

Canada – Products of non-animal origin

Table of Contents

- CANADA..... 2
 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables 2
 - Fruit and Vegetable Products - Processed 2
 - Grains..... 3
 - Infant Formula (Human Milk Substitutes) 3
 - Maple Products 3
 - Cocoa and cocoa products 3
 - Extra virgin Olive oil 4
 - Alcoholic Beverages 4
- Useful links 5

CANADA

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Fresh fruits and vegetables, including nuts and edible fungi, are regulated by the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations under the Canada Agricultural Products Act. These regulations cover quality, labeling, packaging, grading, and health and safety requirements.

Commercial importers of fresh fruits and vegetables must have a Produce License issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or be a member of the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC). Each shipment of fresh produce must be accompanied by a Confirmation of Sale form in triplicate, which is the importer's evidence that there is a firm purchase agreement. This form is reviewed by a Customs officer at the products' point of entry, and relayed to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

To ensure compliance with Canadian standards for safety, quality, labeling, packaging and grading, all shipments of fresh produce are subject to examination upon entry into Canada by an inspector of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Special requirements also exist for the importation of products shipped in bulk.

To prevent the introduction and spread of plant diseases and pests, fresh fruits and vegetables are subject to the Plant Protection Act and Regulations. Consequently, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency requires import permits and/or phytosanitary certificates for certain fresh fruits and vegetables from specific countries or states.

For detailed information regarding Canadian [import requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/cdnrege.shtml), refer to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website at:
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/cdnrege.shtml>

Information on Canadian plant protection requirements may be found at
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/imp/airse.shtml>

Fresh fruit and vegetables derived from a plant with a novel trait (i.e., derived from biotechnology) are considered novel foods (see section on novel foods).
http://active.inspection.gc.ca/tech/extsite.asp?url=http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._285/index.html

Fruit and Vegetable Products - Processed

Processed fruit and vegetable products include canned and frozen fruits and vegetables as well as some other fruit and vegetable products (vegetable soup, prepared mustard, spaghetti in tomato sauce, jams and jellies, etc.).

Imported product must comply with the Processed Products Regulations under the Canada Agricultural Products Act. These regulations cover quality, labeling, packaging (including standardized sizes), grading, and health and safety requirements.

Each shipment must be accompanied by an Import Declaration form in duplicate, which indicates that the products meet the requirements of the Processed Products Regulations and were processed under sanitary conditions, and that they were sound, wholesome and fit for human consumption at time of

shipment. At present, there is no federal requirement for importers of processed fruits and vegetables to be licensed.

All shipments are subject to inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at their destination point. The section, "Low Acid Foods in Hermetically Sealed Containers", contains further information. http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._291/page-1.html

Grains

Tariff Rate Quotas for wheat, barley and their products were instituted on August 1, 1995. Consequently, an import permit issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is required to import these products.

For detailed information regarding [Canadian phytosanitary import requirements](#), refer to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/grains/grainse.shtml>

Please note that grains derived from a plant with a novel trait (i.e., derived from biotechnology) are considered novel foods (see section on novel foods).

The Canadian Grain Commission and the Canada Border Services Agency may also have requirements regarding the importation of grains into Canada and should be contacted prior to importation.

Infant Formula (Human Milk Substitutes)

The composition and labeling of foods for infants are regulated under Division 25 of the Food and Drug Regulations. In the case of new infant formulas and those which have undergone a major change, manufacturers and importers are required to notify Health Canada of their intention to market the products. The information to be submitted in this "pre-market notification" is outlined in Division 25 of the Regulations. It permits Health Canada to conduct a thorough safety assessment for the proposed product.

The Food and Drug Regulations outline standards of identity and composition for both margarine and calorie-reduced margarine. Certain provinces may also have restrictions on the addition of color to margarine.

Maple Products

Maple products include maple syrup, maple sugar, soft maple sugar, maple butter and maple taffy that are obtained exclusively from maple sap. Imported maple products must meet the requirements of the Maple Products Regulations under the Canada Agricultural Products Act. These regulations cover quality, labeling, packaging (including standardized sizes), grading, and health and safety requirements. At present, there is no federal requirement for importers of maple syrup and maple products to be licensed. All shipments are subject to inspection at their destination point by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Cocoa and cocoa products – i.e., chocolate

Must be free from salmonella bacteria and should comply with health Canada standards for melamine pertaining to infant formula and sole nutrition products and other milk and milk derivatives. Importers should consult all applicable reference documents for information on standards and guidelines related to food safety and labeling including those provided hereafter:

- Good importing practices
 - Guide to food labeling and advertising
 - Standards and guidelines for microbiological safety of foods
 - Canadian standards 'Maximum level' for various chemical contaminants in food
 - Canadian Cocoa/Chocolate Standards of Identity
- <http://www.gomc.com/firstpage/199709069.pdf>

Wood packaging materials

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- 3-wood packaging is manufactured from wood exempted from ISPMNo.15.

Extra virgin olive oil

Refer to the CFIA (Canadian federal olive oil compliance document for the standard applying to olive oils and olive-pomace oils. Importers should consult all applicable reference documents for information on standards and guidelines related to food safety and labeling including those provided hereafter:

- Good importing practices.(see Canadian standards no.6)
- Guide to food labeling and advertising.(see Canadian standards no.7)
- Standards and guidelines for microbiological safety of foods. .(see Canadian standards no.11)
- Canadian standards 'Maximum level' for various chemical contaminants in food. .(see Canadian standards no.1)
- List of maximum residue limits regulated under the pest control products act.
- Guidelines for General cleanliness of food. .(see Canadian standards no.9)
- Requirements for wood packaging materials as above.

Further references:

- Consumer packaging and labeling act.(Std no.)
- Food and drug act regulations(std no,3)
- Guide to food safety.(std no,8)

Alcoholic Beverages

The Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act, a federal statute, gives the provinces and territories full control over the importation of intoxicating liquor into their jurisdictions. (Note: there are certain exceptions, such as bulk importations by licensed distillers and brewers for blending purposes). Consequently, importers should consult the appropriate provincial or territorial liquor authority before considering the importation or interprovincial trade of intoxicating liquor.

Standards of identity and labeling requirements for alcoholic beverages exist in the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations, the Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act and Regulations and the Excise Act and Regulations. Standardized container size requirements for wine exist in the Consumer Packaging and Labeling Regulations.

In addition to the basic food labeling provisions, alcoholic beverages are subject to further requirements, such as the declaration of alcohol content by volume. The Guide to Food Labeling and Advertising provides a thorough overview of the labeling requirements for alcoholic beverages.

Useful links

Automated Import Reference system (AIRS)

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