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## **Tanzania**

# **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report**

## **FAIRS Annual Country Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

This report updates import requirements and regulations for food and agricultural products currently required by the Government of Tanzania (GoT). The report includes the regulations against which Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) evaluates U.S exports to Tanzania, labelling and packaging requirements and import procedures.

## **Section I: General Food Laws.**

The Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 2003 established the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) and governs food importation. The TFDA regulates food importation to ensure safety, quality, and effectiveness. Food import controls aim to;

- Guarantee quality and safety of food;
- Encourage importers to source products from reputable suppliers;
- Meet concern by local manufacturers that substandard products subject them to unfair competition;
- Promote indigenous innovations; and
- Prevent spreads of diseases and pests.

Section 5(l) of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2003 includes requirements for compliance standards for imported foods. Sections 36 – 38 restrict food importation to individual or businesses registered as importers and lays out requirements for importation of food.

### **Requirements for food importation:**

Applicants are granted import permits after complying with the following requirements:

- i. Registration of the importer and food products to be imported. This is done by filling the online forms available at TFDA website
- ii. Application for importation by completing the online forms on the TFDA imports and exports portal;
- iii. Inspection and approval of foods by the inspector at the point of entry prior to distribution in the market;
- iv. Regular laboratory analysis of foods to check for compliance;
- v. Samples from suspect foods can be taken for laboratory analysis;
- vi. Shelf life of non-perishable foods should be more than six months at the time it arrives at the official point of entry; and
- vii. Foods determined to be noncompliant at the point of entry are returned to the country of origin at the expense of the importer or can be destroyed at the expense of the importer.

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, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The main regulations against which TFDA evaluates U.S. exports to Tanzania are available at TFDA website and are listed below:

1. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Fortification) Regulations, 2011
2. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Hygiene) Regulation, 2006
3. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Registration of Foods), 2011
4. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Marketing of Foods and Designated Products for Infants and Young Children), 2013

5. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Transport of Meat) Regulations, 2006
6. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Treatment and Disposal of unfit Food), 2006
7. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Labelling ), 2006
8. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Importation and Exportation), 2006

Other laws that evaluate U.S exports to Tanzania are:

1. The Plant Protection Act, 1997 arrangement of sections
2. The Plant Protection Regulations, 1998
3. The Plant Protection Act,1997 Regulations Schedules 1-16
4. The Cereal and other Produce Act, 2009
5. The Seeds Act (No.1 ), 2003
6. The Coffee Industry Act, 2001
7. The Crops Laws (miscellaneous amendments) Act, 2009
8. The Protection of New Plant Varieties (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act, 2002
9. The Cereals and other Produce Regulations, 2011
10. The Finance Act, 2015
11. Value Added Tax (General) Regulations, 2015
12. National Biotechnology Policy of 2010
13. National Environmental Policy of 1997
14. National Trade Policy of 2003
15. The Fisheries Act of 2003

## **Section II: Food Additive Regulations**

Food additives and the regulation thereof are an important variable when considering a country's openness to trade within the context of protecting the health of its population. Nevertheless, not all developing countries are able to effectively regulate and monitor additives in food.

TFDA regulates food additives through the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Importation and Exportation) Act, 2006. Where there are no specific GoT guidelines, TFDA follows the CODEX approved food additives as references to regulate food additives. Tanzania has both positive and negative lists for food additives. The lists are not yet available online, but are available by request from the regional or national TFDA offices.

The GoT restricts the use of food additives in baby food. Food additives may be used as set out in the following Schedules:

- (i) Formula for special medical purposes intended for infants or infant formula in the Second Schedule;
- (ii) Follow up formula in the Third Schedule; and
- (iii) Complementary food in the fourth Schedule, to these Regulations. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Marketing of Foods and Designated Products for Infants and Young Children), 2013.

Where an additive is not listed in GoT regulations, TFDA relies, and requires that the Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity (PVoC) agent rely on the CODEX list.

### **Section III: Pesticide and Other Contaminants**

The Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) Act, 1979 mandates the pesticide research institute to regulate importation, exportation, manufacture, distribution, and use of pesticides in Tanzania. TPRI is also in charge of pesticide registration and maintains a list of registered products, restricted and banned pesticides. The list is online at [list of Pesticides registered in Tanzania](#). TPRI refers to CODEX standards for tolerance levels.

Other government institutions enforcing pesticide/contaminant regulations include:

- TFDA monitors and analyzes pesticide residues in their accredited analytical chemistry laboratory;
- Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) sets the standards and monitors compliance; and
- Tanzania Veterinary Services (TVS) and Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) checks on pesticide residues in animal products, feed and animal health drugs.

### **Section IV: Packaging and Container Regulations**

The Tanzania Standard (TZS 538-1991) has defined ‘packaging’ as an art and the operations involved in the operation of commodity; including food for packaging; handling, storage, sale and delivery. In Tanzania, the packaging technology considers the facts about the product nature and other characteristics, facts about the transport hazards, acts about market, and about packaging materials and forms, machinery. The major acceptable packaging materials for agricultural products are:

- Metal cans and metal ended composite containers;
- Glass bottles and jars;
- Molded, rigid and semi rigid plastic containers;
- Collapsible tubes made in both metal and plastic;
- Folding and rigid paper board boxes and cartons;
- Molded paper containers; and
- Flexible packaging such as papers, films (plastic films, including low density polythene and medium and high density polyethylene, polypropylene, cellulose (cellophane), aluminum foil, and cloth or vegetable fibers (cotton, jute, linen, sisal and coconut) from any country.

## **Section V: Labeling Requirements**

TFDA regulates food labelling and has the task to evaluate and register prepackaged foods before approval for distribution and marketing in Tanzania. The evaluation includes assessment of labelling information to ensure that it complies with the specifications of the TFDA (Food Labelling Regulation), 2006 and the Codex standard 1-1985. According to the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (Food Labelling Regulations), 2006 and the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre Packaged Foods (Codex Stan 1 -1985), the pre-packaged food labelling should include name of the food, list of ingredients, net content, name, and address of the manufacturer and country of origin. Other information includes the batch /lot identification, date markings (manufacture and expiry dates), Quantitative Ingredient Declarations (QUID), storage conditions, nutrition information (composition) and instructions for use. All these information are essential to help consumers in making choices of food depending on preference, dietary restrictions, and other reasons. The GoT requires an English and or/Kiswahili label on all consumer food products.

## **Section VI: Other Specific Standards**

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) implemented a new product conformity assessment program for the control of certain categories of imported goods. Imported goods under the program require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC). TBS has appointed two inspection companies SGS and Bureau Veritas to conduct Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to standards program.

PVoC to standards program started on February 1, 2012 and the new contract began May 1, 2015. PVoC aims to ensure all imports of regulated products comply with the approved Tanzanian technical regulations, (i.e. Tanzanian or other approved international standards), before shipment. The CoC issued by PVoC partners shall be provided for customs clearance.

[www.tbs.go.tz/images/uploads/PVoC\\_HARMONISED\\_PROCEDURE\\_\(SUMMARISED\).pdf](http://www.tbs.go.tz/images/uploads/PVoC_HARMONISED_PROCEDURE_(SUMMARISED).pdf)

## **Section VII: Other Certification and Testing Requirements**

TFDA is responsible for all matters concerning the importation and inspection of imported food products. To obtain a Food Importer Registration Certificate (FIRC), imported products must satisfy the Tanzanian import requirements as evaluated by TFDA. The FIRC provided by the Director General of the TFDA is valid for one year. A registered Food Importer shall be required to apply for an import permit by filling in prescribed forms as stipulated under Schedule III and Schedule IV for registrable and non-registrable foods respectively. Application for import permit should be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Proforma invoice from the supplier;
- b) Certificate of analysis from manufacturer of the exporting country;
- c) Health certificate from competent regulatory body of the exporting country;
- d) Phytosanitary certificate (in case of importation of unprocessed cereal and plant origin products);
- e) Radiation free certificate, where applicable;
- f) Zoo sanitary certificate in case non-processed foods of animal origin;
- g) Certificates from relevant bodies for specific food products (e.g. Sugar Board, Dairy Board);

- h) Bill of lading/Airway bill;
- i) Certificate of origin; and
- j) A copy of previous import permits which shows that the consignment was inspected at port of entry

Prior to application for importation of non-registrable products. Pre-shipment samples for analysis whose cost will be incurred by importer as prescribed in the Fees and Charges Regulations, 2011 shall be submitted.

The TFDA, upon receiving applications for import permit and other supporting documents:

- a) Examine the applications to authenticate the applicant is a registered food importer;
- b) Examine the pro forma invoice to ensure the food and food supplements intended to be imported are those granted marketing authorization (registered) by TFDA;
- c) Calculate the applicable and statutory fees of 0.75% FOB value of goods to be imported to be payable to the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority;
- d) On satisfactory completion of the above scrutiny – and if satisfied with the submitted data – the application shall be received and processed; and
- e) After completion of the above process, the applicant shall be issued with an Import Permit.
- f) Once satisfied that all importation conditions of food consignment have been fulfilled, the food inspector shall release the consignment and stamp all documents with an APPROVED FOR RELEASE stamp.
- g) Where the consignment does not meet the requirements for importation, the inspector shall not release the consignment and stamp the documents with STOP RELEASE stamp.

Consignment that has not been physically inspected at port of entry shall be inspected at owner's premises after payment of fee as prescribed in Fees and charges Regulations, 2011.

### **Section VIII: Import Procedures**

'Import' means goods and services brought to Tanzania from a foreign country. Import procedures have to be followed to clear goods from Customs control as per the East Africa Community Customs Management Act (EACCOMA) 2004.

Imports to Tanzania are subjected to different stages whereby the importer is advised to make declaration through his appointed Clearing and Forwarding Agent by lodging documents at least seven days before arrival of the vessel.

#### **Importation procedures:**

- The importer is required to appoint a Licensed Clearing and Forwarding Agent (CFA) to clear goods [List of Clearing and Forwarding Agents](#);
- Documentation process is done online through Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) and can be completed before arrival of the goods; and
- Customs agents/importers are urged to complete a declaration and self-assessment through TANCIS and attach with other relevant import/ supporting documents at least 7 days prior to the arrival of the goods.

#### **Import documents include:**

- Final invoice;

- Agent's Authorization Letter from the importer;
- Import permits from TFDA, TBS etc.;
- Exemption documents (If applicable);
- Packing list; and
- Transport documents i.e. Bill of Lading/Airway Bill/Road Consignment note

**Note:** TRA rejects illegible and incomplete with insufficient descriptions through Integrated Query System (IQS), which is available in TANCIS. Additional information is available at TFDA website.

### **Section IX: Copyright and/or Trademark Laws**

In Tanzania, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) were introduced by the colonial administration in 1922 through Chapter 217 of the Patent Legislation and the introduction of Trade Marks and 1924 through "Chapter 218 of the Copyright Legislation. After independence, there were no significant changes to the IPR legal system until 1966, when the Copyright Ordinance Cap. Copyright Act No. 61 of 1966 repealed Chapter 218. The new Copyright Legislation was enacted in 1999. It is the current Copyright Legislation in force but it is poorly enforced. Exporters must be aware that IPR protection can be difficult-to-impossible.

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

**Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)**

Ubungo 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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**Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)**

Off Mandela Road, Mabibo - External,  
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**Ministry of Industry and Trade,**

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**Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development**

Permanent Secretary  
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**Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)**

Commissioner General  
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Website: [www.tra.go.tz](http://www.tra.go.tz)

**Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)**

Director General  
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**Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI)**

Director General

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