject to a 21-day pre-shipment quarantine and 28-day quarantine on arrival. In addition, there is a compulsory inspection by GOVS for each consignment, covering the entire pre-shipment quarantine period in the country of origin.

Egypt is one of the world's largest seed potato importers and only imports from the European Union. The United States and Egypt have had continuous debates regarding U.S. seed potato market access. USDA and CAPQ held two video conferences recently to resolve concerns and move forward with trade. It appears now that Egypt is considering diversifying its seed potato sources. (See [GAIN Report Number:EG18032 Egypt's Import Supply of European-Origin Seed Potatoes Challenged](#)). The first

meeting was conducted in March 2019 to reopen discussions and communicate the best approach to address market access for U.S.-origin seed potato. The second meeting was held in August 2020 where both parties discussed pest risk assessment concerns. The issue awaits finalization from both sides and their agreement on the risk management options.

An import ban was placed on poultry parts in 2003. In 2006, Egypt relaxed the ban after an outbreak of avian influenza, but limited imports to whole birds. The basis for the exclusion of poultry parts and offal is linked to concerns with halal slaughter. In May 2022, Egypt relaxed the ban again as result of challenges in the food supply. Egypt was not isolated from the global developments that caused unprecedented rises in inflation rates. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted international trade, affecting a global economy that had since been improving robustly from the COVID-19 pandemic. Egypt initiated several arrangements designed to improve food security including imports. So far Egypt has imported 300 MT, the target is to source 20,000 MT from imports tariff free.

Presidential Decree 25 (2016) increased tariff rates on a wide range of imports, including food and agricultural products, to curb dollar outflows as the country struggled through the foreign currency crisis. The Egyptian government stressed that the tariff increases comply with WTO obligations as the increases are within the bound rates.

Section II – Labeling Requirements

General Requirements

Egypt Standard 1546 (2011): Labeling guidelines are determined by Egyptian standard 1546 (2011) and are applicable to all food product imports. Foreign language label information must be translated into Arabic. Discrepancy between the English and Arabic dates may result in product rejection. Labels can be printed on the package or be a permanent adhesive sticker. Products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package. For example, goods have been rejected if the inside package has a different date than the one on the outside carton. Information on the label cannot be erased, mutilated, or altered. Requirements are more restrictive for meat and poultry products. Labels must include the following information:

- Name and address of manufacturer
- Brand or trademark, if appropriate
- Country of origin
- Type of product and grade
- Name and address of importer
- Production and expiration dates. (These dates may be mentioned separately on the top of the package. They can be applied by laser, imposed, or printed. In such cases, there is no need to repeat them on the label).
- Product ingredients
- Storage instructions or temperature requirements for products - storage temperature must be cited with the refrigeration statement on the boxes to fully clarify the type of product being handled

(e.g., "KEEP FROZEN - STORE AT OR BELOW ____degrees C.; KEEP CHILLED (OR REFRIGERATE) - STORE BETWEEN ____degrees C. and ____degrees C.").

- Net weight
- Gross weight and total number of the packages per case or carton.
- If the product contains preservatives, the percentage of each preservative should be indicated.
- If the product is meat or poultry, the following statement must appear: "slaughtered according to the Islamic ritual" or "Halal slaughtered."

Labeling of Special Dietary Foods: Under updated regulations of NFSA, the label conventions for special dietary foods have changed. Prepackaged special dietary foods must now include the following information on their label:

The label of the packaged of Foods for Special Dietary Uses (FSDU) shall bear a label indicating the following information:

1. The name of FSDU;
2. A list of ingredients in descending or ascending order;
3. Ingredients, additives, and foods that may cause food allergies;
4. Authorized food additives, and flavorings except for processing aids;
5. Net weight or size;
6. Names and addresses
 - a. The name, address and brand of the producer shall, if any, be indicated on the food container,
 - b. In case of imported products, the name and address of the importer, as well as the country of origin shall be indicated; furthermore, the name and address of the producer may be written in English or French if writing in Arabic is difficult, and
 - c. In case of packaging, the name and address of the packer shall be indicated;
7. Country of origin (production);
8. Production batch/lot;
9. Expiration date;
10. Product-specific storage instructions;
11. In case of domestic production, any of the following phrases (Made in Egypt, Made in A.R.E., or equivalent) shall be used; and
12. Nutritional data/facts.

Nutritional facts/values shall be declared on the label as follows:

1. The declaration of nutritive value shall be numerical; however, the use of additional means of presentation may also be used;
2. Information on energy value shall be expressed in Kilocalories (kcal) or in Kilojoules (KJ) per 100 grams or per 100 ml of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
3. Information on amounts of protein, carbohydrates and fat present in food shall be expressed in Grams (g) per 100 g or per 100 ml of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
4. Information on amounts of essential and non-essential amino acids or essential fatty acids may be expressed similarly in metric units as appropriate;

5. Information on amounts of vitamins and essential minerals present in the food shall be expressed in metric units per 100 g or per 100 ml of the food to be marketed, and per the specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
6. Where it is appropriate, the quantities of nutrients may be expressed in terms of percentages of the relevant internationally recognized recommended daily allowances;
7. Information on osmolality or osmolarity, or acid-base balance of a product shall be provided when appropriate; and
8. The nature of the animal or plant proteins, or protein hydrolysates shall be declared.

In case of Foods for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP), all the aforementioned information in addition to a prominent statement “USE UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION” shall be made in Arabic besides any other languages and shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible and clearly legible. Furthermore, food preparation directions (including other ingredients required to be added for the use of the food) shall be declared on the label.

The label of any food that has been treated with ionizing radiation shall bear a written statement indicating such treatment and shall appear in close proximity to the name of the food.

Labeling Exempted Products: Products exempted from mandatory labeling requirements include small items with a surface area of 10 centimeters square or less. Exemption extends to milk and beverage packs with a quantity of 200 milliliters or less. Wrapped, dried sweets (e.g., candy, jelly candy, toffee, and fun size chocolates) sold by weight, and not by the bar, are considered unpackaged products.

Requirements for Frozen Beef: The Minister of Trade and Industry issued Decree 120 (2006), which states that frozen beef must be packed in sealed bags according to sanitary standards. A printed label must be inserted inside the poly bag with the following information in Arabic:

- Country of origin
- Producer’s name
- Name of the slaughterhouse
- Date of slaughter
- Importer’s name and address
- Name of the entity that supervised the slaughtering process according to Islamic rules.
- Type of meat and percentage of fat content (fat content of red meat for processing must be no more than 20 percent):
 - Percentage fat content is only required on the carton label and may be added by the importer after arrival in Egypt, but before release by Egyptian authorities.
 - Percentage fat content labeling is not required for offal.

Halal Labeling:

On August 15, the government of Egypt issued a WTO/TBT addendum highlighting products requiring halal certification and procedures for obtaining a certificate. (See: [GAIN EG2022-0021Egypt Notifies New Halal Requirements and Procedures for Food Products](#)) On April 4, the government of Egypt issued a WTO/TBT addendum waiving the requirement of halal certificates until September 30, 2022. This comes after two communications issued in March by the General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS). Both communications included instructions for exporters that certificates were

required but without fees (see [GAIN EG2022-0008 Egypt's Prime Minister Waives Halal Certification Fees for Milk and Dairy Products Until October 1 22 - Halal Certification Requirement Still in Question](#)). Conversely, this WTO notification completely removes the requirement of both the halal certificates on milk and dairy products, as well the fees of issuing the certificates, until September 30, 2022.

It is unclear what the requirements will be after October 1, 2022. The draft halal standard that has been developed by the Egyptian Organization for Standardization (EOS) has yet to be approved or notified.

On December 1, 2021, Egypt published a WTO/TBT notification to notify the expansion of products requiring halal certificates. The products notified included milk and dairy products, along with meat, poultry, and their products. Egypt still has not issued any official standard, technical regulation, or requirements on guidance with this new requirement. Accordingly, there is no clear guidance or any decision regarding the labelling of the current or newly added products. Halal-certified products must be labeled with a statement indicating that the product has been slaughtered in accordance with Islamic principles. The exporter must obtain a halal certificate or “Certificate of Islamic Slaughter” from IS EG Halal, which is the sole entity the government recognizes for certifying that the animals were slaughtered according to Islamic religious requirements. This certificate must accompany all shipments of products labeled "halal." On May 1, 2019, Egypt determined to restrict halal certification authority in the United States to a sole certifier – IS EG Halal (Edgewater, New Jersey). Since then, it has removed the requirement of having Egyptian embassy endorsement of Certificates of Islamic Slaughter issued in the United States. (see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG-2019-3057\) – Update - New Halal Procedures May Affect Trade and Increase Prices](#)).

On January 5, 2020, the Government of Egypt issued Prime Ministerial Decree No. 35/2020, establishing a new state entity in the form of a joint-stock company integrated by the Ministries of Islamic Affairs, Agriculture and Land Reclamation, and the General Organization for Export and Import Control (an agency of the Ministry of Trade and Industry). This joint-stock company ISEGHALAL, is the sole official Egyptian entity responsible for granting halal certification. (see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0002\) Egypt's Halal Certification and Policy](#)).

Expiration Period: The Minister of Trade and Industry issued Ministerial Decree 859 (2012) adding a new article to Ministerial Decree 770 (2005) – Executive Regulation Implementing Import and Export Law 118 (1975), as well as Inspection and Control Procedures of Imported and Exported Goods. The new article states that to release food commodities (grains and oilseeds excluded), the expiration period remaining for products for human consumption starts the moment the shipment arrives at port and from when customs issue the clearance certificate. The product must arrive at the port of entry with:

- A shelf life of six months or more and must arrive at port with at least three months of remaining shelf life.
- Products with shelf life of more than three months but less than six months must arrive at port with at least one month of remaining shelf life.
- Products with shelf life of more than 16-days to three months must arrive at port with at least one week of remaining shelf live.
- Products with 15-days shelf life must arrive at port with three days of remaining shelf life.

The expiration period for frozen beef livers, kidneys, and hearts is seven months from the date of production. The expiration period for frozen boneless beef is twelve months from the date of production. The expiration date for whole frozen poultry, leg quarters, drumsticks, and thighs is twelve months from the date of production.

In April 2020, due to COVID- 19 pandemic, Egypt’s Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) issued Decree No. 209/2020. The decree extends the shelf-life validity period for imported frozen fish from six- to nine-months and of frozen beef liver from seven- to 10-months. The decree is valid for six months and the government keeps renewing its term. The last renewal is valid for one year until June 31, 2023. (see [GAIN – EGYPT EG202](#)). After this date, the shelf-life period for these products reverts to previous timeframes unless the Ministry of Trade and Industry determines otherwise.

Other Specific Labeling Requirements: Egypt is a net importer of agricultural commodities including wheat, soybeans, and yellow corn for feed. The government maintains a general import policy of allowing imports of agricultural commodities if the imported products are approved and consumed in the country of origin. Egyptian law does not require labeling of biotech crops or products with biotech content. In addition, there is no approval needed for importing biotech products.

Section III – Packaging and Container Regulations

According to Ministry of Health Decree 73 (2001) for packaging materials, Egypt maintains no special packaging or container size requirements, regulations, or preferences. There are no restrictions or limitations on the use of any packaging materials like polyvinyl chloride. Articles impacted by the solid waste management (Law No. 4 of 1994) do not have significant impact on imported food products.

The National Food Safety Authority is currently responsible for food contact material. Importers are highly recommended to follow up with NFSA on requirements related to food packaging material.

Section IV – Food Additive Regulations

Food Additives: In September 2020, the Egyptian Food Safety Authority issued Decision 4 (2020) regarding food additives accepted for use by industry (see: [GAIN: EG2020-0060: Report Name: Egypt National Food Safety Authority Issues Food Additive Regulation](#)). The decision replaces Decree 204 (2015) of Ministry of Health regulated food additives.

The positive list of food colors that are allowed in food products according to Decision 4 (2020) are listed in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Egypt, Approved Food Colorings – National Food Safety Authority Decision 4 (2020)

Riboflavin 5-Phosphate, sodium	Allura Red AC	Caramel I: Plain caramel	beta-Carotenes, vegetables	Carotenoic acid, ethyl ester, beta-apo-8
Riboflavin 5-phosphate	Indigotine (Indigo	Caramel II: Sulphite caramel	beta-Carotenes, Blakestea trispora	Lutein: xanthophylls

	Carmine)	II		
Riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Brilliant blue FCF	Caramel III: Ammonia caramel	Annatto extracts, bixin –based	Canthaxanthin
Tartrazine	Chlorophylls, copper complexes	Caramel IV: Sulfite Ammonia Caramel	Paprika extracts (Paprika, Paprika Oleoresins)	Beet root (beet red)
Quinoline Yellow	Carmosine: Azorbine	Brilliant black PN	Lycopene; (gamma carotene)	Anthocyanins
Sunset Yellow	Chlorophyllin copper complexes, potassium and sodium salts	Brown HT: chocolate brown HT	Lycopene: Blakestea trispora	Grape skin extract
Carmines	Copper complexes of chlorophylls and Chlorophyllin	Beta-Carotenes, synthetic	Carotenal, beta-apo-8	Calcium Carbonate
Titanium dioxide	Iron oxide, red	Iron oxide, black	Iron oxide, yellow	

Decision 4 (2020) also lists all concentration levels of acceptable food colors. The food additives list is consistent with Codex standards and shall be subject to review and updates according to these standards. It is recommended that exporters check with NFSA to verify the acceptability of any food coloring. There are no exceptions to the regulations governing food colorings.

The scientific name of the color ingredient and the percentage of concentration must be indicated on the Certificate of Analysis. Egyptian authorities will not allow a product to be imported if it contains an unauthorized color, even if the use of the color is acceptable in another country.

The Ministry of Health Decree 73 (2001) mandates that colors used on the inner and outer packaging may not be harmful to human health and must be fixed. If the color changes, its use is not permissible. Packaging coloring will eventually fall under the National Food Safety Authority’s mandate, but until then Decree 73 (2001) applies.

Preservatives: All preservatives must be identified along with the allowed concentration expressed as a percentage as calculated on an acid basis. Decision 4 (2020) lists all acceptable preservatives and concentrations levels.

Flavorings: All flavorings accepted under Codex are approved for use in Egypt. Decision 4 (2020) lists the concentration levels of all acceptable flavorings.

Section V - Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Pesticide Laws and Regulations

On June 2, 2021, the NFSA Board of Directors approved mandatory technical regulations on the permissible residue levels of pesticides for food of plant and animal origin (See [GAIN EG2021-0022 Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Pesticides Technical Regulation](#)).

The decision stipulates the basic requirements to assess the results of pesticide residue analysis to monitor and control the maximum residue limits (MRL) in food products. In addition, the decision ensures that the MRLs comply with Codex Alimentarius or to other optimal regulations such European Union Commission regulations and tolerances issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Central Public Health Labs, the Central Laboratory for Pesticides, and the Central Laboratory of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food are responsible for examining and testing pesticide MRLs in fresh fruit and produce, and for ensuring that MRLs do not exceed acceptable limits.

The decision does not replace the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC). However, it replaces Ministerial Decree 974 (2017), article (29) that determined pesticide maximum residue. The Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) was established through Decree 2188 (2011). It is the national authority responsible for registering agricultural pesticides based on their efficacy against agricultural pests and its safety concerning public health and the environment.

Ministerial Decree 1018 (2013): Clarifies that the APC is the national authority responsible for the assessment, evaluation, and registration of agricultural pesticides, up to the point of retail sale.

APC Mission:

- The APC is responsible for tailoring, administering, and managing the National Registration Scheme and decrees for agricultural pesticides. These set out the regulatory framework for the management of pesticides production, import, export, and use in Egypt.
- The APC administers the legislation scheme in partnership with state and territorial governments and with the active involvement of other Egyptian government agencies.
- The APC serves as a national focal point that cooperates with international pesticide regulatory authorities for effective use and global safety of plant protection products.

Updated Pesticide Registration Process

Ministerial Decree 974 (2017): The Agricultural Pesticide Committee administers MALR Decree 974 (June 24, 2017). The decree (53 articles) regulates the registration of substances that claim to have agricultural pest control use, as well as other substances such as formulants, adjuvants, impurities and/or contaminants that may be contained in a pest control product.

Pesticide registration requires:

- That the stakeholder applies to the Agricultural Pesticide Committee for the registration of an agricultural pesticide after payment of fees and provision of the primary technical data sheet.

- The Agricultural Pesticide Committee rapporteur examines the application form and reviews the current situation of the pesticide in the data recorded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the European Union, Canada, Australia, and Japan.
- In the case of consistency in registration requirements, the applicant will need to submit the primary technical data sheet along with the proposed experimentation program for testing the efficacy of the pesticide against the target pest.

The complete program will be reviewed by the committee’s secretariat, and subsequently by the full committee. After approval, copies will be distributed to the committee secretariat, the experimentation administrator, the Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory, and the applicant.

Prior to committee approval of experimentation program, testing cost is paid, and procedures commence. Applicant must apply for customs import clearance at APC’s Secretariat – free of charge - for necessary samples that will be used in analyzing and testing of the pesticide in question, and in the appropriate quantities.

The stakeholder must provide samples to an approved institute or laboratory. Two samples are sent to the Central Laboratory of Pesticides (CAPL) to ensure conformity of the pesticide’s chemical and physical specifications. In the case of non-conformity, the applicant may request a re-test by CAPL retest. The process will be ceased if the second testing is non-conforming.

According to Ministerial Decree 974 (2017), the pesticide should be subjected to two similar and consecutive agricultural seasons. Attractants are subject to only one agricultural season.

Committee issues the certificate of registration when the pesticides pass all approval stages, which is valid for six years. However, re-evaluation is performed after three years.

The applicant may apply to obtain pesticide label (for up to two years). Locally formulated pesticides pass through the same procedures.

Any person holding a valid license for trading in agricultural pesticides can apply to the committee to import a pesticide for trials.

Contaminants

Aflatoxins: Currently, NFSA is the responsible authority for the detection of contaminants in imported products. However, NFSA follows the same standard provided by the Ministry of Health. Egypt follows the European Union maximum residue limits for total aflatoxins and aflatoxin B1 as set by European Commission Regulation 1881 (2006) - “Setting Maximum Levels for Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs.” The maximum allowable total aflatoxin levels and B1 levels for selected products are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Egypt, Selected Aflatoxins Maximum Residue Levels

Food item	Maximum Allowable Aflatoxins	Maximum Allowable B1 Level
Corn	10 ug/KG	5 ug/KG
Raw Pistachio	10 ug/KG	8 ug/KG

Processed and Roasted Pistachio	12 ug/KG	15 ug/KG
Almonds	10 ug/KG	8 ug/KG
Peanuts	4 ug/KG	2 ug/KG

Detection of pesticides and contaminants residues in imports and exports:

NFSA is responsible for the control of pesticides residues and contaminants in imports, CAPQ remains the authority managing the exports and determining the acceptable residue levels. CAPQ, will continue testing for residues in exports, until NFSA takes full charge of exports.

Section VI – Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

General Requirements

The certification requirements for imported food differs by product. Veterinary certificates are required for meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products. A phytosanitary certificate is required for plants and plant products. If the product is further processed in another country during transit, the appropriate certification may be where the additional processing is done.

Certificates required for imported food products include:

- Certificate of Origin
- Export Certificate (FDA Certificate of Free Sale, Sanitary, Phytosanitary – varies by product)
- Islamic Halal Certificate (if applicable)

Certificates originating in the United States (excluding Certificates of Islamic Slaughter issued by IS EG Halal) must be signed by a chamber of commerce but no longer require endorsement by the Egyptian embassy or consulate.

Meat and Poultry Products: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree 1647 (1997), requires that the importer submit a request to the General Organization for Veterinary Services for the import of meat and live animals. The request must indicate:

- The number and type of animals or meat being imported
- Country of origin
- Shipping port
- Expected date of arrival
- Means of transportation

The General Organization for Veterinary Services examines the request according to the epidemiological status of the country of origin. If the epidemiological status permits importation, the importer is issued a permit. The permit is valid for one month. The importer can renew the approval if importation does not occur within one month. No fees are charged for the import permit.

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree 465 (1997) subjects the import of poultry and meat products to the following requirements:

- Products must be shipped directly from the country of origin.
- Products must be packaged in appropriate bags as required by the Egyptian standards. Labels must be inserted inside the package as well as on the outside carton (see Labeling Section).

Release by the Egyptian veterinary authorities depend on the import license. If there is discrepancy between the import license and the shipping documents, the product will be rejected. Exporters and importers must familiarize themselves with licensing and pre-approval checks prior to shipment.

Product Sampling: All product samples should be representative of the consignment and should be drawn during the unloading process. A committee, known as the Physical Examination Committee, is formed to withdraw random samples every time a shipment arrives in port. One representative sample is drawn from each consignment and all inspection agencies involved will conduct their inspections and testing on the product. Tests may be conducted by three different laboratories.

Batch numbers are required for all food products to facilitate product sample withdrawal. Each batch will be considered as a different item for sample withdrawal purposes. Samples will be drawn from each batch having different production and expiration dates. Products with different dates are considered different items and should be identified as such on the release certificate.

Cleanliness must be assured when samples are taken to avoid contamination. The committee is required to take the necessary steps to assure the soundness of the product samples while they are being transported to the laboratory for analysis.

According to Ministry of Health Decree 232 (1996), the following provisions are to be taken into consideration when samples are taken:

- The consignment should be treated as a single shipment.
- The samples should be divided according to batch sizes and type of product.
- The samples should be distributed among the laboratories to avoid repetition.
- All label information should be presented on the “Sample Analysis Form.”
- If a consignment is imported from various origins or product sources, each should have a distinctive and confidential number.

Pre-Shipment Testing Requirements: Egypt’s mandatory plant quarantine pre-shipment inspections of grains at port-of-loading has been reinstated. Pre-shipment inspections return due to the change of status of Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992/2016. Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992/2016 (January 1, 2017) disallowed government teams to travel for inspections at the port of loading and instead gave the General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC) the responsibility to coordinate and administer inspections for grain imports. After assumed responsibility for imports, GOIEC ceded its control for agricultural products except for soybean for crushing, corn imports for feed, and private sector wheat imports. Thus, Decree 2992/2016, currently only regulates soybean imported for crushing, corn imported for feed, and wheat for private sector use. GOIEC issues import permits for these

commodities, handles shipments upon arrival with CAPQ and allows pre-shipment inspection but only by a third party.

Furthermore, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree No. 562/2019 reestablishes the Central Plant Quarantine Authority (CAPQ) as the agency responsible for grains and oilseeds inspections. The General Organization for Supply Commodities now requires pre-shipment inspections by Egyptian officials at port-of-loading, in accordance with CAPQ requirements. (See - [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0004\) Egypt Reintroduces Government Pre shipment Inspections for Grain Imports](#))

Plant Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree 562 (September 2019) establishes the role and responsibilities of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in accordance with international agreements. The regulation requires that exports to Egypt adhere to plant quarantine phytosanitary requirements specified in the import permit. All plant and plant products shipped to Egypt must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Egypt requires that all phytosanitary certificates reference the import permit corresponding to the shipment (see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2019-0018\) – EGYPT - New Plant Quarantine Requirements, Ministerial Decree 562 \(2019\)](#))

Facility Registration: Decree 43 (2016) requires that exporters of specific retail products register with the GOEIC prior to shipment. This measure only applies to a specific list of products packaged for the retail market. Most U.S. food exporters can meet the registration requirements; however, exporters are encouraged to work closely with their Egyptian importers to successfully register.

Food Import Licensing: On August 11, 2020, NFSA released Decision No. 6/2020 – Rules Regulating Food Import Licensing, made effective on August 12, 2020. The decision specifies the rules related to the licensing of Egyptian food importers and food establishments importing food and food products. The decision permits the import of food and food products subject to the importer receiving a food importer license from NFSA. However, details of how this decision will be implemented are still being established.

The National Food Safety Authority shall establish a whitelist of qualified food importers among those licensed to import who will benefit from facilitated clearance protocols for imported food consignments, resulting in the reduction of the customs hold period, and the application of reduced sampling frequencies (less than 100 percent) to these consignments. (See [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2020-0044\) Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Decision No 6-2020 - Rules Regulating Food Import Licensing](#))

Registration Procedures for Food Safety Management Systems: On February 20, 2020, NFSA released Decisions Nos. 5/2019, 1/2020, and 2/2020, made effective the day following their publication. Decision No. 5/2019, regulates the registration procedures for international certification companies that provide assessment and certification of food safety management systems. Decision No. 1/2020, provides the technical rules for issuing food export validity certificates. Decision No. 2/2020, regulates the registration entities and certification companies that will issue inspection and conformity certificates for imported food consignments into Egypt. (See- [GAIN EGYPT \(EG2020 -0021\) Egypt's National Food Safety Authority Issues Registration Procedures for Food Safety Management Systems](#)).

The National Food Safety Authority is to establish a registry of companies authorized to issue export validity certificates (i.e., certificates of conformity). Companies must meet specific requirements to be listed on NFSA’s registry. Food product imports into Egypt, certified by registered third-party pre-shipment inspection companies, will count with export validity certificates that meet the requirements of the National Food Safety Authority (see Table 3). A sanctions regime is established to address faulty and or erroneous certification, for those food products imported found to be in non-compliance with Egyptian food safety standards.

Table 3: Imported Commodities Registered with NFSA eligible for the Application Certificates of Conformity

Reg.	Customs Item	Goods
1	Of Items 01, 02-04, 03-04, 04, 05, 04-06 and 04	Dairy products (apart from baby milk) prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
2	Of Chapter eight	Preserved and dried fruits prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
3	Of Chapter Fifteen	Oils and fats prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
4	04 and 17	Sugar products
	From Item 06 and 18	Chocolate and food processors that contain cocoa prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 2 kg.
5	Of Item 06 and 20	Fruit juices prepared for retail in packs for direct consumption that do not exceed 10 kg.
6	01, 02-22 and 22	Natural, mineral, and carbonated water
7	1001	Wheat
8	From 10, 11, 82-91, 11, 82-15, 82-24, 39-19, 44-11, 69-12, 69-23, 73-10, 18, 74-10, 15 and 76	Food contact substances

For beef and poultry parts: All U.S. federally inspected establishments are eligible to export fresh/frozen halal beef, halal beef products, and processed halal beef products to Egypt. Whole frozen poultry, leg quarters, drumsticks, and thighs must originate from an establishment on the list of U.S. poultry plants approved for export of halal poultry for Egypt. Processed poultry products may originate from any federally inspected establishment so long as the source slaughter establishment is on the Eligible Plant List for Egypt. For processed poultry products, the source slaughter plant number should be included in the "Remarks" section of FSIS Form 9060-5 ("Poultry for this shipment originated from Est. xxx.").

However, there is a lack of clarity on the levels of responsibility between NFSA and GOVS. It is still undetermined whether NFSA shall accept the slaughterhouses that were approved by GOVS or results of audits performed by GOVS in exporting countries regarding food safety, veterinary and halal standards.

All shipments of further processed poultry products must be accompanied by a copy of the halal certificate from the original approved slaughter establishment. Because establishments seeking to export to Egypt must be approved for halal slaughter, FSIS Form 9080-3, Establishment Application for Export is not required (for more information, please see halal labelling under section II: Labelling Requirements).

Product Registration

The National Food Safety Authority only requires product registration for Special Dietary Foods.

Special Dietary Foods: These are foods whose composition is different from "normal" food. In practice, this involves calorie-modified foods, baby and infant foods, energy foods, special health foods including diabetic and weight control foods, vitamin and mineral supplements, medicinal herbs, and bottled water. As of August 16, 2018, the National Food Safety Authority is responsible for the registration and approval of all nutritional supplements and dietary foods.

Under the new regulation, the registration of special dietary foods requires:

- The registration, follow-up and submission of the scientific file shall be paper-based or via the NFSA website and e-mail.
- The NFSA chairman decrees the documents required for registration.
- The registration process may not exceed a 60-day term as of date of receipt of the required documents in full, and a 30-day term in case of registration by notification.
- Special dietary foods license shall be valid for a five-year term as of the registration date, pending a license is issued and registration specifications are met.
- Registration by notification will be permitted for special dietary foods already registered in the country of origin, provided the country has a food safety management system (FSMS) consistent with the system applied in Egypt, has a certificate of free sale, and submits all the documents required for registration.
- In fulfilling the terms and specifications of registration, re-registration may be by notification.
- NFSA will issue a list of special dietary foods, foods for special medical purposes (FSMP), and dietary supplements that are subject to registration under the present regulation.
- The agency will produce a database of all registered manufacturers of special dietary food.

For NFSA registration purposes, food products considered as special dietary foods may include:

- Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants, (breast-milk substitutes) and formulated complementary foods.
- Processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children.
- Canned baby foods.
- Foods intended for persons with special physiological conditions.
- Foods for special medical purposes, meaning a category of special dietary foods that are specially processed or formulated and presented for the dietary management of patients under medical supervision.

- Foods that are marketed with health claims as stated in items (1), (2), and (7) of article (1) of the present regulation, and as established by the Codex legislation.
- Low-energy diets (800-1200 kcal) and very low energy diets (400-800 kcal) used in weight control or reduction and presented as a total or partial replacement for daily food, except for the prepackaged foods put up for sale as conventional foods.
- High-energy diets for use in weight gain.
- Low-sodium foods, including salt substitutes that bear health claims.
- Foods to which vitamins or minerals are added by (15 percent) or more of the reference value per 100 grams of solids, or by (7.5 percent) of the reference value per 100 milliliters of liquids.
- Foods to which prebiotics, or other fortifying substances, compounds or elements added in the light of international legislation.
- Foods containing stimulant, fortifying, and appetizing substances.
- Food supplements provided they do not contain any substances with a therapeutic pharmacological effect.

Categories of food strictly not considered special dietary foods under the new regulation include:

- Individual herbs and spices or mixtures thereof not bearing health claims.
- Low-calorie foods not intended for specific groups of population (such as sugar-free or low-calorie foods and beverages).
- Foods that are by their nature deemed a source of vitamins, minerals, or other elements or nutrients.
- Foods that contain vitamins and minerals less than (15 percent) of the reference value per 100 grams of solids, or (7.5 percent) of the reference value per 100 milliliters of liquids and other nutrients, in accordance with international legislation.
- Fiber-reinforced products that contain less than 3 grams per 100 grams (30 grams daily) or 10 percent of the daily intake reference value (DIRV).
- Natural bottled drinking water and mineral bottled drinking water.
- Low-sodium foods, including salt substitutes not bearing health claims.

Testing and Sampling of Special Dietary Foods (by NFSA): The National Food Safety Authority will conduct random sampling special dietary foods. Samples will be tested in accredited laboratories to ensure that the registration requirements are met in compliance with the mandatory technical regulations and the applicable standards.

- The permissible microbiological limits for special dietary foods:
 - Free of *Salmonella*/25 grams
 - Free of *Staphylococcus aureus*/25 grams
 - Free of *Enterobacteriaceae*/g (for infant formulas as well as dried and canned baby foods)
 - Free of *Bacillus cereus*/g (for infant formulas and dried and canned baby foods)
 - Free of *Enterobacter sakazakii*/25 grams
 - Free of *Listeria monocytogenes*/25 grams

- The maximum residue limits for pesticides, veterinary drug residues, and other contaminants will align with international standards.

Current Registrations of Special Dietary Foods: Companies with unregistered products should submit a new application for registration to the NFSA, rather than to the Ministry of Health. Those firms with a valid registration for special dietary food products must register with NFSA and include in their application their original current license issued by the Ministry of Health. In these cases, NFSA will grant a new license for the validity period remaining on the MOH license. Firms that are currently under registration at MOH should submit a request to NFSA to complete the registration process. The National Food Safety Authority will examine and approve these products on a case-by-case basis. Imported special dietary foods will be given a license valid for three months.

Section VII – Other Specific Standards

On November 15, 2019, the National Food Safety Authority became responsible for permitting the import of all edible food products, including processed foods, animal and plant products. NFSA is currently working on issuing its own standards, and as NFSA continues to finalize them, imports must continue to conform to Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) standard requirements where applicable.

NFSA's standards are based on risk assessments and follow international provisions and best practices. NFSA is also responsible for sampling and inspection of food imports. Samples are sent for testing in laboratories approved by NFSA. The priority is given to state-run laboratory, such as central labs of Ministry of Health and Central Lab of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food (QCAP Lab) of Ministry of Agriculture. To avoid the possibility of appeals, they take three samples for reference testing.

Egypt's import regulations require that every component of a product be inspected – regardless of the compliance history of the product, country of origin, exporter, shipper or the importer. No import can be placed for direct sale without first proving that it conforms to established Egyptian standards. If no domestic standard exists, then it must be defined using the standards of an affiliated international organizations such as International Standards Organization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and Codex.

Egyptian standardization commenced in 1957 with the formation of the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Trade). Since its inception, the EOS established 8,500 standards. Of these, 543 are technical regulations or mandatory standards. Nearly 80 percent of Egypt's mandatory standards are based on standards issued by international organizations. In the absence of an Egyptian standard, MIT Decree 180 (1996) permits importers to choose a relevant standard from seven international systems including: ISO, European, American, Japanese, British, German – and for food, Codex.

Section VIII – Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

In June 2002, Egypt passed the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Law 82 (2002), which describes a copyright's legal rights and enforcement procedures, expedited trademark registration, and piracy protection. The IPR Law replaced Public Laws No. 57 (1939) on trademarks and information, No. 132 (1949) on patent and industrial drawings, and No. 354 (1954) on copyrights.

Article (63) of the IPR Law 82 (2002) defines trademarks as names that adopt a distinctive form, signatures, words, characters, figures and drawings. The Commercial Registration Department of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade is responsible for registering trademarks. Articles (73) through (84) detail the registration process. Article (73) requires the applicant to submit a trademark request to the department, which is responsible for notifying the applicant within 30 days of issuing the decision. It takes approximately from nine to twelve months to register a logo or a brand name. Once approved, it is announced in the *Trademark Gazette*.

The following certificates and documents must be submitted during the registration process:

- A sample of the logo and brand name.
- A certification of the company's incorporation in its home country.
- A certificate issued by the Commercial Register in Egypt affirming that the proposed name of the company or logo has not been registered in Egypt.

The company must apply for a “Trademark Examination Form” to check whether a similar trademark for the product already exists in the market.

If a foreign company wishes to protect its logo, the company must supply the General Administration for Trademark with an example of its logo as registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The foreign company should employ an agent in Cairo to follow the trademark registration process.

Article (90) provides trademark protection for ten years, starting at registration. After the ten-year period, the trademark's owner has six-months to submit a renewal for protection, which can be extended for several different periods. However, the new law grants automatic trademark status to internationally known products without registering with the Commercial Registration Department.

Section IX – Import Procedures

Egypt's Ministry of Finance issued Decree 38/2021 on pre-shipment registration - Advanced Cargo Information (ACI) - under a new single window system that seeks to modernize and automate customs administration, simplify procedures, and reduce clearance times.

This new customs system, mandated by the Ministry of Finance, requires all documents for Customs, GOEIC, NFSA, Plant Quarantine, and Veterinary Services be received 48 hours prior to the arrival of consignments. Misr Technology Services (MTS) is responsible for administering the new single window system.

ACI is operated and managed by MTS in partnership with other government agencies. The new structure introduced a whole new import operation system. Under the new system, imported products now require that the exporter and importer have a certain role in order to obtain approvals to import the products. Figure 1 demonstrates the pre-shipment procedures.

Figure 1: Pre-shipment process procedure



Source: NAFEZA <https://www.nafeza.gov.eg/en>

Under the new system, the following documents must be presented to the customs office for shipment release:

- Bill of Lading
- Commercial Invoice
- Certificate of Origin (countersigned by the Chamber of Commerce and notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin).
- Export/Health Certificate (FDA certificate of free sale, sanitary, phytosanitary – varies by product).
- Packing List
- Certificate of Insurance
- Import Permit (issued to Egyptian importer)
- Payment Guarantee (Form 11) from a local bank advising that payment has been transferred to the supplier.

The following documents may be required, depending on the product:

- A letter from the bank indicating that all administration fees have been paid. If this letter is not submitted, all administrative expenses must be paid at the port.
- Radiation Certificate

The time required for importation ranges from 11-12 days. Egypt has five major ports: Damietta, Alexandria, Port Said (east), Port Said (west), and Sokhna (Suez).

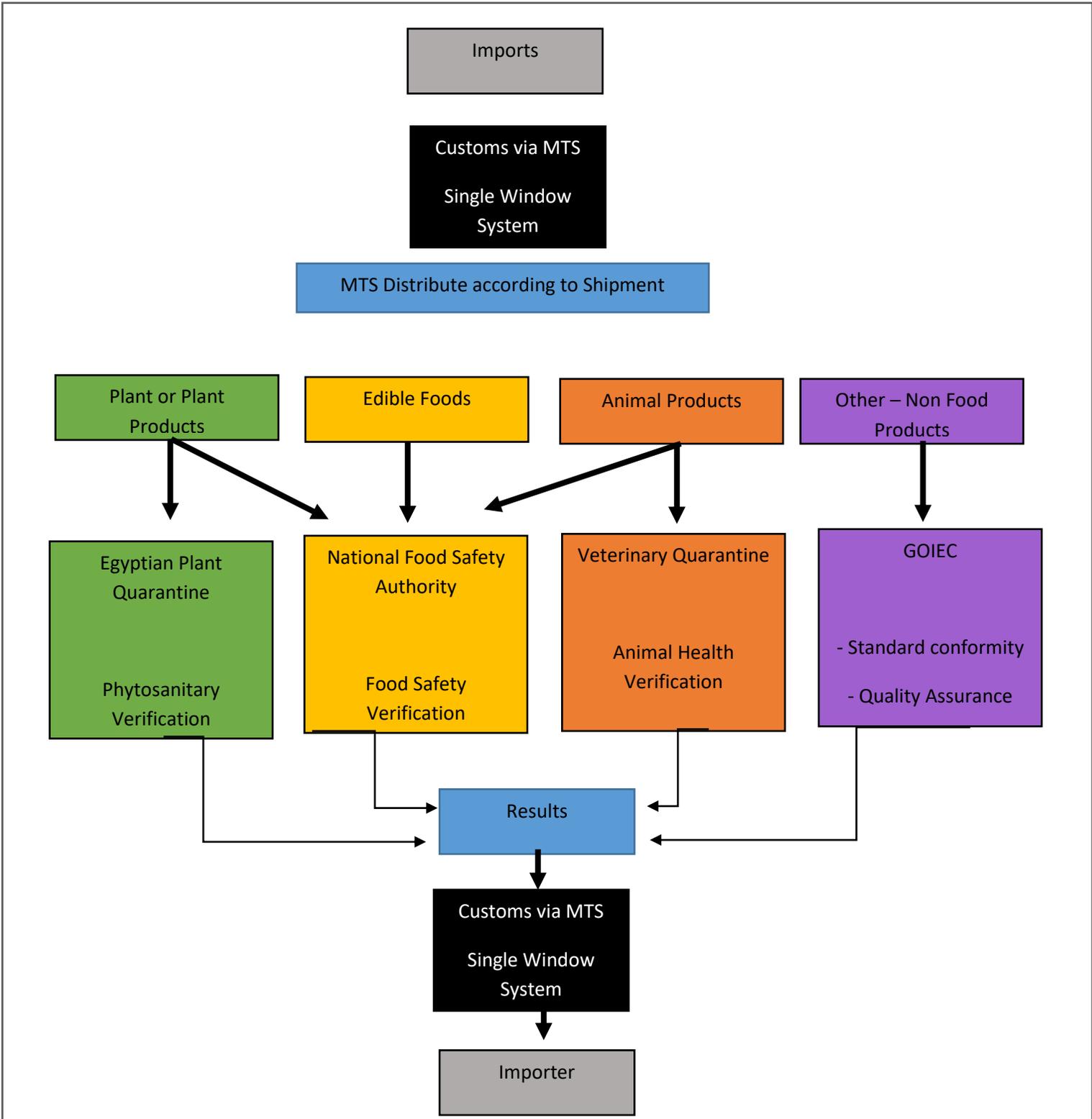
In case of a rejection, according to article (117), chapter 4 of Decree 770 (2005), the exporter or importer may appeal the final inspection results no later than one week from the date of rejection. The concerned party shall file an appeal to MTS to present in front of the appeal committee. The appeal shall be accompanied by a nominal deposit, which shall be reimbursed if the appeal is accepted.

The committee shall decide whether to accept the results of the final inspection, to amend the results, or to annul them. They can also authorize a re-inspection of the consignment or allow for treatment. If the former is applied, then the committee shall name a specialized inspection laboratory to re-inspect the consignment and allow the complainant the chance to attend the inspection procedures. The committee's results shall be deemed final and may not be contested.

The Board Chairman of the General Organization for Exhibitions and International Fairs (GOEIF) may allow exhibitors at exhibitions and fairs, to directly sell goods imported for display at GOEIF identified exhibition sites. The sale shall be supervised by the General Organization for Export and Import Control and by Egypt's customs authority.

Final inspection results are normally issued within 10 days. Canned food, bottled water, and goods subject to dioxin testing are usually released within 15 days.

FIGURE 2: Egypt, Import Control Procedures



Source: FAS Cairo office research.

Section X – Trade Facilitation

Egypt ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement “TFA” on June 24, 2019. Through document [G/TFA/N/EGY/1](#) Egypt notified their “A” commitments as well as categories B & C commitments in line with Articles 15 & 16 of the TFA and provided the definitive dates for Category B & C provisions. As well, presented information under Article 10.6.2. of the TFA Related to the Customs brokers system through document [G/TFA/N/EGY/2](#).

Egypt’s actions to promote trade facilitation include the establishment of Egypt National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) that was formed by Ministerial Decree No. 183/2011. The committee include members from public and private sectors.

The Egyptian government plans to implement a national single window that will facilitate electronic communication among all control authorities concerned with the cross-border trade, as well as effective cooperation between the Customs Authority and the General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC) to exchange the data associated with the fulfillment of the requirements of the control inspection. Since October 1, importers report that release times have still not improved, however, they may get better over time.

Advance Ruling

Egypt provides information on tariff duty and VAT required to be paid on different commodities through the Egyptian Customs Authority. The website generates information according to the different codes of the commodity. The information includes trade agreements and arrangements with foreign governments that allow specific exemptions and tariff reduction. The website also provides information of trade agreements between Egypt and its trading partners. The website is available only in Arabic. Access to tariff information through the following portal address:
<https://www.customs.gov.eg/Services/Inquiries/Tarrif?searchquery> Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Pre-Clearance – Pre-Arrival Submission

Egypt introduced a new pre- clearance import system Advanced Cargo Information (ACI) that requires pre-registration and generating an ID number (ACID) that should be included on all shipping documents. Since October 1, 2021, electronic ACI filing is mandatory for all exporters to Egypt. Egyptian importers need to register on the Egyptian customs platform (NAFEZA), where they register their import shipments and request an ACID number. For importers to complete this process, the exporter must already be registered in the CargoX Platform. If you are an exporter, you must create a free CargoX account at <https://cargox.digital>. The Egyptian importer must complete his part of the process as well. Please see Figure 1 above: Pre-shipment process procedures.

On July 26, 2020, Egypt’s National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) released Decision No. 7/2020, Principles and Objectives of Risk-Based Food Import Control System. The system provides a fast-track clearance path for the release of the commodities based on risk categories.

Through the risk-based approach in handling imports and based on the risk level identified for each consignment, NFSA will determine the suitable clearance channel. Each clearance channel shall

determine the methodology for handling the imported food consignments upon arrival. The clearance will determine the inspection and random sampling level. NFSA identifies four clearance channels (see- [GAIN-EGYPT EG2020-0054 Egypt Imposes a Risk-Based Food Import Control System](#))

E- Certificate

The Central Administration of the Plant Quarantine is subscribed in the international e-Phyto hub of the International Plant Protection Convention. The agency expects to commence working with e-Phyto starting in 2022, postponing the launch from 2021. However, they currently made it available for trading countries to check any phytosanitary certificate received with the Egyptian plant and plant products shipments via the plant quarantine portal:

<http://www.capq.gov.eg/Exporting/PhytosanitaryCertificates/Index>

Average Release Time

The release time varies greatly according to the product. Products requiring testing would typically be released after the results of all testing. Times also vary according to the different ports and facilities, as well as available capacity. However, release times vary from one week to one month for some products. If a consignment is rejected and the importer requests an appeal, this will add to the total release time (see page 23 appeal committee - **SECTION IX – IMPORT PROCEDURES**). Some shipments imported as samples via air freight may take three to four days to be released.

Prior to the application of single window, and Advanced Cargo Information, contacts are stating an average release time of 10 days. The Minister of Finance indicated that full implementation of the new customs systems will reduce the average clearance time from the current 28 days to one day.

On December 19, 2021, NFSA released Decision No. 9/2021, Handling of Imported Food Consignments Subject to Temporary Release. The consignments are not granted approval to enter the Egyptian market pending an official notification from NFSA upon completion of compliance verification procedures.

The food consignments that are subject to temporary release are those consignments that fall under the red and orange channels, in accordance with the risk-based food import control system issued by NFSA Board of Directors Decision No. 7 of the year 2020. The purpose of the temporary release is to verify compliance and conduct tests to ensure consignments are in conformity with food safety standards and quality requirements.

This should enhance the release time of the products, and temporary release will be applied only to products categorized under medium to high-risk products.

NFSA also released Decision No. 10/2021 in December 2021, the Provisions of Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Competent Authorities in the Context of Imported Food Control. The decision sets out criteria listed in Appendix I of the Decision, for conducting overall or partial equivalence assessment of the performance and effectiveness of the food control system applied by the Exporting Country Competent Authority (ECCA), including the operations performed to verify the compliance of food exports to Egypt.

In a final step prior to assessment, a “recognition memorandum of understanding” shall be established and signed between NFSA and the ECCA. The agreement is set in respect of the food control system applied by ECCA and recognized by NFSA as equivalent to ensure compliance with the Egyptian food safety and quality requirements. Upon the establishment of the recognition memorandum of understanding, consignments should be released in an expedited manner.

Appendix I – Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

U.S. Embassy Cairo, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs
Physical Address: American Embassy, 8 Kamal El-Din Salah Street, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt
Phone: +20-2-2797-2388 • Fax: +20-2-2796-3989 • AgCairo@fas.usda.gov

(* NOTE: 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.

SEARCH GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

National Food Safety Authority (Reports to the Prime Minister)

National Food Safety Authority

Contact: Dr. Hussein Mansour

Tele: +2 (2) 27933493 | +2 (2) 27933497 • Fax: +2 (2) 27933496

Email: info@nfsa.gov.eg • <http://www.nfsa.gov.eg/> (Arabic)

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

The Central Administration of Plant Quarantine

Contact: Dr. Ahmed Al-Atar, Head of the Central Administration for Plant Quarantine,

Tel: +20 (2) 3335-1625 or +20 (2) 37608575 • Fax: +20 (2) 3760-8574

Email: capqoffice@gmail.com

General Organization for Veterinary Services

Contact: Dr. Abdel Hakim Mahmoud, Director of the Central Administration of Animal Quarantine

Tel: +20 (2) 3748-1750 • Fax: +20 (2) 3748-1763

Email: govs-egypt@govs.gov.eg • <http://www.govs.gov.eg/FrontEnd/en/Default.aspx>

Central Lab of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals

Contact: Dr. Hend Abdella, Director

Tel: +20 (2) 3748-6163 • Fax: +20 (2) 3761-1216

Email: qcap@link.net • <http://www.qcap-egypt.com/eg-index.php>

Regional Center for Food and Feed

Contact: Dr. Ashraf Hashem Gomaa, Director

Tel: +20 (2) 3572-2069 / 572-3906 • Fax: +20 (2) 3572-2609

Email: clff@intouch.com • http://www.rcff.com.eg/index_ENG.htm

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

The Agriculture Pesticide Committee

Contact: Prof. Mohamed Abdel Meguid, Chairman of Agriculture Pesticide Committee

Tel: +20 (2) 37480576

Email: Chairman@apc.gov.eg • <http://www.apc.gov.eg/en/>

Animal Health Research Institute

Reference Laboratory for Safety Analysis of Food of Animal Origin

Contact: Dr. Momtaz Shahin, Director of Animal Health Research Institute

Telephone Numbers: +20 (2) 33374856 - 37489022 • Fax: +20 (2) 33350030

Email: Ahri@arc.sci.eg • <http://www.ahri.gov.eg/>

Ministry of Health

Central Labs Administration

Contact: Dr. Nancy El Gandy, Director

Tel: +20 (2) 27950096 • Fax: +20 (2) 2796-2248

Email: centralhealthlabs@yahoo.com • <http://www.healthlabs.net/> (Arabic)

National Nutrition Institute

Contact: Dr. Afaf Abdel Fatah Tawfik, Director of the National Nutrition Institute

Tel: +20 (2) 25324315- 2364-6413/3522 • Fax: +20 (2) 2364-7476

Email: nniegypt@nni.org.eg

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control

Contact: Eng. Khaled Hassan Sofy, Chairman

Tel: +20 (2) 22845524 +20 (2) 22845528 • Fax: +20 (2) 2603-1351

Email eos@idsc.net.eg • <http://www.eos.org.eg/en>

General Organization for Export and Import Control

Contact: Major General Engineer Essam El- Naggar, Chairman

Tel: +20 (2) 2266-6847 • Fax: +20 (2) 2266-9668

Email: goeic@goeic.gov.eg

Ms. Dalia Talaat Shehab El Din, General Manager of Agricultural Imports

Tel : +20 (2) 22669531 • Fax : +20 (2) 22669364

Email: daliashehabeldin@yahoo.com

Ministry of Finance

Egyptian Customs Authority

Contact: Mr. Kamal Hassan Negm, Chairman

Telephone Number: +20 (2) 234-22152 - +20 (2) 234-22153 - +20 (2)234-22154

Fax Number: +20 (2) 234-22280 - +20 (2) 234-22281

E-mail: info@customs.gov.eg • <http://www.customs.gov.eg/> (Arabic)

Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade

General Authority for Supply Commodities

Contact Dr. Ahmed Youssef, Vice Chairman

Tel: +20 (2)-27960677 • Fax: +20 (2)-2796011

Email: Ahmedgasc@gmail.com

Appendix II – Laws and Decrees

Parliamentary Laws

- Parliamentary Law 1 (2017) – Promulgation of the National Food Safety Authority Law
- Parliamentary Law 82 (2002) – Plant Variety Protection

Presidential Decrees

- Presidential Decree 25 (2016) – Tariff Rates Increase Food and Agricultural Imports
- Presidential Decree 184 (2013) – Increase Import Tariffs on Agricultural Products (including fish, cut flowers, and fresh and dried fruits and nuts)
- Presidential Decree 103 (2008) – Reduction of Maximum Tariff Rates on (some) Products
- Presidential Decree 39 (2007) – Reduction of Maximum Tariff Rates
- Presidential Decree 106 (2000) – Centralizing the Process of Inspection and Certification of Imported Products under the General Organization for Export and Import Control
- Presidential Decree 250 (1999) – Ban of (some) Products from the European Union
- Presidential Decree 243 (1998) – Reduction of Maximum Tariff Rates
- Presidential Decree 619 (1998) – Imports of Durable and Non-Durable Goods

Prime Ministerial Decrees

- Prime Ministerial Executive Regulation 412 (2019) - National Food Safety Authority
- Prime Ministerial Decree 683 (2017) – Board of Trustees of the National Food Safety Authority
- Prime Ministerial Decree 2992 (2016) – Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans Imports

National Food Safety Authority Decisions

- Decision 1 (2018) - The Technical Regulations Governing the Registration and Handling of Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- Decision 2 (2020) - Registration of Conformity Assessment Bodies Issuing Certificates of Conformity for Imported Food Consignments
- Decision 3 (2020) – Inspection of 25 % of food import according to their risk.
- Decision 4 (2020) - Authorized Food Additives
- Decision 6 (2020) - Rules Governing Food Import Licensing
- Decision 7 (2020) - Risk Based Import Control Systems

- Decision 8 (2020) – Reduced Sample due to COVID – 19
- Decision 13 (2020) - the Issuance of the Technical Regulations Governing the Maximum Residue Limits for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
- Decision 1 (2021) - Technical Regulations of Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs
- Decision 6 (2021) - Pesticides Technical Regulation
- Decision 9 (2021) , Handling of Imported Food Consignments Subject to Temporary Release
- Decision 10 (2021) the Provisions of Recognition of the Control System Applied by the Exporting Country Competent Authorities in the Context of Imported Food Control
- Decision 6 (2022) The Binding Technical Basis for Maximum Residual Limit (Mrls) for Chemical Contaminant in Food

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decrees

- Ministerial Decree 562 (2019) – New Plant Quarantine Regulations
- Ministerial Decree 974 (2017) – Agricultural Pesticides Registration and Handling
- Ministerial Decree 1495 (2014) – Formation of a new national biosafety committee
- Ministerial Decree 1660 (2014) – Phytosanitary Requirements and Specifications for the Importation of Seed Potatoes for Growing Year (2014/15)
- Ministerial Decree 1018 (2013) – Agricultural Pesticides Registration and Handling
- Ministerial Decree 448 (2012) – Ban on the Import of Heat-Treated Feather Meal
- Ministerial Decree 266 (2011) – Adoption of the European Economic Commission Regulation 2377 (1990) - Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Food Products of Animal Origin
- Ministerial Decree 2128 (2011) – Restrictions on Age, Cuts, Processed Meat and Others from BSE Controlled Risk Status Countries
- Ministerial Decree 2188 (2011) – Constituting the Agricultural Pesticide Committee
- Ministerial Decree 1073 (1998) – Leucosis
- Ministerial Decree 9 (1997) – Meat Imports
- Ministerial Decree 1647 (1997) – Meat and Live Animal Imports
- Ministerial Decree 874 (1996) – Prohibition, Testing, Import, Use of class “B” and “C” Pesticides
- Ministerial Decree 25 (1982) – Product Sampling

Ministry of Trade and Industry

- Ministerial Decree 310 (2017) – Inclusion of the National Research Center Labs as a Reference Lab for Sampling Imported and Exported Food Products
- Ministerial Decree 999 (2017) – Crude Vegetable Oil Standards
- Ministerial Decree 24 (2017) – Procedures for Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans Imports (in accordance with Prime Ministerial Decree 2992 (2016))
- Ministerial Decree 693 (2015) – Production and Importing of Vegetable Oils Used for Food (in accordance with Egypt Standard 7985)
- Ministerial Decree 859 (2012) – Shelf Life for Food Commodities (excludes cereals and legumes)
- Ministerial Decree 2613 (2008) – General Conditions, Food Product Shelf Life, Parts A and B

- Ministerial Decree 434 (2008) – Food Products Shelf Life
- Ministerial Decree 285 (2006) – Establishment of Remaining Shelf Life for Food Product Imports
- Ministerial Decree 120 (2006) – New Labeling Requirements for Frozen Beef
- Ministerial Decree 130 (2005) – Compliance with Technical Regulations in Production (in accordance standard specifications)
- Ministerial Decree 524 (2000) – Sampling and Inspections.
- Ministerial Decree 552 (2000) – Inspection Certificates
- Ministerial Decree 423 (1999) – Amendment of decree 619 (1998)
- Ministerial Decree 163 (1999) – Labeling of Canned, Frozen and Packaged Food Products
- Ministerial Decrees 179, 180, and 181 (1996) – Product Specifications, Mandatory Standards
- Ministerial Decree 107 (1994) and Egypt Standard 2613 – Shelf-Life Standards

Ministry of Health

- Ministerial Decree 204 (2015) – Food Additives, Including Food Colorings, Food Preservatives, and Antioxidants Accepted for use by the Food Industry
- Ministerial Decree 73 (2001) – Packaging Materials
- Ministerial Decree 53 (1996) – Product Sampling and Test Analysis
- Ministerial Decree 354 (1996) – Product Rejection
- Ministerial Decree 232 (1996) and 349 – Product Sampling
- Ministerial Decree 302 (1986) and 782 (1984) – Product Sampling

Attachments:

No Attachments