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Jordan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2018 - Annual

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Report Highlights:

This report lists the certificates needed to accompany food and agricultural products to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. An original invoice, bill of lading, health certificate, and certificate of origin are required on every shipment. An export certificate matrix is included in this report. The requirements listed here are specific for consignments coming directly from the United States to Jordan, or transshipped in a sealed container with invoices stating that Jordan is the final destination.

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SECTION I: REQUIRED EXPORT CERTIFICATES

List of All Export Certificates Required By the Government (Matrix):

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

OBS: Acronyms MOA = Ministry of Agriculture (Jordan); Jordan FDA = Jordan Food and Drug Administration; APHIS = U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; FGIS = USDA/Federal Grain Inspection Service; FDA = U.S. Food and Drug Administration; NOAA = U.S. Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[1] U.S. agencies issue export certificates depending on product type. FDA – Processed Products; AMS – Dairy Products; FGIS – Grains and Oilseeds; FSIS – Meat and Poultry; NOAA – Fish and Seafood Products.

[2] Processed products containing meat or poultry must meet meat, poultry, and their products' requirements.

[3] Exporters of dairy products should note that their facilities require Jordan FDA registration.

[4] Seeds for planting require MOA product registration prior to import.

Required credentials for U.S. slaughterhouses exporting to Jordan for the first time include:

1. Slaughterhouse license certificate from a federal government (i.e., USDA) or any local agency endorsed by the U.S. Embassy in Jordan.
2. Registration code.
3. Quality assurance certificate - International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22000 or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points (HACCAP).
4. Halal slaughter observance certificate issued by one of the state's Islamic committees or a nationally accredited Islamic association.

SECTION II: PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) is responsible for the development of standards and ensuring conformity with existing product standards. It delegates to the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (Jordan FDA) product testing responsibilities for food and agricultural products. The former continues to retain however responsibility for the development of standards (including for food) and ensuring conformity with standards. The Ministry of Agriculture regulates unprocessed agricultural products; including the import of veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, pesticides, meat and meat products, animal feeds, and seedlings.

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization's responsibilities include the national metrology system; it also grants (voluntary) quality marks and accredits testing and calibration laboratories (see GAIN-JORDAN No. JO18020 - Jordan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Annual Country Report 2018).

Jordan maintains the ASYCUDA computerized customs clearance system. This platform simplifies customs clearance procedures. The [Ministry of Agriculture](#) along with the [Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) and the [Jordan Customs Authority](#) form the border committee that inspects inbound food and agricultural product shipments. U.S. exporters are encouraged to work closely with Jordanian importers in meeting documentation requirements (see Export Certificate Matrix).

SECTION III: SPECIAL ATTETASTATION REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE

Meat, Poultry, and Products: U.S. exporters of animal products need to work closely with Jordanian importers, as well as check the [U.S Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)\Food Safety and Inspection Service \(FSIS\) Export Library](#) frequently for the latest updates. The requirements listed here are subject to change; Jordan's customs officials strictly scrutinize requirements. Products from all U.S. federally inspected establishments are generally eligible for export to Jordan if accompanied by a certificate of wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5) and a halal certification. In the case of fresh or frozen poultry, the certificate of wholesomeness must note that:

- Poultry originates from a U.S. state free of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List A) poultry diseases.
- The production of the poultry and poultry products are according to the FSIS National Residue Program.

Jordanian Islamic slaughter practices require that:

- That the slaughter of animals follow Islamic traditions in the presence of a Muslim male accredited by any Islamic association within that country.
- The product is free of pork products.
- The product is free from alcohol.

- A halal certificate must accompany all meat and products of animal-origin (excluding pork and pork products).
- The halal certificate must be issued/signed by the approved/licensed Islamic center.
- Each consignment requires a halal certificate (including the slaughter date).
- The halal logo needs to be on the production plant's original label.

SECTION IV: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Jordan's Customs Law (1998), article 31 and amendments establishes that all customs declarations must include the following (note: Jordanian customs reserves the right to request additional documentation):

- A maritime or airway bill of lading.
- A commercial invoice indicating the value, weight, and freight and insurance charges. All invoices require Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval. In the absence of Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval, Jordan's Customs Director is empowered to accept the country of export's chamber of commerce certification.
- Commercial invoices are required to describe the product in Arabic.
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the competent authority in the export country. A value declaration form for shipments exceeding Jordan dinar (JOD) 2,000 (Jordanian dinar JOD 1.00 = U.S. dollar 1.41044).

Import Licenses: Pre-import clearance is required for certain commodities. These products include fruits, vegetables, beef, poultry, fish, and eggs. Powdered milk used in industrial applications, as well as any food product making special dietary claims (i.e., infant formula, nutritional supplements, etc.) must obtain an import license. The Jordanian importer is responsible for obtaining the license from the appropriate ministry.

The Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and Health all issue import licenses. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for issuing pre-import clearances for live animals, for fresh\chilled\ frozen beef and beef products, as well as for embalmed wild animals, frozen animal semen, and milk products. The Ministry of Industry and Trade oversees the issuing of pre-import clearances for barley, rice, wheat, flour, sugar, and corn. The Ministry of Health issues pre-import clearances for medications and antibiotics, athletic food supplements, as well as for potassium bromide, food dyes, ice cream, and baby food.

The clearance, once obtained, acts as an import license. Import licenses normally have a validity of three months, unless otherwise stated. For trans-shipments, the import license is valid for two months. Import licenses for chilled meat are normally valid for only one month. The appeal of rejected shipments is permissible.

Jordan does not require the original import license at the time of product entry. It will accept a photocopy or a fax copy for perishable items (e.g., beef and fruit consignments). Jordan's Customs Authority will release shipments, under bond, pending submission of original documentation. Importers can ship multiple consignments to Jordan using the same import license until its expiration date or quantity filled.

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

Exporters of dairy products are required to register their facilities with the Jordan FDA prior to shipment. This registration is a simple verification of the exporting firm's hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) certification. It requires that the Jordanian importer provide a copy of the exporter's HACCP certificate with a completed application to the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.

A new Ministry of Agriculture requirement implemented in 2017 requires that slaughterhouses to be registered with the corresponding national authority prior to export to Jordan. In the case of the United States, this is the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The registration is only required once per facility, though it is yet unclear for how long the registration remains valid.

Exporters are encouraged to contact the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture or FAS Amman for updates prior to shipment.

Product Bans: Jordan occasionally bans imports of specific products due to sanitary or phytosanitary concerns. Importers and exporters alike should verify the most recent list of prohibited products prior to shipment. Prohibited products recently were poultry and poultry products from the U.S. states of Minnesota and Iowa, as well as onions from all regions of the United States.

Jordan bans (January 2017) the use of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in processed dairy products. Processed cheeses, or other products that replace milk fat with any other fat, must not use partially hydrogenated oils. Exporters are encouraged to mark clearly the oil used on any products that could potentially contain partially hydrogenated oils. New to market dairy products should expect an increased level of scrutiny by Jordanian customs officials.

The color tartrazine (E102) is no longer permissible in pickled preparations. This regulation is in line with EU and Codex standards, Category 4.2.2 and 4.2.2.3 respectively.

Labeling Requirements: The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization sets labeling requirements, which are straightforward. A statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required. All labels must be in Arabic; alternatively, an Arabic language stick-on label is acceptable. The label at minimum must contain:

- Product name.
- The manufacturer's name and address.
- Net weight.
- Fortifying matter (e.g., added vitamins and minerals to powdered milk).
- Lot number and a "use before" or "best by" date.

Jordan's labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs) levels. Nutritional labeling nevertheless is mandatory for certain food categories (e.g., infant formula and food for dietary use). The "best before" standard replaced "shelf life" labeling.

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization will interpret "best before" as being the product's expiry date; the sale of no product is permissible beyond that date. Jordan will scrutinize product labels at border crossing points. Current legislation holds the importer accountable for a product's content as specified on the label. Jordanian officials will reject shipments due to labeling ambiguities and printing errors.

Inspection and Testing: All food and agricultural imports are subject to inspection and testing to ensure that these are fit for human consumption. Jordan tests nearly all prepared and mixed food items at the border. Products failing to meet the corresponding standard, or found unfit for human consumption, may not be distributed and are subject to destruction.

Jordan has implemented amended standards for *salmonella* in meat and poultry products. Product found to contain pathogenic strains of *salmonella* subject to rejection and destruction.

New standards for contaminants in fish have also been implemented. The standards outline the maximum limits of infestation and foreign materials present in fish.

SECTION V: OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Product (s)		
All Products	Commercial Invoice	Requires value, weight, freight, and insurance charges, as well as legalization by Jordan's diplomatic mission in the country of origin
	Bill of Lading	
	Value Declaration	For all shipments exceeding JOD 2,000.
Vegetable Oil	Certificate of Holds Inspection	Indicates that the vessel is clean and prepared to haul edible oils.
	Declaration of Tank Metal	Indicates the type of metal used to line the tank.
	Declaration of Tank Coating	Indicates the type of paint or lining used.
	Cargo List	List of materials carried by the vessel in its previous three trips.
Fruits and Vegetables	Import License	Ministry of Agriculture import license is required prior to shipment
Meat, Poultry, and Products	Import License	Ministry of Agriculture import license is required prior to shipment
Fish	Import License	Ministry of Agriculture import license is required prior to shipment
Dairy Products	Registration	First time importers of dairy products must first register exporting firms with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.
Powdered Milk (for industrial use)	Import License	Ministry of Agriculture import license is required prior to shipment
Products Making Special Claims	Registration	Must register with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.
	Import License	Ministry of Agriculture import license is required prior to shipment
Planting Seeds	Registration	Must register with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.

Customs Law No. 114 (2004): Jordanian and foreign trading companies must obtain an importer card from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) for customs clearance purposes. Foreign companies not domiciled in Jordan are exempt from this requirement. Bonded goods, temporary imports, and imports entering under the provisions of [Jordan's Investment Promotion Law](#) do not require import licenses. Banks and other non-trading entities such as hospitals, hotels, and Jordanian ministries must obtain a more limited MIT importer card that authorizes the import of goods specific to the entity's activities.

Jordan launched its [Customs Integrated Tariff System \(CITS\)](#) in August 2005. The system allows importers to access import requirements, as well as evaluate tariff and trade agreement information.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

U.S. Certificate Issuers:

USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service: Dairy Sanitary Certificate

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

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

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

FDA – Food Export Certificate (Certificate of Free Sale)

APPENDIX II: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 568-6151 · Fax: (962-6) 568-6310 · Website: www.moa.gov.jo

Ministry of Environment

Tel: (962-6) 556-0113 · Fax: (962-6) 556-0288 · Website: www.moenv.gov.jo

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/566-3774 · Fax: (962-6) 560-4691 · Website: www.mit.gov.jo

Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization

Tel: (962-6) 568-0139 · Fax: (962-6) 568-1099 · Website: www.jsmo.gov.jo

Jordan Food and Drug Administration

Tel: (962-6) 461-2663 · Fax: (962-6) 461-2663 · Website: www.jfda.jo

Jordan Customs Authority

P.O. Box 90, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6 · Fax: (962-6) 464-7791

E-mail: Customs@Customs.gov.jo · Website: www.customs.gov.jo

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority

P.O. Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 3 203 5757/8 · Fax: (962-6) 3 203-0912 · Website: www.aqabazone.com

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

USDA\FAS - Office of Agricultural Affairs

U.S. Embassy Amman · P.O. Box 354, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 590-6056 · Fax: (962-6) 592-0146 · E-mail: Amman.AgAmman@fas.usda.gov