

Specifications for the Import of Soups, Broth, Composite Food Preparations USA

Range of products: various food preparations not accounted for elsewhere such as hummus, tahina, fowl muddammas, meat or egg-based food preparations, sesame spreads, infant foods

In addition to the general import requirements as well as the general labeling requirements, the following apply:

A. Imported Food Products Containing a Small Amount of Meat, Poultry, or Processed Egg Product Ingredients

FSIS statutes provide authority to exempt certain foods containing relatively small amounts of meat, poultry or processed egg product ingredients from FSIS inspection, FSIS must ensure that these ingredients are not adulterated. Accordingly, the meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredients used in FSIS-exempted products must be from an [eligible source](#), i.e., prepared under USDA/FSIS inspection or in a foreign establishment certified by a foreign inspection system approved by FSIS. Importers of FSIS-exempted products containing meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredients originating from countries with animal health restrictions [must apply for and obtain a VS-permit](#) from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Also see:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_anproducts.shtml

The need for a permit is based on the contents of the food product and on the animal health restrictions APHIS places on the country from which the food product is being imported. Accordingly, FSIS is advising importers of food products not required to have an APHIS veterinary import permit for entry into the U.S. that the meat, poultry or processed egg product ingredients used in the formulation of these products must originate from an approved source in order to qualify for FSIS import eligibility. For that purpose the following documentations might be required:

- A product formulation may be used to provide evidence of the proportion of meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredients in the product formulation.
- An export certificate or a health certificate may be used to identify the country of origin of meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredients and to identify the establishment where the meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredients were processed.
- A product label may be used to provide evidence that the product labeling does not represent the finished product as a meat food product, poultry food product, or egg product.

Relevant USDA legislation includes the Poultry Products Inspection Act, Federal Meat Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act. A link to these acts can be found at the following site:
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/acts_&_authorizing_statutes/index.asp

Products also should comply with section D below.

B. Imported Processed Food Preparations not Containing Animal-Based Food:

In addition to the general import requirements and general labeling requirements:

- Sealed containers should abide by the low acid and acidified foods standards (*See US Std no.27 and 28 and 58*).
- Products should abide by general food safety requirements: (See US std no.59)

Products also should comply with section D below.

C. Imported Processed Food Preparations Containing Significant Animal-Based Food

This checklist is provided as an overview of the steps needed to be taken when you want to import meat, poultry, or processed egg products to the United States.

1. Animal ingredients must originate from [certified countries and establishments](#) eligible to export to the United States.
2. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) restricts some products from entering the United States because of animal disease conditions in the country of origin. For information on restrictions related to animal diseases and information about APHIS, contact the [APHIS Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export](#).
3. Countries and establishments become eligible following an [equivalence determination process](#) by FSIS. **Lebanon is not yet eligible.**
4. Imported products must meet the same [labeling requirements](#) as domestically-produced products.
5. After filing the necessary forms for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and meeting animal disease requirements of APHIS, all imported meat, poultry and processed egg products must be presented for inspection by FSIS at an [official import establishment](#).

Products also should comply with section D below.

D. All items should comply with the following parameters when applicable:

- Action Levels for Poisonous or Deleterious Substances in Human Food
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ChemicalContaminantsandPesticides/ucm077969.htm>

- Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004.
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/LabelingNutrition/FoodAllergensLabeling/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/ucm106890.htm>
- Defect Levels Handbook
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Sanitization/ucm056174.htm>
- Food contaminants and adulteration: Chemical contaminants
 - [Acrylamide](#)¹
 - [Dioxins and PCBs](#)²
 - [Ethyl Carbamate](#)³
 - [Furan](#)⁴
 - [Melamine](#)⁵
 - [Perchlorate](#)⁶
 - [Radionuclides](#)⁷
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodContaminantsAdulteration/ChemicalContaminants/default.htm>
- The USDA National Organic Program if applicable: http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=3f34f4c22f9aa8e6d9864cc2683cea02&tpl=ecfrbrowse/Title07/7cfr205_main_02.tpl
- Countries/Products Eligible for Export to the U.S. (Sep 17, 2010; PDF Only)
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Countries_Products_Eligible_for_Export.pdf
- Notice of Enforcement by the USDA, FSIS, Regarding Imported Food Products Containing a Small Amount of Meat, Poultry, or Processed Egg Product Ingredients (Mar 19, 2009; PDF Only)
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/pdf/Notice_of_Enforcement_Regarding_Imported_Food_Products.pdf
- Apply for and obtain a VS-permit here:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_anproducts.shtml
- Learn about e-permits here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/learn_epermits.shtml