

Specifications for the Import of Animal-Based Dairy Products Canada

Range of dairy products: yogurt, fresh cheese curds, processed cheese, butter, dry milk products and variety cheeses

Dairy products are regulated by the Dairy Products Regulations under the Canada Agricultural Products Act (see Stds Canada no.17). Imported dairy products must comply with these regulations, which cover quality, labeling, packaging and grading, as well as health and safety. In addition, the Health of Animals Act restricts the importation of certain dairy products from countries where the presence of animal diseases poses a threat to Canadian agriculture and health. Most dairy products also require an import permit issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. An Import Declaration, completed in duplicate, must accompany each dairy product shipment, indicating that the products were manufactured from sound raw materials and prepared under sanitary conditions and that the products were sound and fit for human consumption at the time of shipment.

As of December 14, 2008, all cheese importers must have a valid cheese import license issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in order to import cheese. At present, there are no federal requirements for importers of other dairy products to be licensed. Product inspection may take place at the product's entry point or at its destination point, at the discretion of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. See: <http://active.inspection.gc.ca/tech/extsite.asp?url=http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-79-840/index.html>

In addition to the general import requirements as well as general labeling requirements, the import conditions are as follows:

- Import declaration:
 - Obtain from CFIA prior to embarkation
 - Must be signed by an importer or authorized agent
 - Cheese import number must be indicated in Box 4

- Conditions for import of cheese: cheese import license
 - Obtain from CFIA prior to importation
 - Cheese import license number to be indicated in the comment box on the request of release of approval CFIA/ACIA 5272
 - Cheese License import number to be indicated in Box 4 in the import declaration CFIA/ACIA no.4560

Applicable legislation and other requirements:

- Canadian Agricultural Product Act (see Can.std No. 17)

- Dairy Products Regulations (see Can.std No. 14)
- Food and Drugs Act and regulations (see Can.std No. 3&22)
- Health of Animal Act and Regulations (see Can.std No. 18)
- Good Import Practices (see Can std no.6)

Wood packaging materials (all origins except continental USA)

Brokers/importers should attest to one of the following for materials made out of wood with respect to the packaging material being used:

- 1- Wood packaging contained with shipment displays the ISPM15 compliant stamp
- 2- Wood packaging material is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- 3- Wood packaging is manufactured from wood exempted from ISPMNo.15
- 4- No wood packaging contained with shipment (if applicable)

For more details you can search the Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) by feeding the HS code or by naming the commodity. See:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/imports/airs/eng/1300127512994/1300127627409#>