

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** December 02, 2022

**Report Number:** TW2022-0059

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

**Country:** Taiwan

**Post:** Taipei

**Report Category:** FAIRS Annual Country Report

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**Report Highlights:**

In 2021, Taiwan was the sixth largest export market for U.S. food and agricultural products, valued over \$3.78 billion. Imported food and agricultural products must comply with a range of laws designed to protect human health and prevent the introduction of animal and plant pests or diseases. This report gives an overview of Taiwan's import requirements for food and agricultural products. While this report strives to be as comprehensive as possible, regulations and requirements can frequently change. U.S. exporters are therefore encouraged to work closely with their Taiwan importers to ensure they are aware of and complying with all current Taiwan regulations and requirements.

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## Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Agriculture Section of American Institute in Taiwan for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that 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. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## Executive Summary

In 2022, Taiwan implemented revisions to several food-related regulations, including:

Effective April 18, 2022, Taiwan temporarily modified its restrictions on imports of poultry and poultry products from the United States impacted by HPAI. The modification allows imports of poultry and poultry products from the banned U.S. states if the date of slaughter is 14 days or more before the applicable HPAI ban began. Detailed information can be found in in GAIN TW2022-0024 [Taiwan Temporarily Relaxes HPAI Restrictions on Poultry Imports](#).

Restructured meat/fishery products and artificially marbled meat products are required to carry the label “restructured” or “artificially marbled” and add a remark of “serve when cooked” when they are in packaged form, in bulk form when sold by registered food vendors, or when served in catering operations. Wordings with an equivalent meaning are allowed, and the labeling may be in the form of a placard, tag, sign board, or other applicable methods. The rule was revised on March 17, 2022 and took effect on July 1, 2022. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Restructured Meat/Fishery Products and Artificially Marbled Meat Products](#) (in Chinese).

Effective October 1, 2022, TFDA implemented additional certification requirements for imported meat products. The current U.S. certificates for meat products continue to be used, with additional information required to be inserted in specific sections. Detailed instruction can be found at the [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#) (see also GAIN TW2022-0046 [Taiwan Will Implement New Certification Requirements for Imported Meat Products](#)).

In 2022, TFDA published four batches of updates on MRLs for pesticides and animal drugs in plant and animal products. Pesticide residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#), and veterinary drug residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Veterinary Drug Residue Limits in Foods](#).

Taiwan also announced several new measures to be implemented in 2023, including:

The new [Regulation Governing the Labeling of Prepackaged Honey and its Syrup Products](#) will come into effect on July 1, 2023. Prepackaged honey and its syrup products with a honey content of less than 60 percent shall be labeled with “Honey Flavor”. Honey content at 60 percent or higher shall be labeled with “pure honey” (100 percent honey only), “blended honey”, or “sugar-added honey” based on product property.

Effective July 1, 2023, packaging materials containing Polyvinylchloride (PVC) will be restricted for use in containers to pack food, feed, dairy products, seasoning, edible oil, beverages, alcohol, mineral water, etc. Detailed information can be found at Taiwan EPA’s notice [Restriction on the Production, Importation and Sales of the Plate Packaging Materials, Regulated Recyclable Containers and the Non-plate Disposable Tableware Containers Which Contain Polyvinyl Chloride \(PVC\)](#).

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## Section I. Food Laws

On February 5, 2014, Taiwan's Food Sanitation Act was renamed the [Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#), or the Food Safety and Sanitation Act (FSSA). The FSSA designates the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) as the central competent authority responsible for food safety. All major laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances concerning food safety and quality are based on the FSSA.

Taiwan's Legislative Yuan reviews and revises the FSSA in response to regulatory needs or public food safety concerns. The most recent revisions were made in April and June 2019; key amendments include adding articles on the definition of processing aids and a penalty for spreading untruthful information about food safety. The general implementation rule for the FSSA is the [Enforcement Rules for the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#), and the importation rule under the FSSA is the [Regulations of Inspection of Imported Foods and Related Products](#). Some of the FSSA rules and regulations are implemented in stages. TFDA of MOHW plans and announces the effective date depending on the preparation time they deem needed to adopt the new rule.

Another agency involved in food safety management is the Council of Agriculture (COA). COA is responsible for animal feed, pet food, animal and plant health, and inspection and quarantine. Most of these functions are performed by COA's subordinate organization, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ). BAPHIQ is equivalent to a combination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). It oversees animal and plant health aspects and slaughter activities for animal products while another COA subordinate organization, Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA), oversees production activities for plant products, and programs for rice procurement and organic certification.

Many of Taiwan's sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards are different from U.S. standards or those established by international standards-setting bodies, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), or Codex Alimentarius (Codex). Since its World Trade Organization (WTO) accession in 2002, Taiwan has taken steps to implement the terms of the WTO SPS Agreement. However, some of Taiwan's standards, laws, regulations, and practices are still not consistent with international standards or practices. U.S. exporters are therefore encouraged to work closely with their Taiwan importers to ensure they are aware of and complying with all current Taiwan regulations and requirements.

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## Section II. Labeling Requirements

TFDA oversees food and beverage labeling requirements. All packaged food products must carry a general label and most of them also require a nutritional label. Both labels should use traditional Chinese characters; English labeling is optional. Taiwan's Customs Administration permits the Chinese labels to be affixed to imported products in government-approved logistics centers or government-approved self-managed bonded warehouses prior to customs clearance.

### General Food Labels

All processed food products or food additives for retail sale must have a general label in Chinese containing information such as product name, ingredients, net weight or volume, names of all food additives, country of origin, expiration date, company name, address, and phone number. Detailed labeling requirements can be found in Chapter V “Management for Food Labeling and Advertisement” of the [Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#), and in the [Enforcement Rules for the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation](#).

Imported foods used for further processing or repacking rather than sold directly to local customers are exempted from Chinese labeling requirements. An example of such an imported food would be soybeans sold to a crushing plant or chicken sold into the catering market. However, when the product is not loose bulk, it must still have the original labels or tags describing its content. The labeling guidance for packaged bulk foods is described in Taiwan’s [Labeling Guidance for Packaged Bulk Foods and Food Ingredients](#) (in Chinese).

### **Nutritional Labels**

All packaged food products must have a nutritional label. Relevant regulations and sample nutritional tables are provided in [Nutrition Labeling Rules for Prepackaged Food Products](#). In July 2021, the nutrition labeling rule for special dietary products like infant formula and formula for certain diseases was merged into the nutrition labeling rule for all packaged products. If the following products do not have nutritional claims on the packaging, they are exempt from mandatory nutritional labeling: 1) drinking water, mineral water, and ice cubes; 2) fresh produce of fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry meat, and seafood; 3) tea, coffee, and herbs for brewing purposes without adding other ingredients or food additives; 4) seasoning spices or spice packs for cooking; 5) salt and salt substitutes; 6) other food items whose nutritional tables show zero in value for all the required fields. In addition, food or food ingredients not directly sold to consumers are also exempted. More information can be found in the [Prepackaged Food Products Exempted from Nutrition Labeling](#).

Taiwan’s latest nutritional labeling regulation amendment will enter into effect on July 1, 2024, including the definition of nutritional claims, rehydration products, and capsule/tablet nutrition labeling. Detailed information could be found [here](#).

### **Food Additives**

Taiwan allows for food flavorings to be described in general terms such as “flavoring agents,” “natural flavoring agents,” “emulsifiers,” and “leavening agents” to allow companies to protect trade secrets. The use of food additives needs to comply with [Standards for Specification, Scope, Application and Limitation of Food Additives](#). Food additives not listed in this document are not allowed. TFDA maintains a searchable list of [Approved Additives](#).

### **Dairy Products**

Labels for liquid dairy products must indicate the product’s shelf life and appropriate storage requirements. Taiwan has detailed regulations governing the labeling of [liquid milk products and milk powder](#), and [milk fat content for butter and cream](#). Milk fortified with nutrients not inherent in raw milk itself cannot be labeled as “fresh milk.” Milk drink or modified milk powder should contain at least 50 percent of milk ingredients. Packaged modified milk powder product should label the percentage of milk powder. Additional national definition of dairy products can be found in Chinese at [Chinese](#)

[National Standards](#). All [food grade dairy powder products](#) in packages exceeding 10 kilograms in size must be clearly labeled as “food grade” or “for human consumption.”

### **Packaged Fruit and Vegetable Juice Labels**

All packaged fruit and vegetable juices that contain more than ten percent of natural juice should label the actual percentage on the front side of the package. If the natural juice content is less than ten percent, the product is not allowed to be labeled as natural juice or other equivalent terms. In addition, these products are required to carry the statement "less than 10% natural juice" or label the actual percentage on the front side of the package. More information can be found in TFDA’s announcement for [Labeling Rules for Packaged Drinks Containing Fruit and Vegetable Juice](#) (in Chinese).

### **Vegetarian Food Labels**

All packaged foods claiming to be vegetarian should label the type of vegetarian diet: vegan, lacto-vegetarian, ovo-vegetarian, lacto-ovo-vegetarian, and five pungent spices vegetarian. The definition of each type of vegetarian diet and other labeling information can be found in the [Labeling Rules for Packaged Vegetarian Food](#) (in Chinese).

### **Caffeine Labels for Packaged Drinks**

All packaged drinks that have caffeine content over 20 milligram (mg) in 100 milliliters (ml) should label the actual content of caffeine. If the caffeine content is between 2-20 mg/100ml, the products can be labeled as ‘below 20mg/100ml’. For coffee, tea, and cocoa drinks, if the caffeine content is below 2mg/100ml, the products can be labeled as ‘low caffeine’. More information can be found in the [Labeling Rules for Packaged Drinks Containing Caffeine](#) (in Chinese).

### **Food Allergen Labels**

All prepackaged food containing substances which can cause an allergic reaction in susceptible individuals, or other products that can cause an allergic reaction, must be labeled with warning information. The warning should be clearly and separately indicated on the label.

Effective July 1, 2020, the number of allergens that require labeling was expanded from the previous six items to 11 items, including: crustaceans, mango, peanuts, milk, eggs, nuts, sesame, cereals containing gluten, soybeans, fish, and sulphites. Kiwi, cephalopods, conch, and seeds are allergens allowed for voluntary labeling. More information can be found in the revised [Labeling Rules for Food Allergens](#).

### **Frozen Food Labels**

In addition to the labeling requirements stipulated in FSSA, imported frozen foods must also abide by the [Regulations Governing the Labeling of Frozen Foods](#), including the following information in Chinese on the label: type of frozen food, preservation method and storage conditions, and cooking instructions if the products are not ready-to-eat.

### **Health Food Labels**

The [Health Food Control Act](#) and the [Enforcement Rules of Health Food Control Act](#) regulate the use of health claims on food products. Products with health food claims must prove that the product has the capacity to contribute to health and/or decreases disease risk. However, no health food may claim to prevent illness. Any product with health food claims must be approved by TFDA before being marketed. Once approved, the import permit is valid for five years.

On January 17, 2019, TFDA implemented [Additional Labeling Rules for Health Food](#). For capsule and tablet products, the following warning language should be added in the caution section: “this product is only for health care, not intended for medical purposes, patients with illness should seek medical attention”, and “please follow the recommended intake volume, do not overdose.” For other products, the warning language should be “this product is only for health care, please follow the recommended intake volume.” To prevent misunderstanding, only approved health foods can use “health” within the product name.

On January 1, 2024, the next [Amendment of “Regulations Governing the Labeling of Health Food”](#) will come into effect. Subject to new regulation and other labeling details will be refined sugar, health food with fish oil, health food with red yeast rice.

### **Alcohol Labels**

Alcohol products are regulated by Ministry of Finance. Alcohol labels must include: 1) the brand name; 2) product type; 3) alcohol content; 4) origin of imported alcohol products; 5) names and addresses of manufacturers and importers; 6) lot number; 7) volume; 8) expiration date for products with alcohol content of seven percent or less, or which are packaged in plastic or paper containers; 9) health warnings (examples include “excessive drinking endangers health,” “don’t drink and drive,” etc.); 10) other labeling as required by the competent authority. The brand name must be printed in large, broad, or bold typeface that is bigger than other fonts on the label. Importers may also include on the label the year, age, and/or geographical origin. Labels need to be in Chinese except brand names, names, and addresses of foreign manufacturers, and geographical indicators. Volume should be stated in liters, centiliters, or milliliters. Additional information can be found in the [Tobacco and Alcohol Administration Act](#) and the [Labeling Rules for the Alcohol Products](#).

### **Chocolate Labels**

On January 1, 2022, the amendment to the [Regulations Governing the Product Name and Labeling of Chocolate](#) came into effect. Chocolate products including dark/white/milk chocolate, filled chocolate, chocolate spread, and chocolate syrup are subject to regulation. The standards of cocoa contents for various chocolate products and additional information can be found in the [regulation](#).

### **Prepackaged Honey and Honey Syrup**

The new [Regulation Governing the Labeling of Prepackaged Honey and its Syrup Products](#) will come into effect on July 1, 2023. Prepackaged honey and its syrup products with a honey content of less than 60 percent shall be labeled with “Honey Flavor”. Honey content at 60 percent or higher shall be labeled with “pure honey” (100 percent honey only), “blended honey”, or “sugar-added honey” based on product property.

### **Genetically Engineered (GE) Product Labels**

Raw materials and primary products which are directly made from GE product inputs (such as soybean oil, corn starch and syrup, soy sauce, etc.) are required to be labeled as GE. Secondary products made with GE primary products (such as beverages containing corn syrup, etc. without DNA residues or proteins) are exempted from GE labeling requirements. The labeling regulations state that the length and width of the font must not be less than two millimeters and must be differentiated through use of a separate color, font, and/or background. Fines for violating these regulations can range from NTD \$30,000 up to NTD \$3 million. Business licenses can be revoked for serious violations. More

information is available on [TFDA's website](#) for GE Food Labeling and the Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report (GAIN TW2022-0056).

### **Non-GE Labels**

A product can only be labeled as non-GE if there is a commercially available GE-version in Taiwan. For example, papaya is not eligible for non-GE labeling as Taiwan has not approved any varieties of GE-papaya (domestic or imported). TFDA conducts annual retail label inspections to evaluate compliance with GE-labeling rules.

### **Liquid Egg Labels**

As of January 1, 2021, liquid egg products are required to add “sterile” or “unsterile” on the labels. For unsterile products, the label will also need to carry the statement that the products should be used in the type of foods which will undergo full heating or other methods sufficient for effective sterilization. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Liquid Egg Products](#).

### **Labels for Restructured Meat/Fishery Products and Artificially Marbled Meat Products**

Restructured meat/fishery products and artificially marbled meat products are required to carry the label “restructured” or “artificially marbled” and add a remark of “serve when cooked” when they are in packaged form, in bulk form when sold by registered food vendors, or when served in catering operations. Wordings with an equivalent meaning are allowed, and the labeling may be in the form of a placard, tag, sign board, or other applicable methods. The rule was revised on March 17, 2022 and took effect on July 1, 2022. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Restructured Meat/Fishery Products and Artificially Marbled Meat Products](#) (in Chinese).

### **Country of Origin Labels**

#### ***Bulk foods***

For registered food companies, all food products or ingredients sold at retail markets need to indicate the product name and country of origin either on a placard, label, sign board, or other applicable method. Country of origin for meat products should be the country of slaughter. Small food vendors without company registration are exempted from this requirement for most food. However, they are still required to label the country of origin for 20 food items in fresh, chilled, frozen, dehydrated, dry, crushed, ground, or simple-cutting forms. The 20 food items are peanuts, red beans, mung beans, black beans, soybeans, buckwheat, barley, quinoa, sesame, millet, garlic, mushrooms, tea leaves, red dates, wolfberry shrub, chrysanthemum, poultry, pork, lamb, and beef. The requirement to label the country of origin on the above food items took effect on January 1, 2021, with the exception for beef products, which took effect in 2012. Detailed information can be found in the [Labeling Rule for Bulk Foods](#).

#### ***Packaged foods***

Packaged foods containing beef or pork for retail should label the country of origin for the beef or pork ingredients used. Country of origin for the beef or pork ingredients should be the country of slaughter. The requirement took effect in 2013 for packaged beef products, and in January 2021 for packaged pork products. Detailed information can be found in the [Rule for Country of Origin Labeling on Packaged Foods Containing Beef or Edible Parts of Cattle](#), and the [Rule for Country of Origin Labeling on Packaged Foods Containing Pork or Edible Parts of Pigs](#).

### ***Foods served in catering establishments***

All foods served in restaurants, food vendors, and food stalls should be labeled with the country of origin for any beef or pork ingredient used. Country of origin for the beef or pork ingredient should be the country of slaughter. The requirement took effect in 2012 for foods containing beef, and in January 2021 for foods containing pork. Detailed information can be found in the [Rule of Country of Origin Labeling on Foods Containing Beef or Edible Parts of Cattle Served in Catering Places](#) (in Chinese), and the [Rule of Country of Origin Labeling on Foods Containing Pork or Edible Parts of Pigs Served in Catering Places](#).

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

### **Package Recycling**

The Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (TEPA) is the statutory body responsible for waste removal, disposal, or recycling, including food product packaging or containers. According to Article 15 of TEPA's [Waste Disposal Act](#), manufacturers or importers are responsible for the recycling, disposal and removal of an article, or its package/container. All recyclable materials are required to bear the standard recycling symbol, illustrated as symbol "A" below. Symbol "B" below is also required for all plastic materials, but the name of the resin corresponding to the number inside the logo (PVC, etc.) is not required except for bioplastics.

Symbol A: Standard Recycling Symbol



Symbol B. Society of Plastics Industry Resin Identification Code (numbering from 1 to 7)



Codes: 1 = PET; 2 = HDPE; 3 = PVC; 4 = LDPE; 5 = PP; 6 = PS; 7 = other materials, including bioplastic. If the material is bioplastic, the English acronym of the bioplastic (PLA, PHA, PHB, PHV, PHBV, etc.) must be indicated below the SPI code No. 7 as shown above. The recycling symbols can be imprinted or labeled on containers or packages.

In July 2023, [restrictions for plate packaging material containing polyvinyl chloride \(PVC\), designated recyclable containers, and non-plate disposable tableware containers](#) will take effect. Food, feed, dairy products, seasoning, edible oil, beverages, and other products filled in PVC containers will be prohibited (see WTO notification [TBT/TPKM475](#)).

### **Wood Packaging Materials**

BAPHIQ regulates the use of wood packing materials in imported products. Its rules are loosely based on the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 guidelines. Specific requirements are laid out in the [Quarantine Requirements for Wood Packaging Material Used in Imported Commodity](#).

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## **Section IV. Food Additive Regulations**

Processed food products that contain artificial food additives are subject to strict tolerance levels and acceptable use requirements as prescribed by TFDA. The [Standards for Scope, Application, and Limitation of Food Additives](#) covers over eight hundred food additive standards and regulations. Additives that are not identified on the permitted list are prohibited for use in foodstuffs in Taiwan.

MOHW will only consider adding new food additives to the Standards for Scope, Application, and Limitation of Food Additives after receipt of a [formal application](#) from the manufacturer or a designated representative. MOHW requires: 1) animal safety test data; 2) international acceptability of the proposed food ingredients; 3) an evaluation report stating that the ingredients are necessary to manufacture the product; 4) a description of the analysis method; and 5) product specifications. MOHW will then evaluate the acceptability of these additives and make a formal determination within one to two years.

The label should indicate the respective function of sweeteners, preservatives, and antioxidants. Food additive combinations should list the name of each individual material. Where flavoring ingredients are added to or used in a food additive product, it may be declared as “flavoring” or “flavor.” Natural flavor may be declared as “natural flavoring” or “natural flavor.” See Section II. Labeling Requirements for additional information.

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

Imports of fruit, vegetables, meat, and other food products are subject to inspection and testing for pesticides, animal drugs, and other contaminants such as toxins and heavy metals, conducted by TFDA inspectors at the port of entry. TFDA is responsible for establishing and promulgating MRLs for pesticides and animal drugs in Taiwan, as well as the sanitary standards for toxins, contaminants, microbes, and other substances of concern.

Taiwan authorities are required by law to establish MRLs for both imported products and local produce. They do not automatically adopt MRLs established by Codex as default standards. Imports are subject to border inspection upon arrival, while local produce is subject to market surveillance and monitoring, although usually at a much lower inspection frequency.

Taiwan does not have MRLs for some pesticides or animal drugs commonly used in the United States or other countries. In such cases Taiwan applies a de facto zero tolerance policy for these agrochemicals without a set MRL. Nevertheless, where Taiwan has set an MRL, they are sometimes lower than those set by Codex or the United States. The competent authorities develop testing methodology and utilize

very sensitive and advanced equipment for analysis. Products containing even minute levels of agrochemical residues without an MRL, toxins, contaminants, or other substances of concern are vulnerable to rejection.

The [Sanitary Standards of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) officially came into effect on January 1, 2019. This regulation combined several existing regulations and standards for agricultural commodities, foods, and beverages, and revised the levels of some substances based on international standards and comments from local industry and experts. However, no change was made on microbial standards.

### **Inspection Regime**

The latest revision on the [Regulations of Inspection of Imported Food and Related Products](#) was made in June 2019. The regulation sets three different inspection schemes:

1. Regular random-selected batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 2-10% sampling rate.
2. Enhanced random-selected batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 20-50% sampling rate.
3. Batch-by-batch inspection: The testing is performed on a 100% sampling rate.

The competent authority decides the initial frequency of testing. After a single violation, the testing frequency of the same commodity imported by the same importer will be elevated to next scheme (e.g. from 2-10 percent regular sampling rate to a 20-50 percent enhanced sampling rate). Following two violations in a short period, inspection may increase to a 100 percent batch-by-batch sampling rate.

TFDA can place specific products from a specific country on a [watch list](#) (in Chinese) if there are repeated violations. When this happens, all designated products from a specific country are subject to heightened inspections regardless of the importer. TFDA may also require the competent authority or producers in the exporting country to provide an improvement plan or preventive measures.

### **Fruits and Vegetables**

The [Pesticide Residue Limits in Food](#) lists allowable residue tolerances in fruit and vegetables. As a positive list system, pesticides not on the list must be undetectable. When perishable fresh produce is selected for testing, an importer may apply to TFDA for a dispensation to have the cargo temporarily released to their warehouse. The cargo cannot enter commerce until the cargo passes all required tests. Non-compliance with Taiwan's pesticide standards will result in the rejection at the port of entry.

### **Corn and Soybeans**

Taiwan separates corn and soybean import tariff codes (HTS or CCC) between usage for feed or human consumption and GE or non-GE. The maximum level of total aflatoxins in corn is 50 parts per billion (ppb) for feed use and 10 ppb for food use; soybeans have the same 15 ppb standard regardless of utilization. COA is the competent authority for grain shipments for feed use, while TFDA is responsible for grain shipments for food use. Official export documentation for GE corn and soybeans must include a statement by the exporter on letterhead listing all GE traits contained in the shipped product. The statement reads, "This shipment of [Soybeans or Corn or Maize, insert other commodity name] may contain genetically modified events as the following unique identifiers, event names, or other similar description." Non-GE products are required to have an Identify Preservation document, organic

certificate, other non-GE certificate, or a laboratory test report (protein testing, qualitative or quantitative DNA testing) for GE content in the shipment. Products are only allowed to be imported as non-GE if they contain less than three percent of GE content from adventitious mixing.

### **Rice**

Imported rice is subject to batch-by-batch testing for pesticide residues, heavy metals, aflatoxin, and mycotoxins. The tests are supposed to be completed in 3-5 working days. If the test takes longer than five days, imported rice may be released into approved warehouses with an importer affidavit awaiting the test outcome. During this time the product may not be sold in the market. Rice imports are subject to a tariff-rate quota system. For arsenic level in rice, if the total arsenic concentration is below the allowable maximum level for inorganic arsenic, no further inorganic arsenic testing is required.

### **Meat, Poultry and Egg Products**

The [Sanitary Standards of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) went into effect on January 1, 2019. It consolidates the sanitary standards in the previous regulations such as the Sanitary Standards for Fresh Meats, the Standards for the Tolerance of Heavy Metals in Edible Offal of Cattle, Sheep, Pig and Poultry, and the Sanitation Standard for Eggs and Egg Products, etc.

In 2022, TFDA published four batches of updates on MRLs for pesticides and animal drugs in plant and animal products. Pesticide residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#), and veterinary drug residue limits are listed in the [Standards for Veterinary Drug Residue Limits in Foods](#).

On September 7, 2020, BAPHIQ announced an MRL for ractopamine in imported pork products that became effective January 1, 2021. The announcement is posted on the [BAPHIQ website](#) (in Chinese).

General sanitary requirements can be found in the [Sanitary Standard for General Foods](#). Microbial standards were revised on October 6, 2020. The revised [Sanitary Standards for Microorganisms in Foods](#) took effect on July 1, 2021, covering ready-to-eat foods, frozen foods and liquid eggs, etc. It prohibits liquid egg products to contain detectable Salmonella strains.

TFDA announced the [Guidance of Good Sanitary Practice for the Manufacturers of Liquid Eggs](#) (in Chinese) in 2019. The guidance suggests avoiding eggs with broken shells in the manufacturing process and recommends appropriate sterilization conditions for various liquid egg products.

### **Seafood**

The [Sanitary Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods](#) took effect on January 1, 2019. It consolidates the sanitary standards in the previous Sanitary Standards for Aquatic Animals. The standard for arsenic level was amended on June 17, 2020 and took effect on January 1, 2021.

Microbial standards are listed in the [Sanitary Standards for Microorganisms in Foods](#), and general sanitary requirements are listed in the [Sanitary Standards for General Foods](#).

Taiwan maintains a position of no detection for pathogenic microorganisms, such as *Norovirus* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in shellfish. The testing methods are available on the TFDA website at

[Methods of Test for Food Microorganisms - Test of Norovirus](#) (in Chinese) and [Test of Vibrio Parahaemolyticus](#) (in Chinese).

### **Dairy**

The “Sanitation Standard for Milk and Milk Products” was repealed on July 1, 2021 because the sanitary standards are already incorporated in the [Sanitation Standard for General Foods](#), the [Sanitation Standard for Microorganism in Foods](#), and the [Standards for Specification, Scope, Application and Limitation of Food additives](#). Milk and milk products should also follow the [Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Animal Products](#) and the [Standards for veterinary drug residue limits in foods](#).

Taiwan requires that imports of U.S.-origin fresh milk and milk products be accompanied by a Veterinary Services (VS) 16-4 export certificate for quarantine inspection of animal products.

### **Pet Food**

COA regulates pet food and implements a set of safety standards for pet food in the [Standards for Types and Tolerance Levels of Pathogenic Microorganisms and Health-hazard Materials in Pet Food](#). The regulation includes standards for aflatoxins, pathogens, heavy metals, pesticide residues, preservatives, antioxidant, melamine, and radiation levels.

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

### **Phytosanitary Certificates**

Taiwan authorities only accept certificates issued by the exporting country's competent government authority. State and private industry issued certificates are not accepted. U.S. origin fruit and vegetable, plant, and plant product exports shipped to Taiwan must be accompanied by an APHIS phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577) issued by APHIS or APHIS-Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) at county, state, or federal levels. Other certificate forms are not accepted.

In addition, Taiwan’s BAPHIQ requires original phytosanitary certificates for imported plant commodities. All phytosanitary certificates shall be printed on plain paper, and personally signed by an ACO.

Information regarding the export to Taiwan of live animals and animal products, including aquaculture, can be found at the [APHIS International Animal Export Regulations for Taiwan](#) webpage.

### **Meat and Poultry Certificates**

Detailed certification requirements are available in [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#). Imports of meat and poultry products must be accompanied by a Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060-5), a Certificate for Export to Taiwan (FSIS Form 9285-1), and an FSIS Letterhead Certificate (FSIS Form 2630-9, only for beef and poultry products). FSIS Form 9285-1 requires information on shipping port, vessel name, shipping date, container number, and container seal number, etc. The shipping date listed shall not precede the FSIS inspector’s signature date. Animal health attestations are listed in FSIS Form 2630-9.

Effective October 1, 2022, TFDA implemented additional certification requirements for imported meat products. The current U.S. certificates for meat products continue to be used, with additional information required to be inserted in specific sections. Detailed instruction can be found at the [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#) (see also GAIN TW2022-0046 [Taiwan Will Implement New Certification Requirements for Imported Meat Products](#)).

Effective April 18, 2022, Taiwan temporarily modified its restrictions on imports of poultry and poultry products from the United States impacted by HPAI. The modification allows imports of poultry and poultry products from the banned U.S. states if the date of slaughter is 14 days or more before the applicable HPAI ban began. Detailed information can be found in in GAIN TW2022-0024 [Taiwan Temporarily Relaxes HPAI Restrictions on Poultry Imports](#).

To facilitate the customs clearance process, U.S. exporters are advised to work closely with their Taiwan importer to ensure that certificates have the appropriate language meeting the most-current requirements.

Upon WTO accession, Taiwan removed virtually all requirements for import licenses issued by the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT). In early 2010, Taiwan established a new BOFT import permit regime that imposed onerous import inspection requirements on beef tongue, testicle, diaphragm, and certain variety meat products produced in countries with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) cases. While these products are listed as eligible under BOFT's import license regime, the stringent requirements such as defrosting box by box for inspection, and prolonged application process for the permits continue to discourage the importers bringing in these products.

#### **Export Verification Program for Beef and Beef Products**

After Taiwan's 2002 WTO accession, Taiwan recognized the U.S. meat and poultry inspection systems as equivalent. However, since 2010 Taiwan has added additional BSE-related restrictions and requirements on beef from the United States and other BSE-infected countries. Since 2021, Taiwan has imposed additional restrictions on imported pork products in relation to the establishment of import tolerances for ractopamine in pork, including batch-by-batch inspection at the border, and allowing imports from only U.S. establishments with a past export record to Taiwan.

Import restrictions on U.S. lamb were removed in 2016. Taiwan maintains a systems equivalence approach and does not have additional facility registration requirements for lamb and poultry products. All facilities approved by USDA are eligible for export to Taiwan, except those producing beef and pork products. Beef products shall only come from the list of eligible facilities approved under the [USDA Export Verification \(EV\) Program](#). Product requirements for Taiwan are outlined in the EV Program and inspected for compliance through a Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program.

From January 1, 2021, Taiwan no longer requires U.S. beef products to be derived from cattle less than 30 months of age. Beef from cattle of any age raised in the United States for more than 100 days can be exported to Taiwan, providing that these products also meet the other import requirements for beef products, which remain unchanged. Please refer to USDA [FSIS Export Library for Taiwan](#) for the updated requirements and conditions for U.S. beef and beef products destined for Taiwan.

#### **Eggs and Egg Product Certificates**

Starting August 1, 2019, TFDA implemented a new certification requirement for eggs and egg products under harmonized system (HS) codes 0407, 0408, 350211, and 350219, and consumed as human food (refer to GAIN TW19020 [Taiwan FDA Will Require Health Certificates for Eggs and Gelatins](#)). The existing certification requirements imposed by BAPHIQ prior to August 1, 2019 remain unchanged. However, U.S. exporters will need to obtain additional certificates for TFDA as described in the report.

### **Gelatin and Gelatin Derivative Certificates**

Starting August 1, 2019, TFDA implemented a new certification requirement for gelatin and its derivatives under HS codes 3503.00.10.00-4, 3503.00.20.00-2, and 3503.00.90.90-8, and consumed as human food (refer to GAIN TW19020 [Taiwan FDA Will Require Health Certificates for Eggs and Gelatins](#)). TFDA requires a health certificate issued by U.S. FDA and the certificate must include information on the parts or tissues of the raw materials used, for example ‘derived from bovine skin’.

### **Shellfish Certificate**

Imported shellfish under HS code 0307 for human consumption must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or a state government. The certificate needs to include the information on harvest area.

The TFDA announcement can be found in [Official Certificates for Shellfish Products from the Exporting Countries](#) (in Chinese).

Information regarding the export of live animals to Taiwan, including live aquatic animals, can be found at the [APHIS International Animal Export Regulations for Taiwan](#) webpage.

### **Bulk Edible Oil Certificates**

TFDA requires a health certificate for imported bulk edible oil over 150 liters. For bulk oil intended for general food use, U.S. exporters must apply for the Certificate to a Foreign Government from U.S. FDA. For all bulk oil intended for dietary supplements, U.S. exporters must apply for a Certificate of Free Sale from U.S. FDA.

The announcement can be found on the [TFDA website](#) (in Chinese).

### **GE Product Approval and Registration**

TFDA and COA oversee premarket approvals for food and feed use, respectively. Products such as corn and soybeans that are used for both food and feed require approval by both agencies. As of this report’s date, TFDA has granted registration approvals for 159 GE products. The list of current TFDA approvals can be found on its [website](#). COA has granted approvals for 138 products including five GE alfalfa events that are not listed in TFDA approval as these are for feed use only. In general, COA grants approvals after TFDA does to avoid market disruption. COA’s approval list is available on its [website](#). For more information please see the most recent Biotechnology Annual report (GAIN TW2022-0056).

### **Special Dietary Foods**

All special dietary foods must be registered with TFDA. Special dietary foods are defined as foods which are formulated for specific dietary management of diseases or conditions. The requirements have been revised and included in the [Regulations Governing the Management of the Review, Registration](#)

[and Issuance of Permit Documents for Food and Related Products](#) implemented on April 10, 2019. Starting January 1, 2025, the wording “Formula for Certain Disease” shall appear prominently on the principal display panel of the container or external packaging. ([Amendment link](#).) Additional information can be found on the [TFDA website](#) in Chinese.

### **Pet Food**

In October 2018, Taiwan authorities opened the market for dog and cat food from the United States by formally recognizing the U.S. system for approving pet food facilities. Facilities no longer must be inspected by Taiwan regulatory authorities as a condition for export; APHIS is now allowed to inspect and approve any facilities. Companies interested in exporting pet food to Taiwan should contact their local [APHIS Veterinary Services](#) center to seek export approval.

### **Wood Products**

Wooden boards, including plywood and all types of engineered wood products, are subject to formaldehyde emission tests before they can enter Taiwan. The Bureau of Standards, Metrology, and Inspection (BSMI) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs is responsible for wood product standards and inspections. Requirements can be found on BSMI’s [Chinese National Standard](#) website by searching the product name (e.g., plywood).

Imported engineered wood products are subject to batch-by-batch inspections. Wood importers can avoid batch-by-batch inspections by applying for Registration of Product Certification or Type Approved Batch Inspections. Application instructions are available in [Directions Governing Type-approved Batch Inspection of Wooden Board Commodities](#).

Effective January 1, 2016, Taiwan’s Environmental Protection Administration banned the production, importation, and use of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) as a wood preservative. However, local manufacturers licensed to treat lumber with CCA are exempted from the ban until their registration expires. A list of approved preservatives and standards can be found at [Chinese National Standards](#) (search “Wood Preservatives”, in Chinese only).

Taiwan’s Construction and Planning Agency of the Ministry of the Interior (CPAMI) officially recognizes the PS-2 standard for U.S. Oriented Strand Board (OSB) and plywood span rated structural panel sheathing. PS-2 is a performance-based standard which defines the end use application of a wood-based panel, such as plywood, OSB or composite panels. It defines the requirements for the use of wood-based panels as structural components which are recognized throughout North America. Taiwan designers and end-users who apply U.S. OSB and plywood products for structural use will no longer need to only follow Taiwan wood building codes.

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## **Section VII. Other Specific Standards**

### **Alcohol**

Importers are required to comply with the [Hygiene Standards for Alcohol Products](#). Standards vary across different types of alcohol products and permitted levels of methanol, additive and heavy metal

are stipulated in the standards. Failure to comply may result in penalties of at least NTD \$300,000. Importers may submit documentation for sanitary inspections, or safety assurances from officials or recognized associations in the exporting country as an alternative to product inspection during customs clearance. Additional information can be found in the [Administrative Regulations Governing the Inspection of Imported Alcohol](#).

### **Chinese Medicines/Herbs**

The Department of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy under MOHW is responsible for the management of Chinese medicine/herbs. Imports of herbs or raw Chinese medicine require a Chinese raw medicine dealer's business license, or a pharmaceutical manufacturing license issued by MOHW. The [Standard Consolidated Table of Limits of Abnormal Substances in Chinese Medicinal Materials](#) (in Chinese) issued by the Department of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy sets out standards for imported Chinese medicine and herbs. Some Chinese raw medicine or herbs may be imported without a dealer license and sold in ordinary markets as food, but the products must then comply with all relevant food safety requirements.

### **Organic Products**

On May 30, 2018, Taiwan passed a new law to govern organic agriculture called the [Organic Agriculture Promotion Act](#); this act officially came into force on May 30, 2019. Under this Act, Taiwan ceased to recognize all other organic systems as equivalent by May 30, 2020, unless those countries sign a new bilateral organic equivalency agreement with Taiwan. Effective May 30, 2020, the United States and Taiwan reached a new organic equivalence arrangement that allows organic products certified in the United States or Taiwan to be sold as organic in either market. (See [GAIN TW2020-0034](#), "Organic Trade Expansion Expected Under US Taiwan Organic Equivalency Arrangement".) The arrangement applies to products certified to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) organic standards or Taiwan organic regulations grown or produced in the United States or Taiwan, or which have their final processing or packaging in the United States or Taiwan.

Under current regulations, only products with 95 percent or greater organic content can be labeled as organic. Regulations for imported organic products are laid out in the [Regulations for Managing and Reviewing Imported Organic Agricultural Products](#). Additional information can be found from [AFA's website](#).

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## **Section VIII. Trademark, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

Trademarks and brand names are protected under domestic laws and generally well enforced. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) is responsible for enforcement of copyright and trademark laws. IPO's website has detailed [English information](#) on laws and regulations regarding trademarks, copyrights, and patents. COA's [Plant Variety and Plant Seed Act](#) provides rules on plant variety protections. U.S. companies are encouraged to register their brands and trademarks in Taiwan to protect their intellectual property.

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## Section IX. Import Procedures

### **Tariffs and Import Controls**

The official website of Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance has detailed information on [customs laws and regulations](#). Article 71 of the Taiwan Customs Act allows authorities to raise or lower commodity tariffs up or down within a range of 50 percent of the established tariff rate for a period not to exceed one year as a way to cope with special domestic or international economic situations or to adjust local supply. The duty on imports classified as a “staple commodity” may be adjusted up to 100 percent if the commodity experiences significant price fluctuations. Taiwan’s Customs Administration maintains a searchable [tariff database](#) for Taiwan’s tariff schedule, including import duties.

A brief outline for general customs clearance process and a flow chart can be found at Customs Administration’s [webpage](#).

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## Section X. Trade Facilitation

### **Temporary Certificate Requirement Measure Due to COVID**

In response to the disruption in airfreight and courier services caused by the COVID pandemic, BAPHIQ and TFDA have implemented a temporary measure to accept electronic files or paper copies of the original certificates at the time of import. Importers need to state the reasons for delay of receiving the original certificates and request to use the copies for customs clearance. Importers must submit the original certificate when they receive it later. This temporary measure took effect on April 1, 2020 and has been extended several times. The current deadline for this temporary measure is December 31, 2022.

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## **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts**

### **Food Safety**

Dr. Shou-Mei Wu  
Director General  
Food and Drug Administration  
Department of Health  
161-2, Kunyang St., Nangang  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2787-8000  
Fax: (886-2) 2653-1062

Dr. Shu-Jean Tsai  
Director  
Division of Food Safety  
Food and Drug Administration  
Department of Health  
161-2, Kunyang St., Nangang  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2787-8000  
Fax: (886-2) 2653-1062

### **Animal and Plant Quarantine**

Dr. Wen-Jane Tu  
Director General  
Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine  
Council of Agriculture  
11F, No. 100, Hoping W. Road Section 2, Zhongzheng District  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2343-1401  
Fax: (886-2) 2332-2200

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## **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

### **Reporting and Market Access/Trade Policy Issues Related to Food and Agricultural Products**

Erich Kuss, Chief  
Erik Syngle, Deputy Chief  
Agricultural Affairs Office  
Agricultural Section  
American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)  
100, Jinhua Road, Neihu Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan

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Fax: (886-2) 2162-2238  
E-mail: [AgTaipei@usda.gov](mailto:AgTaipei@usda.gov)

**Market Promotion and Trade Services Related to Food and Agricultural Products**

Emily Scott, Director  
Agricultural Trade Office  
American Institute in Taiwan  
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Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2000 Ext 2682  
Fax: (886-2) 2305-7073  
E-mail: [ATOTaipei@usda.gov](mailto:ATOTaipei@usda.gov)

**Certification Issues for Trade in Animals, Animal Products, Plants and Plant Products**

Kelan Evans, Area Director  
APHIS Office  
American Institute in Taiwan  
100, Jinhua Road, Neihu Dist.,  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2216  
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E-mail: [IS.Taipei.Taiwan.Office@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:IS.Taipei.Taiwan.Office@aphis.usda.gov)

**Attachments:**

No Attachments