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**Report Name:** Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards  
Country Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report describes the import requirements and regulations for food and agricultural products required by the Government of Tanzania (GoT). The report outlines Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) rules and other regulations for U.S exports to Tanzania. Under Act No. 04 of 2020, the Plant Health Section under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tropical Pesticides Research Authority have been merged together to form the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) which has primary authority over pesticide and plant health requirements.

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### **Disclaimer:**

This report was prepared by the Dar es Salaam OAA, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While all possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities before any goods are shipped. Please note: final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

## Executive Summary:

Tanzania's food regulatory system is generally consistent with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international treaties including Codex Alimentarius, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The primary regulations affecting U.S. exports to Tanzania are available on the [Tanzania Bureau of Standards \(TBS\) website](#) or the [Tanzania National Business Portal](#).

TBS is responsible for most matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products. Exporters should submit all documents at least seven days before the arrival of their shipments through appointed clearing and forwarding agents.

Products shipped to Tanzania must have a corresponding Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC). Importers in Tanzania apply for a FIRC for each product they import. To obtain a FIRC the imported products must satisfy the Tanzania requirements as evaluated by TBS.

## Section I: Food Laws.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is the national standard-setting body for Tanzania. TBS is mandated to monitor quality control of most products and to promote standardization.

The main regulations against which TBS evaluates U.S. exports are available at the [TBS website](#) and are listed below:

1. [The Standards \(Certification\) Regulations, 2009.](#)
2. [The Standards \(Tested Products\) Regulations, 2009.](#)
3. [The Standards \(Compulsory Batch Certification of Imports\) Regulations, 2009.](#)
4. [The Finance Act, 2020.](#)

Other laws that affect U.S. food and agricultural exports to Tanzania include:

1. The Plant Protection Act, 1997.
2. The Plant Protection Regulations, 1998.
3. The Cereal and Other Produce Act, 2009.
4. The Seeds Act (No.1), 2003.
5. The Coffee Industry Act, 2001.
6. The Crops Laws Act, 2009.
7. The Protection of New Plant Varieties (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act, 2002.
8. The Cereals and Other Produce Regulations, 2011.
9. The Finance Act, 2015.
10. Value Added Tax (General) Regulations, 2015.

11. National Biotechnology Policy of 2010.
12. National Environmental Policy of 1997.
13. National Trade Policy of 2003.
14. The Fisheries Act of 2003.

While TBS has the primary responsibility for matters relating to the import of food products, other Tanzanian agencies also play a role. The table below lists relevant government agencies and their corresponding responsibilities:

**Table 1: Primary Food and Agricultural Import-Related Agencies**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)	TBS is responsible for all matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products.
Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)	TRA assesses and collects revenue on behalf of the GoT.
Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC)	TAEC regulates uses of atomic energy and tests for radiation contamination in food products.
The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA)	TPHPA provides research, training and other services regarding pests, pesticides, biodiversity, and sustainability.
Tanzania Meat Board (TMB)	The Tanzania Meat Board regulates the meat industry regarding management and quality issues.
Director of Veterinary Services (DVS)	DVS controls livestock diseases, safeguards livestock health, and promotes safe trade in livestock and livestock products.

## Section II: Labeling Requirements

TBS regulates food labeling and assesses labeling information to ensure that it complies with domestic labeling regulations and Codex standard 1-1985. Under Tanzania regulations, labeling must not be presented in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding food products in any respect. Labels must not refer to other products with which the labeled product may be confused. Tanzania does not allow stick-on labels.

Food labels should include the product name, list of ingredients, net content, country of origin, as well as the name and address of the manufacturer. Labels should also include batch or lot identification numbers, manufacture and expiry dates, ingredient lists with corresponding quantities, recommended storage conditions, nutritional information, and instructions for use. The GoT requires English or Kiswahili labeling on all consumer food products, although labels can have text in other languages if it is combined with English or Kiswahili.

The GoT provides the following guidance on general appearance of labels:

1. Labels for prepackaged foods must be applied in such a manner that they will not become separated from the container.
2. Required information must be shown prominently on the label in a manner that is indelible and readily legible by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.
3. If the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper must carry the necessary information or the label on the container must be readily legible through the outer wrapper.
4. The common name and net contents of the food must appear close to each other and be shown in a prominent position on the label.

The GoT has no specific labeling requirements for plant-based meat and dairy alternatives.

### Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The GoT defines packing broadly to include handling, storage, sale, and delivery. Full details are available under Tanzania Standard (TZS 538-1991). The GoT accepts most packaging materials including:

- Metal cans and metal-ended composite containers.
- Glass bottles and jars.
- Molded, rigid, and semi-rigid plastic containers.
- Metal and plastic collapsible tubes.
- Folding and rigid paper-based boxes and cartons.
- Molded paper containers.
- Flexible packaging such as papers, films, aluminum foil, and cloth or vegetable fibers.

### Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

TBS regulates food additives under Section 130 of the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009. Where there are no specific GoT regulations or where an additive is not listed, TBS follows Codex guidelines. Tanzania has both positive and negative lists for food additives. These lists are not available online but are available by request from regional and national TBS offices. TBS restricts the use of additives in baby food. Labeling requirements for food additives are fully described in Tanzania Standard TCS 538. All food additives are subject to the below labeling requirements:

1. The name of each food additive present must be listed. The name shall be specified as described in Tanzania Standard TZS 115.

2. If two or more food additives are present, they must be presented as a list. The list shall be given in descending order by content. Additives should be included in one list along with other ingredients.
3. Food additives with a shelf-life less than 18 months must show the expiration date using words such as “will keep until at least....”
4. The words “For food use” or a similar statement must appear prominently.
5. Each container shall be marked to identify the producing factory and product lot.

## Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Under Act No. 04 of 2020, the Plant Health Section under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tropical Pesticides Research Authority have been merged together to form the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to provide a single authority for enforcing sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The TPHPA was created to improve coordination and remove duplication of regulatory roles. TPHPA manages pesticide registration and maintains lists of registered, restricted, and banned pesticides. A list of registered pesticides can be found at the [Pesticide Stock Management System](#). In general, TPHPA uses Codex standards for tolerance levels.

Other government institutions enforcing pesticide and contaminant regulations include the following:

- Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) monitors and analyzes pesticide residues in their accredited laboratory.
- TBS sets standards and monitors compliance.
- Tanzania Veterinary Services (TVS) and Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) monitor pesticide residues in animal products, feed, and veterinary drugs.
- Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) checks on the maximum residue limit for radioactivity.

## Section VI: Other Certification and Testing Requirements

In order to import food and agricultural products into Tanzania, importers must have a product-specific Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC). A FIRC is issued by TBS and is valid for one year. To obtain a FIRC importers must show that their products satisfy all relevant Tanzania import requirements.

## Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Exported goods to Tanzania require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) which confirms that the product meets Tanzania’s standards. To obtain a CoC, products must go through a pre-shipment verification of conformity (PVoC). TBS has appointed SGS, Intertek International, and Bureau Veritas to conduct PVoC inspections and issue a CoC. The PVoC process can include physical inspection prior to

shipment, laboratory sampling, production process audits, and documentary review. Shipments arriving in Tanzania without a CoC are subject to fines and rejections. More information on Tanzania's PVoC requirements is available here: [Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity](#).

## Section VIII: Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is weak in Tanzania and exporters should be aware that it can be very difficult to protect their intellectual property. Copyrights are regulated by [The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act of 1999, Act No. 7 of 1999](#). Registration of copyrights is administered by the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA). Trademarks are governed by the [Trade and Service Marks Act, Act No. 12 of 1986](#) and registration of trademarks and patents is administered by the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA). Trademark registrations are valid for seven years and may be renewed an additional ten years in perpetuity.

Tanzania is a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

## Section IX: Import Procedures

Import permits are required for exporters to ship food and agricultural products to Tanzania. Tanzania's import permit process is guided by the East African Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA) of 2004. To obtain a permit applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Importers and imported food products must be registered. This can be done online at: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>.
- An application for importation must be completed. This can be done online through the TBS import and export portal: <https://oas.tbs.go.tz/>
- Non-perishable goods must have a shelf-life of more than six months upon entering Tanzania.

Applications for import permits from TBS should be accompanied by the following documents:

- A proforma invoice from the supplier.
- A certificate of analysis from the manufacturer of the exporting country.
- A health certificate from the competent regulatory body of the exporting country.
- A phytosanitary certificate (in case of importation of unprocessed cereals or plant origin products).
- A radiation-free certificate, where applicable.
- A Zoosanitary certificate for non-processed foods of animal origin.
- Certificates from relevant bodies for specific food products (e.g., sugar boards or dairy boards).
- A bill of lading or airway bill.

- A certificate of origin.
- Copies of previous import permits shows that the consignment was inspected at the port of entry.

Specific commodities may have additional requirements for import permits. For example, meat and poultry products require an import permit from DVS. Additional information is available at the Tanzania Revenue Authority website or [Tanzania National Business Portal](#).

Imported foods are inspected at the point of entry before distribution. Foods deemed to be non-compliant are returned to the country of origin or destroyed at the importer's expense.

In order to pass through customs, importers must appoint a licensed clearing and forwarding agent (CFA) to clear incoming goods. Importers should complete and submit all supporting documents through the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) at least 7 days before arrival of goods.

Documents for submission include:

- Final invoice.
- An agent's authorization letter from the importer.
- Import permits from TBS, TASAC, DVS, TAEC, and TMB as necessary.
- Exemption documents (if applicable).
- Packing lists.
- Transport documents such as a bill of lading, an airway bill/, or a road consignment note.
- Cross-border declarations of currency and bearer negotiable instruments.

The clearance system automatically rejects incomplete declarations or declarations with insufficient descriptions through an Integrated Query System (IQS).

Tanzania has special requirements for meat products. Tanzania importers of meat products must be [registered with the Tanzania Meat Board](#). The criteria used by the Board to register meat importers includes:

- Possession of a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and registration as Tanzania company under BRELA.
- Proof of physical address.
- A positive inspection report of the business location that shows the area satisfied the requirements of the Meat Industry Act.

In order to import meat products or livestock stakeholders must fulfill the following requirements:

- Stakeholders must affirm that the kind of meat or meat products they intend to import is not sufficiently available in the domestic market.
- Stakeholders must have a certified registration from Tanzania Bureau of Standards.
- Importers of meat products must have a TMB [clearance certificate](#).

- Importers must pay a duty equal to [2 percent of FOB value of imported meat product charged per each consignment](#).

## Section X: Trade Facilitation

Tanzania ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 8 April 2020. As a result, Tanzania’s import process has become more efficient. The GoT has adopted numerous information and communication technology (ICT) systems for simplifying goods clearance. The systems have improved clearance procedures by:

- Expediting release time.
- Applying customs law uniformly.
- Implementing effective risk management.
- Efficiently collecting revenue.

Electronic cargo tracking is now in use to control the movement of high-risk cargo and submission of customs documentation is electronic and centralized. Tanzania’s system connects to banks to facilitate quick payment of customs fees and duties.

Since ratification of the TFA, the minimum average release time of goods is now 18 days, and the maximum is 29 days. The estimated minimum cost of clearing customs for one shipment through Dar Es Salaam can be found at the [Tanzania Trade Portal](#).

**Table 2: Average Release Time for Goods:**

	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>Total time (sum):</b>	<b>18 days</b>	<b>29 days</b>
<u>of which:</u>		
Waiting time in queue:	40 minutes	6 hours and 25minutes
Attention at counter:	6 hours	1 day
Waiting time until next step:	17 days	27 days

Tanzania has an informal procedure for advance rulings on custom classifications. Advance rulings are issued by letter upon request by importers but are not tracked in a central database or disclosed to the public. Tanzania may also issue advance rulings on origin matters. For more on advance rulings see [Tax Administration Act, 2015 \('TAA 2015'\)](#) and the [Tanzania Trade Portal](#).

## Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

### **Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)**

Ubungu Area, Morogoro Road / Sam Nujoma Road  
P.O. Box 9524, Dar es Salaam  
Tell: +255 22 245 0298 | +255 22 245 0206 | +255 22 245 0949  
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E-mail: [info@tbs.go.tz](mailto:info@tbs.go.tz)  
Website: <http://www.tbs.go.tz/>

### **Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA)**

PSSSF Building, 10th Floor, Makole Road,  
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Email Address: [info@tmda.or.tz](mailto:info@tmda.or.tz)  
Website: <https://www.tmda.go.tz/>

### **Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)**

Permanent Secretary  
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### **Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development**

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Email Address: [ps@uvuvi.go.tz](mailto:ps@uvuvi.go.tz)

### **Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)**

Commissioner General  
Samora Avenue P. O. Box 11491  
Dar es Salaam  
Website: <https://www.tra.go.tz/>

**Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)**

Director-General

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Tel (255) 22-22110401-5. 22110371-5. 21137630-5

Fax: (255) 22-2130390

E-mail: [dg@tanzaniaports.com](mailto:dg@tanzaniaports.com)

Website: <http://ports.go.tz/index.php/en/>

**Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA)**

Director-General

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**Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC)**

Director-General

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**Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA)**

Chief Executive Officer

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**Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC)**

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments