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Report Highlights:

This report is an addendum to the GAIN report number E42024-0031 EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Report, November 01, 2024. It outlines Iceland's import requirements for agricultural and related products. Iceland is not a member of the European Union but associated with the Union through its membership in the European Economic Area. This report lists the Icelandic import regulations and standards where Iceland varies from the EU and for areas where there is no EU harmonized law. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters who wish to export to Iceland by providing information on labeling, packaging, permitted ingredients, and other relevant regulations and standards. It also provides contact information of the Icelandic government authorities and other relevant organizations.

Summary

This Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Subject report has been prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Agricultural Affairs in The Hague (FAS/The Hague). While below European Union's (EU) FAIRS report provides an overview of food and feed legislation currently in force in the EU. This report lists the Icelandic import regulations and standards where Iceland varies from the EU and those that are not harmonized within the EU and should therefore be read in conjunction with the GAIN report number [E42024-0031 EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Report, November 01, 2024](#). The sections below are numbered to correspond to the numbers in the EU Report.

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DISCLAIMER:

While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate because policies may have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available at the time. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their buyers in Iceland, who are in the best position to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final approval of any product is subject to Icelandic import regulations and standards as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

Introduction

This report is the first public Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report (FAIRS) report on the Icelandic market. U.S. exports of Agricultural and Related Products to Iceland, in 2024, were estimated at \$30 million. The vast majority (85 percent) of these exports were U.S. Consumer-Oriented Products, led by exports of U.S. food preparations (\$4.7 million), bakery goods (\$2.9 billion), condiments & sauces (\$2.3 million), and chocolate and confectionery Products (\$1.8 million), Source: [GATS](#). Imports from third countries, including U.S. products, will need to comply with the Icelandic import regulations and regulation.

The European Economic Area (EEA)

While Iceland is not part of the [European Union](#) (EU), the country is part of the European Economic Area ([EEA](#)). The EEA brings together the 27 EU Member States and the three European Free Trade Association ([EFTA](#)) States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) in the internal market. The [EEA Agreement](#) is dynamic and continuously updated to ensure common rules for the free movement of goods across the EEA.

Experts from the EFTA States contribute to shaping EU legislation before it is adopted by the EU. For instance, they participate in meetings of EU expert groups and committees and submit their collective positions to the EU institutions. When the EU adopts an Act (e.g. Regulations, Directives, and Decisions), the EFTA states assess its relevance for the EEA and then request the EFTA secretariat to draft a decision to incorporate it into the EEA Agreement.

Each of the three EFTA States have their own national procedure to prepare for the incorporation and implementation of an EU act. If a decision requires amendments to national law, the parliaments of the three EFTA States must approve it before it can enter into force. EU law that has become EEA law must be made part of the national law of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

In short, this means that only if there is a corresponding Icelandic law, can a particular EU Act apply in Iceland. More information about the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement can be found [here](#). Information about proposed EU legal acts with possible EEA relevance, adopted EU acts under consideration for incorporation into the EEA Agreement, and acts that have already been incorporated into the Agreement can be found on www.efta.int/eea-lex.

Iceland:

Through Icelandic laws, most EU Acts also apply in Iceland but there are some exceptions. Due to the implementation of the EU food law in Iceland in 2011, products of animal origin (POAO) imported from third countries into Iceland must be accompanied by the appropriate official health certificate, be notified in TRACES, and undergo import control at an approved border control post (BCP) in Iceland.

Through its Icelandic animal health legislation, the [Animal Diseases and Prevention Act](#) (<https://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1993025.html>), Iceland adds additional requirements for meat, dairy, and eggs) from third countries. The Act states the following in article 10:

To prevent the introduction to Iceland of animal diseases, the importation of the following products shall be prohibited:

- a) raw or lightly salted slaughter products, whether processed or unprocessed, raw eggs, non-disinfected raw furs and hides, farmyard manure and compost mixed with farmyard manure;

- b) meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, as well as fat obtained from the processing of these substances;
- c) hay and straw;
- d) all kinds of used packaging, riding equipment, machinery tools, utensils and other things that have been in contact with animals, animal products and animal waste;
- e) all kinds of used fishing equipment;

Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, the Minister may authorize the importation of products referred to in points a) to e), if recommended by the Food and Veterinary Authority, subject to proof that the products in question do not carry any transmissible agents causing animal diseases, etc.

Measures to prevent the introduction of animal diseases and contaminated products to Iceland are laid down in [Regulation 1250/2019](#). The regulation sets forth the import conditions in detail for the following products:

- a) Unprocessed raw meat products
- b) Processed raw meat products
- c) Cooked meat products
- d) Dairy products
- e) Egg products

Please find below a few specific requirements while additional import conditions can be found in MAST's [Guidance notes](#).

Ad a) Unprocessed raw meat products (CN codes 0202, 0203, 0204, 0207, and 0208) must have been frozen (-18°C) for at least 30 days when imported. This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.

These products must also have been tested for *Salmonella* spp. with negative results. This must be confirmed by a certificate or laboratory results from an approved laboratory. The certificate / laboratory results must accompany the consignment.

Ad b) Processed raw meat products (CN codes 0210, 1601, and 1602) must have a pH value less than 6,0 and an aw value less than 0,93. This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.

Ad c) Cooked meat products must have been cooked for at least 15 seconds at 72°C. This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.

Ad d) Dairy products must be *either*:

- *pasteurized*: This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.
- *or heat treated according to the following*: If the dairy product is produced from non-pasteurized milk i.e. Parmesan cheese: the cheese curd must have been heat treated at least to 48°C, and then the product stored for at least 6 months at a temperature not lower than 10 °C with a humidity less than 36%. This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.

Ad e) Raw eggs must have undergone testing for Salmonella spp. In accordance with EC regulation No. 1688/2005. A laboratory report indicating negative results must be submitted. The report must be clearly traceable to the consignment.

- *Heat treated eggs or egg products:* Eggs and egg products must be heat treated for 5 minutes at 65°C or have received other comparable treatment as per MAST assessment. This must be confirmed by a statement issued by the producer. The statement must accompany the consignment.

Moreover, a MAST import permit is required for unprocessed and processed raw meat products, raw milk or milk products, and raw eggs or egg products. A MAST import permit is **not** required for cooked meat products, pasteurized dairy products, heat treated eggs or egg products.

Iceland in addition has its own national legislation on plant health which is outside the EEA Agreement. This legislation, [Regulation 189 concerning the import and export of plants and plant products of 20.04.1990](#), lay down the import requirements for plants or plant products imported from the United States into Iceland, which are described in Section IX: Import Procedures.

MAST

Matvælastofnun, or MAST, is the name of the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority ([MAST](#)). It is an independent agency of the Icelandic Ministry of Food Agriculture and Fisheries. MAST's head office is in Selfoss, Iceland and has four district offices run by district veterinary officers (DVOs). An estimated 100 people work for MAST. Its main objective is to protect human, plant, and animal health. MAST's role is to draft legislation and provide guidance on existing legislation, perform risk-based inspections, monitor food safety as well as plant, fish and animal health, provide updates on developments in its field, and plan for emergencies. MAST contact details can be found in Appendix I of this report while more detailed information is available online at www.mast.is.

Section I. General Food Laws

Iceland

In 2011, Iceland implemented the EU General Food Law, [EU Regulation 178/2002](#). The Icelandic Food Law is called [Reglugerð Evrópuþingsins Og Ráðsins \(2011/EES/59/08\)](#) and provides the Icelandic regulatory framework for food and agricultural products and food safety issues, and applies to products from outside the EEA. If you need further assistance, please contact FAS/The Hague via AgTheHague@usda.gov or +31-70-312-2299.

Section II. Labelling Requirements

A. General Requirements

EU requirements regarding food labelling are laid out in the [“Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\)” Regulation \(EC\) 1169/2011](#). The FIC regulation has been enforced in Iceland since 2014 with the implementing [Regulation 1294/2014](#). The FIC is applicable for all prepackaged food and drink products marketed in the country, including products imported from third countries (outside the EEA and EU). The mandatory nutrition declaration requirement, which has been introduced by the FIC regulation, went into effect on December 13, 2016.

Similar to Norway, Iceland implemented supplementary paragraphs to the FIC. Those paragraphs are listed in the implementing regulation and concern:

- language for food information,
- how to present net content,
- Labeling of storage conditions,
- Requirements information about non-prepacked food,
- Requirements for lot number,
- Requirements for origin labeling of certain foods (mostly vegetables) and species labelling of potatoes.
- The possibility to add information on the recommended daily dose for vitamin D for the Icelandic population (15 microgram (µg) compared to 5 microgram (µg) for the general EU public)

Iceland has a national legislation, [Regulation 1237/2014](#), on labelling and traceability of genetically modified (GM) food which was implemented in December 2014. This national legislation is similar to the EU Regulation 1829/2003 on labelling for GM food products.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture

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Borgartún 26, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

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More information about Iceland's views on biotechnology can be found in [Iceland Has a Unique Environment for Biotechnology](#).

4. Language Requirements

While Icelandic is the official language of Iceland. Labelling shall be in either: Icelandic, English or a Nordic language excluding Finnish (Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Faroese). Fully English labeled products are very common on products on retail shelves.

7. Minimum Durability

Iceland fully complies with Annex X of [FIC regulation 1169/2011](#) setting out rules for the indication of the date of minimum durability, use-by date, and date of freezing. The use-by date must be indicated on pre-packed individual portions. The durability date AND the date of (first) freezing preceded by the words "frozen on" is required on labels of frozen meat, frozen meat preparations, and frozen unprocessed seafood products.

In English:

The date of 'minimum durability' shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Best before'

- 'Best before end'

In Icelandic:

- 'Best fyrir'

- 'Best fyrir lok'

The 'use by' date shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Use by'

- 'Síðasti notkunardagur' or 'Notist eigi síðar en'

The date of 'freezing' or the date of 'first freezing' shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Frozen on'

- 'Fryst dags'

12. Nutrition Declaration



Article 35 of [FIC Regulation 1169/2011](#) allows countries to recommend the use of additional forms of expression or presentation on the nutrition declaration. Like other Nordic countries, Iceland has joined the Keyhole (Skráargatsins) labeling scheme, see picture on the left. The Keyhole label denotes a more nutritious product compared to others in the same category. The requirements for using the Keyhole label are given [Regulation 33/2021](#).

Using the Keyhole symbol is voluntary, and it is the manufacturers' responsibility to follow the set of criteria set by the Icelandic authorities. Depending on the product, the responsible authority can be either MAST (controlling fish, milk, meat, and egg production) or the Municipal Food Control Authorities (controlling all other kind of food production), see Appendix I.

15. Use of Stickers

While the English language can be used, standard U.S. labels do not meet the Icelandic labeling requirements. Packaged food products from the United States are predominantly imported with a standard U.S. label. Products therefore need to be re-labeled in Iceland, prior to retail sale. Stick-on labels are accepted in Iceland.

16. Samples

U.S. companies that wish to ship product samples (samples of products that are not in compliance with Iceland import regulations) to be used for research and diagnosis, trade events, and demonstration purposes, can be imported into Iceland in accordance with article 17 of [EU Regulation 1069/2009](#). An application must be submitted to the [MAST Service Portal](#) and, if Icelandic language is not your first language, can be best done by a local contact since the Service Portal is only available in the Icelandic language.

B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

3. Labeling of Genetically Modified (GMO) Foods

Iceland has not implemented EU [Regulation 1829/2003](#) and [Regulation 1830/2003](#) on GMO food and feed. Instead, there is a national [Regulation 1237/2014](#) on the labelling and traceability of genetically modified food and feed that sets out a requirement for labeling all GMO ingredients. For more information see Section II Labeling Requirements, A. General Requirements.

There is no regulation that would ban “non-GMO” or “GM-free” labelling. It would have to comply with the general provisions of the [“Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\)” Regulation \(EC\) 1169/2011](#), paragraph 7 on fair information practices. The labelling should not be misleading. For more information, see the FAS GAIN report [IC2025-002](#).

4. Organic Food Labeling

Iceland has adopted EU regulations on organic production, including [Regulation 2021/2325](#) and its subsequent amendments, which address the US-EU equivalency. There is typically a delay of no more than 30 days in implementing any changes to these regulations. A Certificate of Inspection (COI) is required for the import of organic products into Iceland, as it is into the EU. COIs for USDA organic products exported to Iceland are issued by Control Bodies in the United States after they have done the relevant verifications of the consignment. These control bodies are accredited by [USDA’s National Organic Program](#) (NOP).

Iceland has delegated the certification and control of organic production to one Control Body:

Vottunarstofan Tún

Parabakka 3, 3. Hæð, 109 Reykjavík, Iceland

tun@tun.is or organic@tun.is

+354-511-1330

www.tun.is

Given Iceland's adoption of the EU organic production regulations, displaying the EU-leaf on certified organic products is mandatory for locally produced organic products. The Control Body also has its own label, both of which can be viewed together in below picture.



5. Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages

In 2021, the European Union adopted [Regulation 2021/2117](#) which introduces a compulsory nutrition declaration and a compulsory list of ingredients for wines, aromatized wines, and dealcoholized and partially dealcoholized wines. This EU Regulation is not part of the EEA and has not been implemented in Iceland.

Retail sales of wine and liquor in Iceland are restricted to a government-controlled agency, [Vínbúðin/ÁTVR](#). Vínbúðin has exclusive rights to sell beer (with an alcohol content of 2.25 percent or higher), wine, and spirits to the Icelandic consumer. The monopoly is subject to the oversight of the Icelandic [Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs](#). For more detailed information about Vínbúðin can be found in FAS The Hague’s [Iceland Export Guide](#).

6. Special Use Foods

[Commission Delegation Regulation 2017/1798](#), which entered into force on October 27, 2022, is adopted in Iceland through [Regulation 834/2014](#) (amendment nr. 1015/2018).

The regulation sets out the notification procedure under which food business operators are required to send copies of their product labels to the competent authority in Iceland. There are the nine different competent authorities in Iceland, depending on the location of the Icelandic company. A list of all nine different Municipal Food Control Authorities can be found on www.shi.is.

There is no specific procedure established for the notification procedure so any form of contacting one of these authorities should be sufficient. Notifications can also be sent to MAST (see Appendix I) and MAST will forward them to the appropriate authorities.

Section III. Packaging and Container Requirements

B. Packaging Waste Management

Similar to EU Member States, Iceland is taking measures to reduce packaging waste and introducing systems for reuse, recovery, and recycling of packaging materials. The management of packaging waste aligns with EU regulations and implements these requirements through its national legislation and waste management systems. See the below initiatives.

Ban on Single-Use Items in Government Organizations: All single-use beverage containers, cutlery, and bottles are banned in Icelandic government organizations, its events, and some municipalities through the Green Steps Program. This policy also applies to events hosted by these entities. The competent authority is the Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority, see Appendix I. More information can be found on <https://graenskref.is/english/>.

Recycling Fees for Packaging: Manufacturers and importers of packaging pay a recycling fee. The Icelandic Recycling Fund (IRF) oversees the implementation of extended producer responsibility for specific goods, including packaging, in accordance with the Act on Recycling Fees. More information can be found on <https://www.urvinnslusjodur.is/english/#>.

Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive: Iceland is implementing the EU's SUP Directive to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics (Law 7/1998 (amendment 90/2020)). The Team of Circular Economy at the [Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority](#) is responsible for the implementation of Iceland's Waste Prevention Program, called Together Against Waste (see below). Their website contains all the information on SUP (in Icelandic): <https://samangegnsoun.is/english/>.

The chemical team at the [Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority](#) takes care of the enforcement associated with the SUP. Additionally, some information can be found on <https://www.stjornarradid.is/verkefni/umhverfi-og-natturuvernd/hringrasarhagkerfi/plast/spurt-og-svarad-um-plast/> (in Icelandic). The competent authority is the Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority, see Appendix II.

Ban on Plastic Carrier Bags: The use of plastic carrier bags, whether sold for a fee or provided for free, is prohibited at points of sale. The competent authority is the Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority, see Appendix II.

Return-Deposit System for Beverage Containers: Iceland has operated a return-deposit system for plastic, aluminum, and glass beverage containers since 1989, achieving a return rate of nearly 90%. The competent authority is the [Endurvinnslan](#), see Appendix II.

Waste Sorting in Households and Workplaces: Since 2023, households and workplaces are required to sort waste into categories: paper, plastics, food waste, and mixed waste. Other waste streams, such as textiles, metals, glass, and hazardous materials, must be delivered to designated local collection stations. Landfilling or incinerating sorted waste is prohibited to encourage reuse and recycling.

Waste Prevention Program – Together Against Waste: This program has focused on education, consultancy, and raising public awareness about reducing single-use packaging and promoting reuse. The program is currently under revision, with new measures to further reduce packaging waste expected soon. More information can be found on <https://samangegnssoun.is/english/>. The competent authority is the Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority, see Appendix II.

C. Material in Contact with Food Stuff

An introduction to the European Food Contact Material (FCM) legislation can be found on the website of the European Commission at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/food_contact_materials_en. All EU legislation was adopted by Iceland. There is no additional national Food Contact Material legislation in Iceland.

Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

B. Flavorings

Smoke flavoring: In January 2024, following EFSA's scientific assessments, the Commission decided not to renew the authorizations for eight smoke flavorings: SF-001, SF-002, SF-003, SF-004, SF-005, SF-006, SF-007, SF-008, SF-009 and SF-010. [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2024/2067](#) sets out different phase-out periods to give time for producers and operators to adapt to the new rules, following the deletion of eight smoke flavorings from the Union list. After a phase-out period, these flavorings will no longer be permitted for use in the EU:

- When used to replace traditional smoking (e.g. hams, fish, cheeses) the phase-out period is in place until July 1, 2029.
- For uses where the smoke flavoring is added for extra flavor (e.g. soups, crisps, sauces), the phase-out period will be in place until July 1, 2026.

The regulation is adopted into the EEA agreement and will be formally implemented soon in Iceland.

C. Enzymes

Guidance documents on the use of enzymes can be found on the European Commission's website at: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-improvement-agents/enzymes/eu-rules_en. In Iceland, there are no additional country specific rules on enzymes and no national guidance documents. The competent authority in Iceland is the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries, see Appendix I.

D. Processing Aids

EU harmonized rules only exist for certain categories of processing aids: a list of extraction solvents allowed in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients, along with their conditions of use has been established in [Council Directive 2009/32/EC](#). Iceland has no additional regulations. Processing aids for disinfection of food of animal origin requires an authorization according to EU [Regulation 853/2004](#). Other processing aids fall under the general rule that food shall be safe – they can only be used if they cause no harm to health. It is the responsibility of the food business operators to verify this.

Section V. Pesticides and Contaminants

A. Pesticides

[EU Regulation 1107/2009](#) sets out rules for the authorization of plant protection products and has been incorporated into the EEA agreement. Rules have been implemented through [Regulation 544/2015](#). The Environment Agency ([Umhverfis Stofnun](#)) has overall responsibility for the authorization and regulations concerning plant protection products. Annex I of [Regulation 1107/2009](#) divides Europe into zones, and Iceland is part of the northern zone. More information can be found on <https://ust.is/english/industry/chemicals/plant-protection-products/>.

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

A. Certification and Document Requirements

Following an update of the EU's Animal Health Law, which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated all required certificates for products of animal origin and for composite products (see below). Models of the new certificates for foods of animal origin were published by the EU and implemented by U.S. agencies. Several amendments to the new certificates were made since their first publication. They are available from Commission Implementing [Regulation No 2020/2235](#).

Composite Products

Iceland has adopted all EU regulations concerning the document requirements for importing U.S. composite products into Iceland. [Regulation 2022/2292](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted by burdensome certification requirements.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product, as was the case until April 21, 2021. The new system that went into effect on April 21, 2021, establishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin must be sourced from EU approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products with a meat ingredient. A private company attestation will be required for shelf stable products not containing meat.

It should be noted that this attestation is not issued by the U.S. Government but must be signed by the representative of the importing company in Iceland. The EU approved establishment production number of the processed animal product must be stated both on the composite certificate and on the private attestation.

With the publication of [Regulation 2023/2652](#), the import requirements for honey will change. As of November 29, 2024, honey entering Iceland must come from EU approved establishments. This includes composite products that contain honey as an ingredient. More information can be found on [Dýraafurðir frá 3. ríkjum | Matvælastofnun](#). Additional information can be found in the following [report](#).

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) will issue EU composite product certificates for composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities and bearing the USDA mark of inspection. AMS Dairy Program will issue the EU composite product certificates for composite products NOT produced in an FSIS-regulated facility and not bearing the USDA mark of inspection, regardless of whether dairy is an ingredient in the composite product. The new EU requirements for composite products will impact stakeholders who have not been required to obtain an export certificate from AMS Dairy Program in the past. Prior to requesting a certificate from AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. Go to [How to Apply for an AMS Dairy or Composite Product Export Certificate](#) for more information.

More information on the import conditions for composite products is available on the European Commission's [website](#). This website also includes a compilation of [Questions & Answers](#) intended to clarify a multitude of practical questions that have been raised on the new rules.

B. Inspections

The list of animal origin products subject to official controls at border posts was updated in Commission Implementing [Regulation 2021/632](#). Composite products listed in Commission Delegated [Regulation 2021/630](#) (as amended by Commission Delegated [Regulation 2023/1674](#)) are exempted from checks at the border because of the low risk they present. The list includes products such as biscuits, confectionary and food supplements. All consignments to be presented at the border control posts must undergo document checks. Identity and physical checks are carried out at a frequency depending on the risk linked to the specific animals or goods. The criteria to determine and modify the frequency of rates are established by the Commission.

The EU also maintains a list of food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries subject to a specified level of physical controls for certain contaminants. This list is published in Commission Implementing [Regulation 2019/1793](#) and is regularly reviewed to account for the latest noncompliance information.

In Iceland, MAST is responsible for inspections and designates laboratories that are allowed to perform analyses. A list of laboratories designated by Iceland to perform analysis can be found at [Rannsóknastofur | Matvælastofnun](#).

Laboratories in Iceland are accredited by [SWEDAC](#), (the Swedish accreditation service) as decided by an agreement between SWEDAC and [ISAC](#) (the Icelandic service for accreditation).

Icelandic Service for Accreditation ISAC
Katrínartún 4, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland
Solveig.ingolfsdottir@isac.is
+354 580 9400
<https://www.hugverk.is/en/about/accreditation>

D. Product Registration

There is no registration or notification requirements for either supplements or vitamin-enriched foods in Iceland

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

A. Novel Foods

The [EU framework regulation 2015/2283](#) on Novel Foods became applicable on January 1, 2018. Food business operators in Iceland are also responsible for verifying whether the food or ingredient they intend to market in Iceland is novel or not. Novel Food regulation 2015/2283 provides for a consultation process when the status of a food or food ingredient is unsure. [Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/456](#) lists the procedural steps that food business operators must follow to consult with the competent authority of Iceland, if they intend to market their product in Iceland first. The competent authority is the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries, see Appendix I.

D. Fortified Foods

[EU Regulation 1925/2006](#) sets out harmonized rules on the addition of vitamins and minerals to food and was implemented by Iceland through [Regulation 327/2010](#). There are no additional national regulations on vitamins and minerals added to foods.

Regarding the maximum levels of added vitamins and minerals to food, Iceland relies on general rule of food safety and the tolerable upper intake levels established by EFSA, <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/ndatolerableuil.pdf> and can also be found on MAST's website, <https://www.mast.is/is/matvaelafyrirtaeki/efni-i-matvaelum/iblonidun#hamarksmagn-vitamina-og-steinefna>.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that Iceland has, through [Regulation 327/2010](#), and amendment 453/2014, established maximum levels for caffeine added to foods (pure caffeine as well as other forms such as extracts). For levels above the levels indicated in the regulation, a specific authorization procedure must be followed. More information can be found on <https://www.reglugerd.is/reglugerdir/efnir-raduneytum/atvinnuvega--og-nyskopunarraduneyti/nr/19078>.

F. Food supplements

In Iceland, food supplements are regulated through [Regulation 624/2004](#).

G. Irradiated foodstuffs

Harmonization of EU rules on food irradiation has been slow and only a few products have so far received EU-wide approval. Until the EU positive list is expanded, national authorizations continue to apply. In Iceland, [Regulation 341/2001](#) lays out rules for treatment of food with ionizing radiation. Local municipal authorities are the competent authorities for controlling foods treated with ionizing radiation.

Radiation facilities are controlled by [The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority](#) (In Iceland called [Geislavarnir ríkisins](#)).

In English:

If products treated with ionizing radiation, are sold, the words ‘irradiated’ or ‘treated with ionizing radiation’ shall appear on the label.

In Icelandic:

In Iceland the label should mention ‘Geislað’ or ‘Meðhöndlað með jónandi geislun’.

H. Seafood

Iceland has adopted all EU regulations concerning the document requirements for importing U.S. seafood into Iceland, including [Regulation 2020/2131](#), eliminating the custom duties for lobster, and the [US-EU Equivalency Arrangement on live bivalve mollusks](#).

Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

A. Trademarks

The Intellectual Property Office is the Competent Authority on issues regarding Trademarks, Designs and Patents in Iceland:

Intellectual Property Office – Hugverkastofan

Katrínartún 4, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

isipo@isipo.is

+354 580 9400

<https://www.hugverk.is/en>

Section IX. Import Procedures

The [EFTA Surveillance Authority](#) has published a [country profile of Iceland](#), describing the organization of the Icelandic authorities and their control systems covering the entire chain of animal feed and food production.

There can be import duties on U.S. agricultural and related products imported into Iceland. The Icelandic Revenue and Customs, [Skatturinn](#), has a [customs tariff database](#) which offers the customs tariff per product code. For more information, please go to

<https://www.skatturinn.is/english/companies/customs-matters/importing-to-iceland/import-duty-charges/>.

On its website, [Skatturinn](#) also lays out in detail Iceland’s customs procedures,

<https://www.skatturinn.is/english/companies/customs-matters/importing-to-iceland/customs-procedures/>, as well as the import documents it requires,

<https://www.skatturinn.is/english/companies/customs-matters/importing-to-iceland/import-documents/>.

More information can be found on [customs matters when importing in Iceland](#).

Skatturinn

Headquarters, Tax, Register of Enterprises, Collection and Customs.

Katrínartún 6, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

+354 442 1000

<https://www.skatturinn.is/english/>

Excise Duties

The excise duty to be paid on alcoholic products are described in article 3 of [96/1995: Act on Excise Duty on Alcohol and Tobacco | Law | Parliament](#).

Imports of Animal and Plant Products

- **Imports of products of animal origin (POAO):** EEA food legislation aims to ensure a safe food supply to all consumers by applying the same standards of food safety to all products regardless of origin. Food products of animal origin that are to be imported to the EEA from third countries shall meet the following conditions:
 1. The product shall be produced in an EU-approved establishment and labelled with the EU approval number.
 2. An original copy of the applicable health certificate for import into EU, issued by the competent authority in the exporting country (or a captain's declaration when landing from a third-country vessel) must accompany the consignment.
 3. The import shall be notified in Traces with at least a 24-hour notice before the arrival of the consignment to the relevant BCP. The importer is responsible for the notification but may seek the help of their courier.
 4. The consignment must be presented at an approved border control post (BCP).
 5. The importer is responsible for the import costs according to the MAST tariff.

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements set forth in the EU food legislation, products of animal origin must meet the conditions according to regulation no. 1250/2019 on measures to prevent the introduction of animal diseases and contaminated products to Iceland. These guidelines regarding the specific requirements according to Icelandic legislation apply to the following categories: unprocessed raw meat products, processed raw meat products, cooked meat products, dairy products, and egg products. More information can be found on [Import of animal products | Matvælastofnun](#) and MAST's [Guidance Notes](#).

- **Import of plants and plant products**

The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) functions as the official national plant protection organization of Iceland and is responsible for maintaining plant health and ensuring seed quality.

Iceland has implemented the legislation of the European Community on seeds but has its own legislation on plant health. The Authority gives its opinion to the Ministry of Industries and Innovation on plant health and seed legislation.

Import requirements for plants and plant products may be found in [regulation no. 189/1990 concerning the import and export of plants and plant products with amendments](#). According to Regulation 189/1990,

the import of plants and plant products is only permitted if the consignment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country and if the plants or plant products fulfill the phytosanitary requirements in the regulation, e.g. free from quarantine pest etc.

When plants are grown in a country other than the exporting country, the consignment shall be accompanied by a copy of the phytosanitary certificate accompanying the plants to the exporting country, together with a special phytosanitary certificate for re-export from the exporting country.

Appendix I of Regulation 189/1990 provides an overview of harmful organisms whose import into Iceland is prohibited. Appendix II of that Regulation shows which harmful organisms are allowed only in negligible quantities on plants imported into Iceland for further growing. Appendix III provides a list of plants whose importation into Iceland is prohibited (seeds not included). More information can be found on <https://www.mast.is/en/import-export/import-of-plants>.

- **Import of other products**

Certain products of non-animal origin that originate from third countries are subject to official controls and must enter the country through border control posts (BCPs). These products are listed in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1793](#). Import of these products must be notified with at least 24-hour notice in TRACES.

- [Annex I](#): Food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries subject to a temporary increase of official controls at border control posts and control points.
- [Annex II](#): Food and feed from certain third countries subject to special conditions due to contamination risk by mycotoxins, including aflatoxins, pesticide residues, pentachlorophenol and dioxins and microbiological contamination.
- The official controls performed on these products will always include documentary checks and in 5-100% of cases, identity and physical checks may also be performed.
- The annexes to Regulation 2019/1793 are reviewed on a regular basis, at least every six months.

More information can be found on [Import of other foodstuffs | Matvælastofnun](#).

Direct Importation versus Indirect Importation

Direct importation means that products from third countries are imported directly into Iceland. These products need to undergo border control in Iceland. Products imported from a third country via another EU/EEA country and that have undergone EU Border Control, must be notified to MAST upon import to Iceland in the [MAST Service Portal](#). Approval is done based on document check – no physical check. Consignments are not required to enter via a BCP in Iceland.

Section X. Trade Facilitation

A. Advance Ruling

Binding Tariff Information

As of now it is not possible to obtain Binding Tariff Information. For more information, please contact the [Icelandic Revenue and Customs Office Skatturinn](#).

Border Control Posts

Iceland has five official Border Control Posts (BCPs): Hafnarfjörður, Keflavík Airport, Reykjavík Eimskip, Reykjavík Samskip, and Þorlákshöfn. A list of Icelandic Border Control Posts and its contact detail can be found at [Border inspection posts | Matvælastofnun](#).

E. Average Release Time for Products - Common Delays

An overview of checks that can be performed at the Border Control Posts (BCPs) in Iceland concerns the following:

Documentary Check: This is an examination of the original required documents that accompany the consignment based on model certificates.

Identity Check: This is to ascertain that the products correspond to the information given in the accompanying certificates or documents. All veterinary goods undergo an identity check which is conducted by comparing the seal number of the container with the seal number mentioned on the Health Certificate. If no seal number is mentioned on the Health Certificate, the veterinary authorities will need to open the shipment to conduct the identity check.

Physical Check: This is a check on the product itself, to verify compliance with the food or feed law.

If MAST decides to detain, plans to reject, or decides to reject a shipment, it will communicate this clearly to the freight forwarder and/or importer. In its communication MAST will mention the reason why this shipment was detained and what needs to be done in order to release it, in the first two instances, and why it was rejected in the latter situation.

The Icelandic importer has the right to object before a final decision is made by MAST. If there are issues or non-compliances, the importer will be sent a notice of intended rejection (*fyrirhuguð höfnun innflutnings*) and given seven days to object in writing or present new information or documents. In some cases, new information leads to cancellation of the rejection. If not, the importer is then sent the final decision (*Höfnun innflutnings*) and in that letter (e-mail) it is explained that the importer has the right to appeal to the higher authority which is the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. If the consignment is rejected the importer has 60 days to either send it back or have it disposed of.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Borgartún 26, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

mar@mar.is

+354 545 9700

www.mar.is

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Arnarhvoli við Lindargötu - 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

fjr@fjr.is

+354 545 9200

www.fjr.is

The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority / Matvælastofnun (MAST)

Austurvegur 64, IS-800 Selfoss, Iceland

mast@mast.is

+354 530 4800

<https://www.mast.is/en>

MAST's Import and Export Department

Dalshraun 1B, IS-220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

petimport@mast.is – for enquiries and documents regarding import and export of pets;

bcp@mast.is – for enquiries regarding import of controlled products (POAO/PNAO);

import@mast.is – for enquiries regarding import of products other than mentioned above;

+354 530 4800

<https://www.mast.is/en/about-mast/contact-information#import-and-export-department>

Municipal Food Control Authorities

Hlíðasmára 14, 201 Kópavog, Iceland

www.shi.is

Appendix II. Other Specialist Contacts

Organic Control Body – Vottunarstofan Tún

Parabakka 3, 3. Hæð, 109 Reykjavík, Iceland

tun@tun.is or organic@tun.is

+354 511 1330

www.tun.is

The Green Steps Program – Graen Skref

Suðurlandsbraut 24, 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

graenskref@graenskref.is

+354 591 2000

www.graenskref.is

Icelandic Recycling Fund (IRF) – Úrvinnslusjóður

Suðurlandsbraut 24, 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

urvinnslusjodur@urvinnslusjodur.is

+354 517 4700

<https://www.urvinnslusjodur.is/english/#>

Icelandic Environment and Energy Authority - Umhverfis- Og Orkustofnun

Suðurlandsbraut 24, 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

uos@uos.is / thorbjorg.bakke@uos.is

+354 569 6000

www.uos.is

Together Against Waste – Saman Gegn Soun

samangegnsoun@samangegnsoun.is

<https://samangegnsoun.is/english/>

Endurvinnslan

Austurhraun 3, 210 Garðabær, Iceland

evhf@evhf.is

+354 588 8522

<https://endurvinnslan.is/english/>

Umhverfis Stofnun

Suðurlandsbraut 24, 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

ust@ust.is

+354 591 2000

www.ust.is

Icelandic Service for Accreditation – ISAC

Katrínartún 4, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

Solveig.ingolfsdottir@isac.is

+354 580 9400

<https://www.hugverk.is/en/about/accreditation>

Radiation Safety Authority – Geislavarnir ríkisins

Rauðarárstígur 10, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

gr@gr.is

+354 440 8200

<https://island.is/s/geislavarnir-rikisins>

Intellectual Property Office – Hugverkastofan

Katrínartún 4, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

isipo@isipo.is

+354 580 9400

<https://www.hugverk.is/en>

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)

Avenue des Arts 19H, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

registry@eftasurv.int

+32 2 286 1811

www.eftasurv.int

Customs – Skatturinn

Katrínartún 6, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

+354 442 1000

<https://www.skatturinn.is/english/>

Attachments:

No Attachments.