

Specifications for the import of Vegetable Oils GCC

Range of vegetable oils: olive oil, rapeseed oil, soya oil, palm kernel oil, palm oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil

In 2007, the GCC Food Safety Committee developed a "Guide for Food Import Procedures for the GCC Countries." This guide was meant to unify the applied procedures for clearing food consignments, as well as unify the required import certificates for different types of foods. The intent was to help facilitate the movement of food products within the GCC once customs unification is fully implemented. In 2008, the GCC member countries decided to postpone the application of the guide to further study it to ensure it fully complies with the guidelines of international organizations such as **Codex Alimentarius, the World Animal Health Organization and International Plant Protection Consortium**. The guide is still being reviewed by GCC members.

For products of non-animal origin, the specific product requirements for the product range are as follows:

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose
Processed Foodstuffs	Health Certificate *	Exported products were processed or manufactured under conditions that comply with sanitary and health laws of the exporting country and are fit for human consumption	Food safety

*The Health Certificate is a paper or electronic document issued by the competent authority in the country of origin or the country of exportation, attesting that the safety (and suitability) of the consignment of food is in accordance with the relevant technical regulations of the GCC (including registration numbers of food establishments).

In addition to the general requirements and the general labeling requirements for the GCC, please refer to the following standards.

This Gulf standard is concerned with edible virgin olive oil, refined olive oil, refined olive, pommace oil and their edible mixtures.

- **GSO Standard 1019:2012 on edible oil and olive pommace oil**
- **GSO Standard No. 1754:2006 on edible corn oil**

This standard is concerned with the maximum limits of the following pesticide residues permitted in agricultural and food products intended for human consumption: dimethoate, chlorfenvinphos, crufomate, diazinon, dioxathion, diphenyl, diphenylamine, ethoxyquin and folpet

- **GSO Standard No. 383:1994 on maximum limits of pesticide residues permitted in agrifood products**

This GSO standard is concerned with vegetable ghee (Edibly hydrogenated vegetable oils) ready for direct human consumption.

- **GSO Standard No. 991:1998 on Vegetbale ghee**

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 access to GSO standards, which 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