

Specifications for the import of Beverages, Spirits, Waters, and Vinegar GCC

Range: wines, beer, cider, waters (all types), vinegar

In **Kuwait, KSA**, alcoholic beverages, pork and products containing alcohol and pork, as well as products with label containing picture of alcohol or pork, or a recipe requiring these products (even though the imported product is free of these ingredients) are **not permissible** for imports.

In the UAE, BAHRAIN and QATAR beverages having an alcohol content >0.05% can be imported but only through authorized importers who run their own retail shops; they are exempt from local labeling requirements; therefore, no special labeling requirements for alcoholic beverages beyond what is typically required in the country of origin .

No alcohol is permitted in any foodstuff

Waters, vinegar, soft drinks do not require import permits. They comply with the requirements of products of non-animal origin. A health certificate is required.

In addition to the general requirements and the general labeling requirements for the GCC please refer to:

- **GSO Standard No. 1016:1998 on microbiological criteria for food** (See GSO link below)
- **GSO Standard GSO 150:2007 on expiration periods of food products**
- **GSO Standard No. 1974:2009 for all types of vinegar**

This GSO standard is concerned with packaged natural mineral waters offered for sale as food, it does not apply to natural mineral water sold or used for other purpose

- **GSO Standard no. 987:2007 on bottled mineral water**

This Gulf standard is concerned with general technical recommends for collecting, processing, storing, transporting and distributing of bottled drinking water (other than natural mineral water) for human consumption.

- **GSO Standard No. 1928:2009 for hygienic practice for bottled drinking water**

This standard is concerned with edible essential water (rose water - flower water) for human consumption

- **GSO Standard No. 1017:1998 on floral waters (rose and orange blossom)**

This GSO standard is concerned with bottled drinking water fit for human consumption.

- **GSO Standard No. 1025:2009 on bottled drinking water**

This GSO standard is concerned with flavored artificial drink powders of fruits. It is not concerned with natural juice and drink powders of fruit.

- **GSO Standard No. 848:2010 flavored artificial drink powders**

The technical regulations and standards of the GCC countries will be used as the primary basis for certification of food shipments by exporting countries. Where deemed appropriate by the GCC; e.g., where current GCC technical regulations and standards are not comprehensive in terms of specific requirements for certain imported foods, the GCC may defer to Codex, OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) and IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) standards, guidelines and recommendations as the basis for certification (and other assurances).

Note: The link below permits the access to GSO standards; those standards are not free and can be purchased online.

Useful Links

Gulf Standard Organization (GSO); includes food standards; can purchase standards online.

<http://www.gso.org.sa/standards>

Codex alimentarius standards: many GCC standards match the codex standards, since GCC is a member of the WTO.

http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/standard_list.do?lang=en