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**Prepared By:**

**Approved By:** Rishan Chaudhry

### **Report Highlights:**

The 2025 Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Annual Country Report for Türkiye outlines specific requirements for importing food and agricultural products into Türkiye and should be read in conjunction with the 2025 FAIRS Export Certificate Report for Türkiye. In 2024, The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) amended the labeling regulation and revised its guidelines to prevent the use of misleading images, names, and expressions for food products. At the beginning of 2026, MinAF plans to ban the import of certain animal products unless they come from approved establishments.

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### **Disclaimer:**

This report was prepared by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) in Ankara, Türkiye for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

### **Executive Summary:**

Türkiye has a population of 85.6 million, with a median age of about 34 years and with more than three-quarters of the population living in urban areas. The mostly young, urban population, along with a growing middle-class are among various factors contributing to increased consumption of consumer-oriented agricultural products. However, the country's challenging economic conditions during the last few years have tempered an upward trend in consumption.

The United States is among the top suppliers of agricultural products to Türkiye. Despite Türkiye's continued challenging economic situation, the amount (in USD terms) of food and agricultural exports to Türkiye was nearly \$1.8 billion in 2024. Leading domestic export categories included cotton, soybeans, tree nuts (almonds, walnuts), distillers dried grains, animals and animal products (live cattle and bovine semen), food and animal feed preparations, forestry products, and alcoholic beverages.

Türkiye has been a candidate country for membership in the European Union (EU) since 1999. As a candidate country, current Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize laws and regulations with the European Union *acquis communautaire*. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) is the authority that prepares and enforces most of the food and agricultural regulations and policies.

There are two main laws and more than 100 implementing regulations which regulate food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, and agricultural biotechnology. In recent years, the Turkish government has informed international bodies, such as the World Trade Organization, more often about possible or actual regulation changes, but not all regulatory changes impacting trade are notified. Exporters should also be aware that there may be some variation among provinces in applying legislation.

In 2024 MinAF amended the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provisions of Information to Consumers and revised its guidelines to enhance consumer protection and ensure accurate and clear information on food products. The guidelines provide detailed information, including examples, for business operators to prevent misleading claims and ensure food labels, terms, and visuals accurately reflect the product's nature, composition, and origin. Key changes include detailed rules for labeling of plant-based/vegan food products, clearer definitions of "basic field of view," use of flavorings and terms like "flavored," and the use of visual images. Business operators must comply with the rules set in the amended regulation and the revised guidelines by December 31, 2026.

Another updated regulation takes effect as of January 1, 2026, when MinAF plans to ban certain animal products unless they come from establishments which are listed in the EU's approved establishment list or MinAF's approved country/establishment list. MinAF's priority animal products for this implementation are fishery products, dairy products, collagen, and gelatin.

## **Section I: Food Laws**

As a European Union (EU) candidate country, the main goal of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize related laws and regulations with the EU *acquis communautaire* to facilitate trade. Within the scope of EU harmonization, the Turkish Government (GOT) issued [Law no. 5996](#) on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed, published in the Official Gazette in June 2010, with the objective of protecting and ensuring public health, food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, as well as plant health and consumer interests, while also taking environmental protection into consideration. The law covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of food, materials, and articles that come in contact with food and feed, controls of residues of plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and other residues and contaminants, control of epidemic or contagious animal diseases and harmful organisms in plants and plant products, welfare of farm and experimental animals and pet animals, feeding of animals, animal health and plant protection products, veterinary and

plant health services, entry and exit procedures of live animals and products to the country, as well as related official controls and sanctions.

[Law no. 5996](#) gives authority to MinAF over food and feed safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues. Under MinAF, the General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) is the most important ministerial structure for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies, adoption of legislation related to these policies, relevant official controls including import and export controls, and inspections at all stages of processing, distribution, and placing on the market, as well as ensuring animal health and welfare. The GDFC is the contact point for international organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

[Law no. 5996](#) also gives authority to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the principles and procedures relating to the production, packaging, sale, import, and export of spring water, drinking water, natural mineral water, and water for medical purposes, and the principles and procedures relating to compliance with technical and hygienic rules, ensuring fulfillment of quality standards and monitoring and control of quality standards of potable and utility water. MoH is also responsible for the principles and procedures relating to the production, import, export, and control of dietary foods for special medical purposes and approval of health claims to be used on the labels, presentation and advertising of foods and food supplements.

Another important law is [Law no. 5977](#), or the “Biosafety Law,” which was published in the Official Gazette in March 2010. The objective of this law is to establish and implement a biosafety system to prevent the potential risks of “genetically modified organisms” and products thereof obtained through modern biotechnological means, protect human, animal and plant health, safeguard and ensure the sustainable use of the environment and biological diversity, and to determine the procedures and principles governing the control, regulation and monitoring of these activities. It governs all activities, including, but not limited to, the research, development, processing, placement on the market, monitoring, utilization, importation, exportation, transportation, preservation, packaging, labeling, and storage regarding genetically engineered products and products thereof. MinAF has authority over biotechnology approvals. Currently, there are only 36 genetically engineered (GE) events for feed use. No events are approved for food use or cultivation. Veterinary medicinal products, human medicinal products, and cosmetics which acquired a license or received approval from the MoH do not fall under the scope of the Biosafety Law. Türkiye’s strict Biosafety Law interrupts imports, creates lasting uncertainty in the marketplace, and unnecessarily increases costs for U.S. exporters and Turkish producers and consumers. For more information on Türkiye’s biosafety policies, please refer to the [GAIN report on Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2024 for Türkiye](#).

Following presidential elections in June 2018 the Turkish Government was re-organized, which resulted in merging forestry and water affairs issues with food, agriculture, and livestock issues under the re-named Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF). The decree also established nine presidential advisory policy councils. One of these councils was the Council of Health and Food Policies. The Council’s tasks were not clearly related to food and agricultural issues since almost all its members were from the health sector. On March 28, 2025, the Council of Health and Food Policies was abolished and

two new councils, the Council of Health Policies and the Council of Agriculture and Food Policies (CAFP), were established. The newly established CAFP is responsible for developing policies and strategies to increase the production of plant and animal products, food safety, biotechnology, effective use of water sources and protection of domestic gene sources related to agriculture and livestock. The CAFP has 12 members from the academic, food, and agricultural sectors. The main role of the CAFP is to prepare reports advising the President of Türkiye and relevant government agencies on agricultural issues for policy making.

The legal infrastructure that governs agriculture is mainly based on regulations and/or communiqués and/or circulars rather than on laws. The reason for this is that the Turkish constitutional system does not allow laws to be adopted, amended, or abolished easily. Therefore, governments have traditionally preferred to publish regulations, communiqués, directives, or circulars.

Most of the regulations on food and agricultural products are prepared and published by MinAF. However, there are also other applicable regulations published by other ministries, such as the Ministry of Health. There are more than 100 implementing regulations of [Law no. 5996](#), which were published and are enforced by MinAF.

In recent years, the Turkish government has informed international bodies (such as the WTO) more often about possible or actual regulation changes, but still not consistently. Exporters should be aware that there may be some variation among provinces in applying legislation. This may be due to the lack of guidelines for the enforcement of rules in some cases. Most Turkish food and agriculture-related laws, regulations, communiqués, directives, and circulars are available in Turkish on the [website](#) of the GDFC.

Enforcement of Turkish food and agriculture legislation is performed by 81 Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorates (PAFD) and 922 District Directorates (DD). The public laboratories of MinAF are involved in the official control system. These laboratories include: 39 Provincial Food Control Laboratories, a National Food Reference Laboratory, the Bursa Food and Feed Control Central Research Institute Laboratory, nine Veterinary Control Institute Laboratories, four Plant Quarantine Directorate (Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Mersin) Laboratories, and seven Plant Protection Research Institute Laboratories, as well as 96 private food and feed control laboratories which are authorized by GDFC. Auditing of directorates, districts, and laboratories is performed by GDFC officials.

## **Section II: Labeling Requirements**

GDFC of MinAF is the competent authority for identifying and enforcing the rules related to general and nutritional labeling of foods via the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers as published in the Official Gazette dated January 26, 2017, and amended on April 6, 2024 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish), and the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition Claims published in the Official Gazette dated April 20, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish), in parallel with relevant EU regulations within the framework of EU harmonization. On November 26, 2024, GDFC published the revised Guideline on Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers on its [website](#) in Turkish. Business operators must comply with the rules set in the amendment and the guideline by December 31, 2026.

The Medicine and Medical Devices Agency (MMDA) of MoH is the competent authority for approval of health claims to be used on the labels, presentation, and advertising of foods and food supplements. MMDA published the Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements in the Official Gazette on April 20, 2023, and amended it on August 23, 2023 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish), and the Guideline on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements for the implementation of this Regulation on its website on May 25, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish).

## **A - Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers**

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers establishes the general principles for requirements and responsibilities governing food information and food labeling. It applies to food business operators at all stages of the food chain, including mass catering, and all foods intended for the final consumer. According to the regulation, food information should not be misleading to the consumer:

- as to the characteristics of the food, its nature, identity, properties, composition, quantity, durability, country of origin, method of manufacture or production,
- by attributing to the food effects or properties which it does not possess,
- by stating that the food possesses special characteristics when in fact all similar foods possess such characteristics, by specifically emphasizing the presence or absence of certain ingredients and/or nutrients,
- by using a real food image for the flavor on the label of food which was produced by using flavoring instead of real food ingredients in its production
- without emphasizing or stating that the food is flavored where the representative image is located where the food was produced by using completely flavoring instead of food ingredients,
- by using expressions in the name and label of a food like "...taste", "...pleasure" together with the name of another food that does not have the same characteristics and may be confused with each other,
- by implying by means of appearance, the description or pictorial representations, the presence of a particular food or an ingredient, while a component naturally present or an ingredient normally used in that food has been substituted with a different component or a different ingredient.

Food information should be accurate, clear, and easy to understand for the consumer. Subject to derogations provided for by regulation(s) of foods for nutritional uses, food labeling information should not claim that the product can prevent, treat, or cure a human disease, nor refer to such properties. All the rules mentioned are applied to advertising and the presentation of foods, their shape, appearance or packaging, the packaging materials used, the way in which they are arranged and the setting in which they are displayed.

The importer is responsible for the imported food product's information and label. The importer must upload the original label and permanent "sticker" label in Turkish of the product intended to be imported to GDFC's Food Safety Information System at the Product Notification stage (for more details about import procedures, please see Section IX: Import Procedures of this report). A food item to be imported may arrive in the custom area with its original package, but a permanent "sticker" label in Turkish must be attached to the package before the official import controls are started. Each food must be labeled clearly, completely, and accurately before placing it on the market. Other languages, in addition to Turkish, may also appear on the label; foreign language (original) labels are not required to contain the mandatory information required by Turkish labeling regulations. However, information given through pictures, drawings, nutritional claims, health claims, etc. on the original label of the product must also obey the rules set by Turkish regulations on nutrition and health claims. Labeling requirements are enforced by PAFD and DD (provincial and district agricultural directorates) officials. Turkish authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations.

The standard U.S. label may not comply with Turkish labeling requirements in the aspects of nutritional labeling, health claims, label size, etc.

### **Compulsory Information**

The following compulsory information must appear on the packaging or on a label attached to the product for domestically produced and imported foods. The information must be marked in such a way that it is easily visible, clearly legible, and indelible.

- (1) the name of the food
- (2) the list of ingredients
- (3) certain substances and products (listed in Annex-1 of the Regulation) causing allergies or intolerances
- (4) the quantity of certain ingredients or groups of ingredients
- (5) the net quantity of the food
- (6) the "use by" or "best before" date
- (7) any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use
- (8) the name or business name and address of the food business operator
- (9) facility registration number
- (10) country of origin
- (11) instructions for use where it would be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions
- (12) for beverages containing more than 1.2 percent alcohol by volume, the actual alcoholic strength by volume
- (13) a nutrition declaration

The amended regulation defines *principal field of vision* as “the field of vision of a package which is most likely to be seen at first glance by the consumer at the time of purchase and that enables the consumer to immediately identify a product in terms of its character or nature and, if applicable, its brand name.” If a package has several identical principal fields of vision, the principal field of vision is the one chosen by the food business operator. The name, net amount, and the alcoholic strength by volume (if above 1.2 percent) must be in the principal field of vision.

### **Additional Compulsory Information**

In addition to the compulsory information listed above, other information for specific types or categories of foods is given below.

(14) The statement “*packaged in a protective atmosphere*” for foods whose shelf-life has been extended by means of packaging gases is authorized pursuant to the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives,

(15) For foods containing sweeteners:

- the statement “*with sweetener(s)*” or “*contains sweetener(s)*” for foods containing a sweetener is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives. This statement will be highlighted in any place where the name of the food is mentioned, along with the name of the food, by means of a text that clearly distinguishes it from other information (ex; through font size, style or background color) (business operators will comply with this requirement by December 31, 2026).
- the statement “*contains sugar(s) and sweetener(s)*” or “*with sugar(s) and sweetener(s)*” for foods containing both an added sugar and/or a sweetener is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives. This statement should be highlighted in any place where the name of the food is mentioned, along with the name of the food, by means of text that clearly distinguishes it from other information (ex; through font size, style, or background color) (*business operators must comply with this requirement by December 31, 2026*).
- the statement “*contains aspartame (a source of phenylalanine)*” for foods containing aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives. The statement shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients only by reference to the E number. The statement “*contains a source of phenylalanine*” shall appear on the label in cases where aspartame/aspartame-acesulfame salt is designated in the list of ingredients by its specific name.
- the statement “*excessive consumption may produce laxative effects*” for foods containing more than 10 percent added polyols authorized pursuant to Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives.

(16) For foods containing glycyrrhizic acid or its ammonium salt:

- Confectionery or beverages containing glycyrrhizin acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, at concentration of 100 mg/kg or 10 mg/l or above, the statement “***contains licorice***” shall be added immediately



after the list of ingredients, unless the term ‘licorice’ is already included in the list of ingredients or in the name of the food. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.

- Confectionary containing glycyrrhizic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 4 g/kg or above, the statement “*contains licorice – people suffering from hypertension should avoid excessive consumption*” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.
- Beverages containing glycyrrhizic acid or its ammonium salt due to the addition of the substance(s) as such or the licorice plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra* at concentrations of 50 mg/l or above, or of 300 mg/l or above in the case of beverages containing more than 1.2 percent by volume of alcohol, the statement “*contains licorice – people suffering from hypertension should avoid excessive consumption*” shall be added immediately after the list of ingredients. In the absence of a list of ingredients, the statement shall accompany the name of the food.

(17) For beverages with high caffeine content:

- The statement “*High caffeine content. Not recommended for children or pregnant or breast-feeding women*” applies to beverages, except for those based on coffee, tea or coffee or tea extract where the name of the food includes the term ‘coffee’ or ‘tea’, which:
  - are intended for consumption without modification and contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l, or,
  - are in concentrated or dried form and after reconstitution contain caffeine, from whatever source, in a proportion in excess of 150 mg/l,

The statement shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the beverage, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg per 100 ml.

There is a vertical regulation on energy drinks that entered into force in 2017 (available [here](#) in Turkish). There should be a warning on the label of energy drinks stating “*Do not use this product with alcohol or by mixing with alcohol. Consumption of this product is not advised for children, people below 18 years old, elderly people, diabetics, people who have hypertension, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people who have metabolic disorder, kidney problem and those who are susceptible to caffeine. It is not a sport beverage; it should not be consumed before, during and after physical activity. It is advised not to consume more than 500 ml/day.*”

For foods other than beverages where caffeine is added with a physiological purpose, the statement “*Contains caffeine. Not recommended for children or pregnant women*” shall be in the same field of vision as the name of the food, followed by a reference in brackets and the caffeine content expressed in mg/100 g or mg/100 ml. In the case of food supplements, the caffeine content shall be expressed per portion as recommended for daily consumption on the label.

(18) For foods or food ingredients with added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters, the following should be included:

- the statement “*with added plant sterols*” or “*with added plant stanols*” in the same field of vision as the name of the food,
- the amount of added phytosterols, phytosterol esters, phytostanols or phytostanol esters content (expressed in percent or as gram of free plant sterols/plant stanols/100 g or 100 ml of the food) shall be stated in the list of ingredients,
- a statement that the food is intended exclusively for people who want to lower their blood cholesterol level,
- a statement that patients on cholesterol lowering medication should only consume the product under medical supervision,
- an easily visible statement that the food may not be nutritionally appropriate for pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under the age of 5 years,
- advice that the food is to be used as part of a balanced and varied diet, including regular consumption of fruit and vegetables to help maintain carotenoid levels,
- a statement that the consumption of more than 3 g/day of added plant sterols/plant stanols should be avoided,
- a definition of a portion of the food or food ingredient concerned (preferably in g or ml) with the amount of the plant sterol/plant stanol that each portion contains.

(19) The statement “*contains alcohol*” if ethyl alcohol is used as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of food notwithstanding the amount of alcohol. This statement will be highlighted in any place where the name of the food is mentioned, along with the name of the food, by means of a text that clearly distinguishes it from other information (ex; through font size, style or background color) (*business operators will comply with this requirement by December 31, 2026*).

(20) The statement “*contains ... obtained from pigs*” if the product contains any product/ingredient obtained from pigs, notwithstanding the amount of that product/ingredient. This statement shall appear next to the name of the food in the main view area (*business operators will comply with this requirement by December 31, 2026*).

(21) For frozen meat, frozen meat preparations, and frozen unprocessed fishery products, the date of freezing or the date of first freezing in cases where the product has been frozen more than once shall be on the label.

### **Shelf-Life Labeling Requirements**

Article 27 of the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labelling and Provision of Information to Consumers sets the rules for labelling “use by” date, minimum durability date, and date of freezing.

In the case of foods which, from a microbiological point of view, are highly perishable and are therefore likely after a short period to constitute an immediate danger to human health, the words “*use by*” are put on the label to indicate the shelf-life of the product. After the “use by” date, a food shall be deemed to be unsafe in accordance with [Law no. 5996](#). For other products, the words “best before” are used to indicate the minimum durability (shelf-life) of the product if they are stored under appropriate conditions.

#### **“Use by” date**

The “use by” date shall be indicated as follows:

- (a) it shall be preceded by the words “use by”
- (b) the words in point (a) shall be accompanied by:
  - either the date itself, or,
  - a reference to where the date is given on the labelling,

Those words shall be followed by a description of the storage conditions.

(c) the date shall consist of the day, the month, and, if needed the year, in that order and in uncoded form,

(d) the “use by” date shall be indicated on each individual prepacked portion.

#### **Minimum durability (shelf-life) date**

The date of minimum durability shall be indicated as follows:

- (a) the date shall be preceded by the words:
  - “Best before” when the date includes an indication of the day,
  - “Best before end” in other cases.
- (b) the words referred to in point (a) shall be accompanied by:
  - either the date itself, or,
  - a reference to where the date is given on the labelling.

If need be, these words shall be followed by a description of the storage conditions, which must be observed if the product is to keep for the specified period.

(c) the date shall consist of the day, the month and possibly, the year, in that order and in uncoded form.

However, in the case of food:

- which will not be kept for more than 3 months, an indication of the day and the month shall be sufficient,
- which will be kept for more than 3 months but not more than 18 months, an indication of the month and year shall be sufficient,
- which will be kept for more than 18 months, an indication of the year shall be sufficient.

(d) subject to Turkish Food Codex provisions imposing other types of date indication, an indication of the date of minimum durability (best before...) shall not be required for:

- fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, which have not been peeled, cut or similarly treated (excluding sprouting seeds and similar products such as legume sprouts),
- wines, liqueur wines, sparkling wines, aromatized wines, and similar products obtained from fruit other than grapes, and beverages falling within CN code 2206 00 obtained from grapes or grape musts,
- beverages containing 10 percent or more by volume of alcohol,
- bakers' or pastry cooks' wares which, given the nature of their content, are normally consumed within 24 hours of their manufacture,
- vinegar,
- cooking salt (excluding iodine salt),
- solid sugar,
- confectionery products consisting almost solely of flavored and/or colored sugars,
- chewing gums and similar chewing products.

### **Freezing Date**

The date of freezing or the date of first freezing shall be indicated as follows:

(a) it shall be preceded by the words "Frozen on ..."

(b) the words referred to in point (a) shall be accompanied by:

- the date itself, or,
- a reference to where the date is given on the labelling,

(c) the date shall consist of the day, the month and the year, in that order and in uncoded form.

In addition to compulsory labeling, certain foodstuffs such as infant and follow-on formulas, wines, aromatized wines, spirit drinks, food supplements, energy drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, sugar, honey, coffee, meat and meat products, fruit juice, and dairy products, each have additional specific labeling requirements in their vertical communiques, all of which are available on GDFC's [website](#) in Turkish.

### **B - Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition Claims**

Nutrition claims may be used in the labeling, presentation, and advertising of foods placed on the market for the end consumer. The use of nutrition claims should not:

- (a) be false, ambiguous, or misleading,
- (b) give rise to doubt about the safety and/or the nutritional adequacy of other foods,
- (c) encourage or condone excess consumption of a food,
- (d) state, suggest, or imply that a balanced and varied diet cannot provide appropriate quantities of nutrients in general,
- (e) refer to changes in bodily functions which could give rise to or exploit fear in the consumer, either textually or through pictorial, graphic or symbolic representations.

Nutrition labeling is mandatory when there is a nutrition claim made either on the label or in some sort of presentation or advertisement of foods. Nutrition claims of any food or food group are made without prejudice to their vertical or horizontal legislation, where it exists.

Nutrition labeling includes energy value, fats (saturated fat, trans fat, mono-unsaturated fat, poly-unsaturated fat), carbohydrates (sugars, polyols, starch), proteins (where required), fiber, salt/sodium, and vitamins and minerals for 100 g or 100 ml. Reference Daily Intake Values for energy and nutrients are given below. For vitamins and minerals to be displayed on a label, the amount of vitamins/minerals that should be met is 15 percent of the reference daily intake values in 100 g or 100 ml foodstuff, for milk and dairy products and products other than beverages. For beverages, this amount should be 7.5 percent in 100 ml of products in question.

#### Reference Daily Intake Values for energy and nutrients other than vitamins and minerals

Energy – Nutrient*	Reference Intake Value*
Energy	8400kj / 2000 kcal
Sugars	90 g
Total Fat	70 g
Saturated fat	20 g
Salt	6g
Carbohydrates	260 g
Protein	50 g
Fiber	25 g

\*These values are set for adults

#### Reference Daily Intake Values for vitamins and minerals

Nutrient*	Nutrition Reference Intake Value*	Nutrient*	Nutrition Reference Intake Value*
Vitamin A (µg)	800	Chloride (mg)	800
Vitamin D (µg)	5	Calcium (mg)	800
Vitamin E (mg)	12	Phosphorus (mg)	700
Vitamin K (µg)	75	Magnesium (mg)	375
Vitamin C (mg)	80	Iron (mg)	14
Thiamin (mg)	1.1	Zinc (mg)	10
Riboflavin (mg)	1.4	Copper (mg)	1

Niacin (mg)	16	Manganese (mg)	2
Vitamin B6 (mg)	1.4	Fluoride (mg)	3.5
Folic Acid (µg)	200	Selenium (µg)	55
Vitamin B12 (µg)	2.5	Chromium (µg)	40
Biotin (µg)	50	Molybdenum (µg)	50
Pantothenic Acid	6	Iodine (µg)	150
Potassium (mg)	2000	-	-

\*These values are set for healthy people over four years old.

**Nutrition claims and their conditions *allowed* in the Regulation are as follows:**

Energy/Nutrient	Nutrition claim	Condition for the claim
Energy/Calorie/nutrients	Reduced/ Less <sup>(1)</sup>	<p>There must be at least a 30 percent reduction in the amount of energy/nutrients compared to a similar product. <sup>(2)(3)</sup></p> <p>When the claim regarding the energy value is made, it is also stated which feature of the food results in the decrease in the total energy value.</p>
Energy/Calorie	Low	<p>Energy value in 100 g of solid food must not be more than 40 kcal (170kJ) or,</p> <p>Energy value in 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 20 kcal (80kJ).</p>
		For table sweeteners; the energy value in 1 serving must not be more than 4 kcal (17 kJ) and the sweetness must be equivalent to 6 g of sucrose (about 1 teaspoon of sucrose)
	Energy free/Calorie free	The energy value in 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 4 kcal (17kJ)
		For table sweeteners; the energy value in 1 serving must not be more than 0.4 kcal (1.7 kJ) and the sweetness must be

		equivalent to 6 g of sucrose (about 1 teaspoon of sucrose).
Fat	Low	<p>The amount of fat in 100 g solid food must not be more than 3 g <sup>(4)</sup> or,</p> <p>The amount of fat in 100 ml liquid food must not be more than 1.5 g. <sup>(4)</sup></p>
	Fat free	<p>The amount of fat in 100 g solid food or 100 ml liquid food must not be more than 0.5 g. <sup>(4)</sup></p> <p>In “fat free” foods, the claim “.... percent fat free” indicating the reduction in the amount of fat, cannot be made.</p>
Saturated fat	Low	<p>The total of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids in 100 g of solid food must not be more than 1.5 g or,</p> <p>The total of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids in 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 0.75 g and,</p> <p>The energy provided by the sum of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids must not exceed 10 percent of the total energy.</p>
	Saturated fat free	The total of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids in 100 g of solid or 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 0.1 g.
Omega 3 fatty acids	Source/contain/...added	<p>The amount of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA) in 100 g and 100 kcal of food must be at least 0.3 g or</p> <p>The total amount of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in 100 g and 100 kcal of food must be at least 40 mg.</p>

	High <sup>(5)</sup>	<p>The amount of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA) in 100 g and 100 kcal of food must be at least 0.6 g or</p> <p>The total amount of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in 100 g and 100 kcal of food must be at least 80 mg.</p>
Monounsaturated fat	High <sup>(5)</sup>	At least 45 percent of the fatty acids in the food must consist of monounsaturated fats and these monounsaturated fats must provide more than 20 percent of the energy of the food.
Polyunsaturated fat	High <sup>(5)</sup>	At least 45 percent of the fatty acids in the food must consist of polyunsaturated fats and these polyunsaturated fats must provide more than 20 percent of the energy of the food.
Unsaturated fat	High <sup>(5)</sup>	At least 70 percent of the fatty acids in the food must consist of unsaturated fats and these unsaturated fats must provide more than 20 percent of the energy of the food.
Trans fat	Does not contain trans fat	The amount of trans fatty acids in fats or foods containing fats as an ingredient must be less than 1 g per 10 g of total fat.
Sugar	Low	<p>The amount of sugar in 100 g of solid food must not be more than 5 g or,</p> <p>The amount of sugar in 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 2.5 g</p>
	Sugar free	The amount of sugar in 100 g of solid or 100 ml of liquid food must not be more than 0.5 g.



	Does not contain added sugar/with no added sugar	The food must not contain any mono- or disaccharides or any other food added for sweetening purposes. If the food naturally contains sugar, the phrase “NATURALLY CONTAINS SUGAR” is indicated on the label.
Sodium/ Salt	Reduced/Less	A reduction of at least 25 percent in the amount of sodium or equivalent salt must be achieved compared to a similar product.
	Low	In 100 g of solid or 100 ml of liquid food, there must not be more than 0.12 g of sodium or more than 0.31 g of salt.
	Very Low	In 100 g of solid or 100 ml of liquid food, there must not be more than 0.04 g of sodium or more than 0.1 g of salt.
	Sodium free/salt free	In 100 g of solid or 100 ml of liquid food, there must not be more than 0.005 g of sodium or more than 0.013 g of salt.
Fiber	Increased/More	The values given for the “source” claim must be met and the food must contain at least 30 percent more fiber than a similar product.
	Source/Contain/...added	The amount of fiber in 100 g of food must be at least 3 g or,  The amount of fiber in 100 kcal must be at least 1.5 g.
	High <sup>(5)</sup>	The amount of fiber in 100 g of food must be at least 6 g or,  The amount of fiber in 100 kcal must be at least 3 g.
Protein	Increased/More	The values given for the “source” claim must be met and the food must contain at least 30 percent more protein than a similar product.

	Source/Contain/...added	At least 12 percent of the energy value of the food must be provided by protein.
	High <sup>(5)</sup>	At least 20 percent of the energy value of the food must be provided by protein.
Vitamins and/or Minerals	Reduced	For micronutrients given in the Annex-5 of the Guideline, there must be at least 10 units decrease in the percentage of the micronutrient contained in the product, meeting the nutritional reference value compared to a similar product.
	Source/Contain/...added	The amount of vitamins and/or minerals in the product must be equal to a certain amount as defined in Annex-5 of the Guideline.
	High <sup>(5)</sup>	Twice the amount as specified in the above “source” claim.

<sup>(1)</sup> For foods that comply with the conditions specified for this declaration; provided that the statement “...reduced” or “less...” is included on the label, referring to the energy or relevant nutrient, another similar statement may also be included.

<sup>(2)</sup> The fat part of this declaration requirement does not apply to foods classified according to their fat content.

<sup>(3)</sup> This claim condition does not apply to sodium/salt and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) given in Annex-5 of the Guideline.

<sup>(4)</sup> These claim conditions do not apply to foods classified according to their fat content.

<sup>(5)</sup> The word “plenty” can be used instead of the word “high”.

Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Nutrition Claims is accessible [here](#) in Turkish.

## **C - Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements**

MMDA of MoH is the competent authority for approval of health claims to be used on the labels, presentation, and advertising of foods and food supplements. MMDA published the Regulation on Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements in the Official Gazette dated April 20, 2023 and amended on August 23, 2023 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish), and the Guideline on

Health Claims for Foods and Food Supplements for the implementation of this Regulation on its website on May 25, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish). For detailed information about the *allowed* health claims and their conditions, please see the [GAIN report on Health Claims Policy for Foods and Food Supplements in Türkiye](#) dated June 5, 2024.

### **Labeling for Baby Foods**

Baby foods, except those used for medical purposes, are regulated by GDFC under two vertical communiques, which are the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Infant and Follow-on Formulas (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish) and the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children (available [here](#) in Turkish). According to the communiques, the term “baby” means children under the age of 12 months and “young children” means children aged between one and three years.

In addition to the compulsory information set by Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers, both communiques set additional compulsory labeling requirements for products which fall in the scope of these Communiques.

#### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Infant Formula***

Infant formula must have the additional requirements below on the label:

- a statement that the product is suitable for infants from birth when they are not breast-fed,
- instructions for appropriate preparation, storage, and disposal of the product, and a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation and storage,
- a statement concerning the superiority of breast feeding and a statement recommending that the product be used only on the advice of people having qualifications in medicine, nutrition, or pharmacy, or other professionals responsible for maternal and childcare.

A nutrition claim is not allowed on the label of infant formula.

#### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Follow-on Formula***

Follow-on formula must have the additional requirements below on the label:

- a statement that the product is suitable only for infants over the age of six months, that it should form only part of a diversified diet, that it is not to be used as a substitute for breast milk during the first six months of life, and that the decision to begin complementary feeding, including any exception to six months of age, should be made only on the advice of persons having qualifications in medicine, nutrition, or pharmacy, or other professionals responsible for maternal and child care, based on the individual infant's specific growth and development needs,
- instructions for appropriate preparation, storage, and disposal of the product and a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation and storage.

A nutrition claim is allowed on the label of follow-on formula in line with the rules set by Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers.

The labeling, presentation, and advertising of infant formula and follow-on formula must provide the necessary information about the appropriate use of the products, so as not to discourage breast feeding.

The labelling, presentation, and advertising of infant formula and follow-on formula must not use the terms ‘humanized,’ ‘materialized,’ ‘adapted,’ or terms similar to them, and must be designed in such a way that it avoids any risk of confusion between infant formula and follow-on formula and enables consumers to make a clear distinction between them, in particular as to the text, images, and colors used.

The statement “*lactose only*” may be used for infant formula and follow-on formula, provided that lactose is the only carbohydrate present in the product. The statement “*lactose free*” or “*does not contain lactose*” may be used for infant formula and follow-on formula provided that the lactose content in the product is not greater than 10 mg/100 kcal (2.5 mg/100 kJ).

When the statement “*lactose free*” is used for infant formula and follow-on formula manufactured from protein sources other than soy protein isolates, it should be accompanied by the statement “*not suitable for infants with galactosaemia*”, which should be indicated with the same font size and prominence as the statement “*lactose free*” or “*does not contain lactose*” and in close proximity to it.

#### ***Additional Compulsory Labelling for Supplementary Foods***

Supplementary baby foods are defined as baby foods which are processed, cereal-based, and baby foods other than processed cereal-based foods in the Turkish Food Codex Communique on Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children which is accessible [here](#) in Turkish.

In addition to the compulsory information set by Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Information to Consumers, the Communique on Supplementary Foods for Babies and Young Children sets specific additional compulsory labelling requirements for the products which fall in the scope of the Communique. Supplementary food for babies and young children must have the additional requirements below on the label:

- the stated age must not be less than four months for any product,
- the statement “This product should be used based on the advice of a healthcare professional,”
- information as to the presence or absence of gluten if the indicated age from which the product may be used is below six months.

#### **Labeling for Food and Feed Containing, Consisting, or Deriving from Genetically Engineered (GE) Products**

In addition to general labeling rules, specific labeling rules for food and feed containing/consisting of, or deriving from GE products, are set in Articles 18 and 19 of the “Regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms and its Products,” published in Official Gazette on August 13, 2010, and amended in 2012 and 2014. Currently, there are no GE events approved for food use in Türkiye. As of June 2025, there are 21 corn events and 15 soybean events approved for animal feed use only. Imported animal feed must be labeled “contains Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)” if it contains approved GE event content over 0.9 percent within a given shipment. The regulation is available [here](#) in Turkish.

### **Labeling for Organic Agricultural Products**

If a product is produced in Türkiye and marketed domestically in line with the requirements of the Turkish organic legislation, then the label should have the Turkish organic logo and the word “organic.” Imported organic products are controlled/inspected according to Turkish organic legislation and re-certified as organic if it complies.

Both domestically produced and imported non-organic agricultural products should not have packages, boxes, or labels designed as if the product is organic. For example, labels of non-organic products should not have the words, “bio”, “biyo”, “eco”, “eko”, “org” which implies and misleads the consumer that the product is organic. Ninety-five percent of the ingredients of processed products should be produced in compliance with the organic laws in force for the product to be labeled as organic.

Chapter Five of the Regulation on Organic Agriculture Principles and Practices (available [here](#) in Turkish) sets detailed requirements about packaging and labeling of organic agricultural products to be marketed in Türkiye.

### **Labeling for Plant-based Meat/Dairy Alternatives**

Plant based meat and dairy alternatives are not regulated under a specific regulation or communiqué. These products are subject to the general rules of the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers and its Guideline. Ingredients for such products must clearly be given on the labels in descending order. The name, appearance, pictorial representation, and advertising of the product must not mislead consumers by implying the food in question is a substitute for meat/dairy or like meat/dairy.

According to the revised Guideline on Labeling and Provision of Information to Consumers, the terms as “Suitable for vegans/vegetarians”, “Plant-based”, “Does not contain animal-sourced ingredient” etc. or “vegan burger”, “vegetarian sausage”, “plant-based nugget” etc. can be used on the labels.

Descriptions like “chicken/meat/fish-flavored” or “butter-tasting” are prohibited, whereas names like “vegan cracker with cheese flavor or cracker with cheese flavor” are allowed.

Food names/brands belonging to milk and dairy products or meat and meat products cannot be used on the labels of food intended for vegan consumers. For example, for beverages manufactured by using soy, oat, almond, hazelnut etc., the word “milk” is prohibited except for coconut milk. In such a case, the word “beverage” should be used instead of the word “milk”. On the labels of these products, the description as “does not contain milk and milk products” is prohibited while the description as “does not contain lactose” is allowed.

If foods intended for vegetarian/vegan consumers have similarities in shape, usage area etc. to meat and dairy products which are foods of animal origin, expressions such as “Suitable for vegetarians/vegans” should be displayed in the main field of view, together with the name, brand and trade name of the food, in a font size of at least equal to the name of the food, in a contrasting color with the background and in a way it is easily distinguishable by the consumer.

Expressions/visuals related to animal sourced foods and expressions/visuals that may imply these expressions cannot be used on the labels of foods intended for vegan consumers.

The label of plant-based product to be placed on the market keeping language(s) other than Turkish must also comply with the rules given in the Guideline.

### **Labeling of Irradiated Foods**

Irradiation of foods is regulated under the Regulation on Food Irradiation, which was published in the Official Gazette on October 3, 2019 (available [here](#) in the Turkish). Food groups and irradiation doses which apply are given in Annex-2 of the regulation. According to Annex-2, seven food groups are allowed to be irradiated in Türkiye, as follows:

- bulbs, roots, tubers, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables,
- cereals, milled cereals, stone fruits, oil seeds, pulses, dried fruits,
- raw fish, crustaceans and their products (fresh and frozen), frozen frog leg,
- poultry, red meat and their products (raw or frozen)
- dried vegetables, spices, dried aromatic herbs, seasonings and herbal tea
- animal-sourced dried foods

Chapter Four of the regulation sets the rules for the labeling of irradiated foodstuffs as follows:

- a) if the product is sold in packaged form, either 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must be present on the label, in addition to the green international food irradiation symbol
- b) if the product is sold in bulk, either 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must be present on the label or the product's commercial documents, in addition to the green international food irradiation symbol
- c) if the product contains an irradiated ingredient, either 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' must accompany the ingredient in question on the label
- d) if the product contains composite ingredients which have an irradiated ingredient, either 'irradiated' or the phrase 'treated with ionizing radiation' must accompany the ingredients of the composite ingredient in question, on the label.

### **Labeling of Halal Foods**

There is no specific legislation for labelling of halal foods and agricultural products in Türkiye. Currently, halal labeling is voluntary.

Considering the sensitivities related to religion of consumers, the statement “Does not contain pork fat/pork meat etc.” can be used on the label. In the case of the product containing pork or pork-sourced ingredient(s), it is mandatory to label that the product contains pork/pork-sourced ingredient(s).

### **Advertising**

Article 24/A of the Regulation on Commercial Advertisement and Unfair Commercial Practices published by the Ministry of Trade, (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish) prohibits radio

and television programs aimed at children from running advertisements at the beginning, during, or at the end of shows of any foods or beverages that fall under MoH's "red category," which includes chocolate, candy, wafers, energy bars, sweet sauces, desserts, cakes, cookies, pies, chips, fruit juices, crispy snacks, energy drinks, non-alcoholic beverages with added sugar or sweeteners, and popsicles.

Additionally, advertisements on radio and television programs not aimed at children will need to contain written or verbal warnings, encouraging a proper and balanced diet as a clearly visible banner. In other mediums of advertising, the written or verbal warnings should be included in a manner that is suitable to that medium. Additionally, the aforementioned article prohibits promotions and similar marketing tools aimed at children with the goal of increasing the sale of those foods.

### **Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations**

The Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food, which was published by MinAF in the Official Gazette on April 5, 2018, and was later amended on February 8, 2019 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish), applies to materials and articles, including active and smart packaging materials/food contact materials and articles, which in their finished state:

- are intended to be brought into contact with food,
- are already in contact with food,
- can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use and were intended for that purpose.

This regulation does not apply to materials and articles which are covering or coating materials, such as the materials covering cheese rinds, prepared meat products, or fruits which form part of the food and may be consumed together with this food, and fixed public or private water supply equipment. This regulation sets the general and specific requirements for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and specific requirements for active and intelligent food contact materials and articles and labeling of these.

Under this framework regulation, there are specific communiques for materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film, ceramic articles, and plastic materials and articles which set the specific rules for these materials and articles. These regulations are available [here](#) in Turkish.

Except for alcohol, there is no special packaging or container size required or preferred under MinAF's regulations. According to the Amendment to the Regulation on Procedures and Principles Concerning Domestic and Foreign Trading of Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverages published in the Official Gazette on February 2, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish), alcoholic beverages with packaging volume of less than 5 cl and more than 300 cl (excluding beer) are not allowed to be imported, produced, or placed in the market as of April 2, 2023. Additionally, alcoholic beverages other than beer must be placed on the market only in glass packaging as of April 2, 2023. Turkish alcoholic beverage importers have refrained

from importing certain products because of the new packaging requirements. However, Post notes that the overall impact of these requirements on trade has been minimal.

### **Packaging Sustainability Measures**

There is a Regulation on Waste Disposal Management which was announced by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change (MinEUCC) in the Official Gazette on April 2, 2015, and updated on March 23, 2017 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish). This regulation sets the rules and responsibilities of different parties regarding the management of waste disposal.

MinEUCC published the Regulation on Packaging Waste Control on June 26, 2021 (available [here](#) in Turkish). The Regulation lays out provisions for the development and protection of the environment in a sustainable manner, relating to:

- responsibilities and liabilities of businesses for the production and marketing of packages with certain standards, conditions and qualifications,
- prevention of the formation of packaging waste, and reduction of the amount of unavoidable packaging waste to be disposed of by re-use, recycling and recovery methods,
- management of packaging waste within a significant management system, including deposit management and zero-waste management systems,
- implementation of a deposit management system.

The Regulation on Packaging Waste Control applies to all packages and their waste placed on the market. It aims to ensure the collection of packaging waste within the scope of the zero-waste management system, in line with the provisions of the Zero Waste Regulation which was published in 2019 and updated in 2021 (available [here](#) in Turkish). According to Article 13 of the Regulation on Packaging Waste Control, producers should ensure that the heavy metal (lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium) content of the packaging material does not exceed 100 ppm. Moreover, section six of the regulation requires responsible parties to target 55 percent recycling of materials between the years 2021-2025, 65 percent between years 2026-2030 and 70 percent from the year 2031.

Although Türkiye has made notable progress to align its waste disposal regulations with EU, full and effective implementation is still an ongoing challenge due to:

- insufficient institutional capacity and multiple intuitional competencies across the country
- weak technical infrastructure and insufficient financial resources,
- lack of reliable, standardized data which makes it difficult to track progress, evaluate performance or plan effective steps for future improvements,
- insufficient investment in waste management in facilities,
- relatively low public awareness about proper waste disposal practices and importance of recycling.



## Section IV: Food Additives Regulations

The food additives section of Turkish legislation is quite detailed and was prepared in an effort to conform to EU regulations. However, there are differences, especially related to the use of additives in traditional products.

GDRC abolished its previous food additives regulation and published the revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives in the Official Gazette on October 13, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish).

The Regulation does not apply to the following substances unless they are used as food additives:

- processing aids,
- substances used for the protection of plants and plant products in accordance with the rules related to plant health,
- substances added to foods as nutrients,
- substances used for the treatment of water for human consumption falling within the scope of the Regulation on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption (available [here](#) in Turkish),
- flavorings falling within the scope of the Regulation on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties for use in and on foods (available [here](#) in Turkish).

The Regulation does not apply to food enzymes falling within the scope of the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Enzymes (available [here](#) in Turkish).

According to the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Food Additives, the following are not considered food additives:

- monosaccharides, disaccharides or oligosaccharides and foods containing these substances used for their sweetening properties,
- foods, whether dried or in concentrated form, including flavorings incorporated during the manufacturing of compound foods, because of their aromatic, sapid or nutritive properties together with a secondary coloring effect,
- substances used in covering or coating materials, which do not form part of foods and are not intended to be consumed together with those foods,
- products containing pectin and derived from dried apple pomace or peel of citrus fruits or quinces, or from a mixture of them, by the action of dilute acid followed by partial neutralization with sodium or potassium salts (liquid pectin),
- chewing gum bases,

- white or yellow dextrin, roasted or dextrinated starch, starch modified by acid or alkali treatment, bleached starch, physically modified starch and starch treated by amylolytic enzymes,
- ammonium chloride,
- blood plasma, edible gelatin, protein hydrolysates and their salts, milk protein and gluten,
- amino acids and their salts other than glutamic acid, glycine, cysteine and cystine and their salts having no technological function,
- caseinates and casein,
- inulin.

The regulation prohibits the use of additives sourced from pigs in food, food additives, food enzymes, and food flavorings.

The regulation specifies general conditions for inclusion and use of food additives in the list given in the annexes of the regulation. It sets the food additive functional groups, names of food additives, defines food categories, and lists maximum amounts and conditions of additives allowed in defined food categories, as well as exceptions and restrictions. The regulation also lists food items in which food additives are not allowed to be used and lists certain food additives which are not allowed to be used for certain traditional foods, such as fermented sucuk (traditional spicy beef sausage), heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner, döner, köfte, pastırma, pekmez, pide, bazlama, baklava and ciğ köfte. For example, E-620-625 (Glutamic acid-glutamates) and E-626-635 (Ribonucleotides), which are flavor enhancers, are prohibited in cured meat products such as pastırma, sucuk, heat-treated sucuk, poultry döner, and köfte. According to MinAF, the reason for this prohibition is to protect the traditional nature of these products and prevent unnecessary use of additives. In addition, nitrites (E 249-250) are banned in the following traditional meat products: döner, poultry döner, and köfte.

For an additive to be added to or excluded from the [list](#) (in Turkish), the applicant should contact GDFC. The National Food Codex Commission, which has members from MinAF, MoH, academia, and food industry operating under GDFC, has the authority to decide about the inclusion of an additive in the list within the scope of the rules set in the regulation. The National Food Codex Commission conducts meetings two or three times a year.

## **Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

Pesticides are required to be approved by GDFC before being placed on the market. Approvals are valid for 10 years if approval conditions are maintained.

GDFC published the revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides on September 27, 2021 and amended it on January 7, 2025 (consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish), in an effort to conform to the EU's relevant regulation.

The regulation covers foodstuffs of plant and animal origin to be used as fresh, processed, and/or composite food in or on which pesticide residues may be present. The regulation has five annexes:

Annex-1-A: Generic list of animal and plant origin products for which pesticide MRLs are applicable.

Annex-1-B: Detailed list of animal and plant origin products defined in Annex-1-A for which pesticide MRLs are applicable.

Annex-2: List of pesticide MRLs for domestic products. This list only contains MRLs for plant protection products that are licensed and approved for use in Türkiye. The list of pesticides for which MRLs are not required for domestic products is also given in this Annex.

Annex-3: List of pesticide MRLs for imported products; these limits closely align with EU MRLs. Import MRLs are updated every few years when the pesticide MRL regulation is revised. (Note: MinAF does not currently have a formal procedure for parties interested in requesting import tolerance.)

Annex-4: List of pesticides prohibited for use in Türkiye.

Annex-5: List of pesticides for which MRLs are not required for imported products.

International MRL information funded by USDA can be accessed via the [Regulatory Limits Pesticide MRL Database](#), which is free for all U.S.-based entities from 2025 to 2029. The database currently does not include Türkiye's MRL information. Türkiye's list of pesticides and their MRLs are accessible [here](#) in Turkish.

For detailed information about pesticides, including plant protection products, please see the [GAIN report Türkiye Updates its Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits](#) dated February 7, 2025.

The current Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Pharmacologically Active Substances and Their Classification Regarding Maximum Residue Limits in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin was published in the Official Gazette on March 7, 2017, and has been amended five times (the consolidated version is available [here](#) in Turkish). Pharmacologically active substances, animal types, target tissues, and other conditions, such as name of residue and maximum residue limits, are set in the regulation. Lists of pharmacologically active substances and their maximum residue limits (MRLs) are given [here](#) in Turkish.

GDRC abolished its previous contaminants regulation and published the revised Turkish Food Codex Regulation on Contaminants in the Official Gazette no. 32360, dated November 5, 2023 (available [here](#) in Turkish). It sets the maximum levels of certain contaminants like nitrates, melamine, mycotoxins, heavy metals, processing contaminants like Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD), dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, plant toxins like tropane alkaloids, and erucic acid in foods. List of contaminants and their maximum limits are given [here](#) in Turkish.

All three of these regulations were prepared by GDRC within the scope of Türkiye's harmonization to the EU; however, there are some differences compared to the EU legislation in these regulations. The Turkish Food Law maintains provisions for regulators to refer to the Codex Alimentarius or EU Directives if the pesticides, contaminants, or pharmacologically active substances are not contained in the Turkish Food Codex system. Enforcement of these regulations is carried out by MinAF Provincial

Agricultural Directorates. If the shipment is found non-compliant with the relevant regulations mentioned above during the official import controls, it is rejected. It may be sent back to the exporting country or a third country based on the request of the importer/exporter or destroyed in the customs area in the absence of previous options. For more details about the import procedures, please see the Section IX on Import Procedures and Section X on Trade Facilitation of this report.

## **Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures**

### **Facility Registration Requirements**

Türkiye is gradually implementing approval/registration requirements for facilities in exporting countries.

***For animal-sourced food products for human consumption***, if the model export certificate requires a facility approval number, then the facility must have an approval number from the related agencies of that country.

Starting January 1, 2026, MinAF plans to ban the import of certain animal-sourced products unless:

- they come from EU-approved establishments (and are included in the official EU List), or
- they come from the establishments which are included in the “Country/Establishment List” prepared by MinAF.

Priority categories for this implementation are dairy products, fishery products, gelatin and collagen.

***For animal byproducts***, such as hides and skins, offal, dog chews, and blood or fish meal not intended for human consumption, if the facility is already on the EU-approved list, there is no need to conduct approval procedures, and the facility is directly accepted as approved by MinAF. If the facility is *not* in the EU-approved list, then approval by MinAF is required. Currently, MinAF has its own facility approval process for hides and skins. MinAF prepares the approval process and questionnaires in Turkish and English, which can be received by the importer. Once the facility is approved, there is no expiration date for registration/approval of that facility unless approval conditions are changed. There is no cost or fee for the exporting facility/country for the approval process. For approved establishments in foreign countries for the export of animal byproducts to Türkiye, please click [here](#).

If there is no EU approval number, facilities producing animal byproducts in the United States should contact the relevant U.S. competent authority for the approval procedures to be started. Then, the U.S. competent authority would need to inspect the facility according to Türkiye’s requirements and guarantee that the facility is in compliance. MinAF may prefer to inspect the facility itself to determine the compliance of the facility. In this case, as a first step, MinAF sends a questionnaire to the relevant U.S. competent authority for the exporting facility; communication between the two governments is crucial in this process. After receiving the completed questionnaire, MinAF visits the exporting facility to audit it and meet with relevant U.S. agencies.

***For bovine semen***, the facility must be on the EU-approved establishment list. Please click [here](#) to see the EU-approved establishment list by country.

**For meat**, there are approval procedures in place for slaughterhouses in exporting countries which are authorized for meat export to Türkiye. MinAF is the only competent authority responsible for authorizing exporting countries/establishments. For the list of approved slaughterhouses in exporting countries please click [here](#).

**For live cattle**, the assembly center, if any, must fulfil the conditions for its approval determined by the competent authority in the United States.

**For plant origin food products**, upon the importer's request, MinAF may register/approve the facility of the exporting country for the purpose of decreasing the frequency of the physical inspections at import (i.e., taking samples of the product at Türkiye's border). The first step of the approval procedure is that MinAF will send the questionnaire to the importer. The importer then delivers the questionnaire to the exporter and the exporter provides all the necessary information related to the competent authority of the exporting country, legislation, facility information, and product information which is requested in the questionnaire. MinAF then reviews the filled-out questionnaire and visits the facility to inspect it and meet with the relevant agency which is responsible for the official controls of that facility. After the visit, MinAF prepares an evaluation report, and if the results of the visit comply with Turkish requirements, the facility is approved within about two months. Once the facility is approved, the products exported from this facility are subject to a decreased rate of testing during import controls. Testing frequencies may be decreased to the level of five to ten percent after the approval. Approval is valid for three years if all conditions remain the same. The cost of the approval application is 85.420 TL (\$2.20 where \$1=38.83 Turkish Lira (TL) on May 21, 2025).

### **Product Registration Requirements**

There is no product registration or approval procedure in place for other animal or plant origin products, except food supplements.

**Food supplements** are regulated by Turkish Food Codex Communique on Food Supplements published in the Official Gazette dated August 16, 2013, and updated in 2015 and 2017 (available [here](#) in Turkish). Food supplements require product approval to be imported into Türkiye. The food business operator (importer, producer, seller, etc.) should fill out an application for each product and submit it to MinAF with the required information below:

1. Trade name or brand of product,
2. Name and address of the company,
3. Ingredient list in percentages,
4. List of active ingredients, serving form, and size of the product
5. Recommended daily dose,
6. If applicable, HACCP and/or GMP documentation,
7. If product contains herbs as an ingredient, botanical and Latin names,

8. Fee payment document,
9. Letter of commitment that the brand of product is not a brand of medicine,
10. If the product contains herbs, documents related to production methodology (like organic, GMP, etc.),
11. Other documents as requested by MinAF.

Food supplement applications are made to the provincial directorates of MinAF. Evaluations and approvals of products for consumers (other than products for children ages 2-4) are made by provincial directorates of MinAF. Products for children aged 2-4 are evaluated and approved by the committee established under the GDFC at the central government level. Depending on the product in question, approval may take several months. Once it is approved, it can be sold throughout the country. Applicants must pay an approval fee for each product approval, and the fee amount is updated each year. The approval fee is 98.223 TL/product (\$2.53/product, where \$1=38.83 TL on May 21, 2025) for the year 2025. There is no expiration date for approval unless approval conditions change.

### **Control Certificate**

For the importation of animals and animal products for which HS codes are given in Appendix-III-A, propagation materials such as seeds, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs for which HS codes are given in Appendix-III-B, and forest breeding materials such as saplings, seeds for trees, and grafts for which HS codes are given in Appendix III-C, a Control Certificate is required prior to import. This is considered pre-import permission, and it states whether the product is eligible for import or not.

### ***Control Certificates for animals and animal products***

For animals and animal products for which HS Codes are given in the Appendix III-A and are subject to veterinary controls, a Control Certificate is required. The Control Certificate needs to be approved by the GDFC or authorized PAFDs of MinAF according to the type of product. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for four months. However, for the HS codes 0504.00, 15.04, 1516.10, 15.17, 1518.00, 18.06, 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, 19.05, 2103.90.90, 21.04, 2105.00, 21.06, 2202.99, 2208.70, the Control Certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months. These time periods cannot be extended.

MinAF does not allow the import of live animals and animal products and will not issue a Control Certificate for products coming from countries or regions in which certain animal diseases exist. A current list of those countries, regions, diseases, and products are listed at this [website](#) (in Turkish).

The importer should fill out an application and provide the following required documents through MinAF's electronic registration system to receive the Control Certificate:

1. Completed Control Certificate Form,
2. Proforma invoice or invoice
3. Sample veterinary health certificate where MinAF has not identified the format of sample veterinary health certificate for the commodity in question, yet,

4. Country of origin document (not required if the veterinary health certificate includes the origin of the products),
5. Ingredient list,
6. Specification document for food supplements, food for special dietary purposes and for products where national legislation does not exist, ,
7. Label/draft label for products to be placed on the market for the ultimate consumer,
8. CITES documents if products to be imported are under scope of CITES,
9. ICCAT document (BCD/eBCD) for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Pacific Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*),
10. Commercial Activity Certificate or Trade Registry Gazette where importer is registered,
11. Other documents, as MinAF requests, according to the nature of the commodity to be imported.

After the Control Certificate is approved, the permission is registered in Türkiye's Food Safety Information System for animal products.

For animals and animal products for which HS codes are given in Appendix IV, and are subject to veterinary controls, a Control Certificate is not required.

A Control Certificate is not required for live animals intended for:

- Racing or exhibitions for a certain period of time,
- Presents to be introduced to civil or military statesmen,
- Exhibitions at private or public zoos,
- Donations and scientific research for universities and other research institutes.

#### ***Control Certificates for plant products***

For propagation materials such as seeds, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs for which HS codes are given in Appendix III-B, a Control Certificate is required according to the type of product prior to import. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for six months. This period cannot be extended.

For forest breeding materials such as saplings, seeds for trees, or grafts for which HS codes are given in Appendix III-C, a Control Certificate is required to be approved by MinAF's General Directorate of Forest prior to import. Once issued, the Control Certificate is valid for four months. This time period cannot be extended.

The Biosafety Law does not allow for the production/cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Türkiye. Therefore, the importation of GE seed, seedlings, saplings, and certain plant materials for production, such as flower bulbs, is not allowed.

For seeds, seedlings, saplings, and production materials, an individual preliminary permit application is required for each Control Certificate. For the preliminary permit of seeds of field plant, vegetables, feed plants, grass plants, medicinal and aromatic plants, the following documents are required:

- a. Petition for Application,
- b. Filled out Control Certificate,
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro forma invoice:
  - 1. Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months),
  - 2. Type and variety of seed to be imported,
  - 3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported,
  - 4. Name, authorized signature, and seal of importer,
  - 5. Contact details of exporter.
- d. Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GE,
  - 1. A document given by the exporter certifying that seed is not GE. In cases where the document is a copy, it must be vouched for by the importer. Exporters can also declare non-GE statement on pro-forma invoice,
  - 2. Unless a non-GE document is provided by the exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is non-GE shall be required.
- e. Seed Certificate
  - 1. There is no certificate requirement for imports designated for trials, breeding, providing material for the gene bank,
  - 2. For the imports of propagating materials:
    - a. An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants,
    - b. For other plant groups, OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required.
  - 3. For commercial purpose imports (trade purpose)
    - a. An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re-certified in Türkiye, an ISTA-Orange certificate is not required,
    - b. For grass seed, an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required. If laboratory analysis results of the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required. For mixed grass seeds, these certificates or reports will be required for each seed in the mixture,
    - c. For tobacco seed, an OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from national or federal seed laboratory is required,
    - d. For flint corn seeds, sweet corn seeds, and vegetable seeds, an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate is required. If laboratory analysis results are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required,
    - e. For medicinal and aromatic herbs, OECD certificate or ISTA certificate or seed analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required.



4. For imports for re-export:
  - a. An OECD certificate is required for seeds of field crops and feed plants. If analysis results of laboratory tests for the seed are not indicated on the OECD certificate, then an ISTA-Orange certificate is required. For seeds which will be re-packaged and re-certified in Türkiye, an ISTA-Orange certificate is not required,
  - b. For other plant groups, an OECD certificate or ISTA-Orange certificate or analysis report taken from a national or federal seed laboratory is required.
- f. Preliminary import permit bank receipt demonstrating that the application fee has been paid,
- g. Other documents where MinAF requires.

For a preliminary permit of seedlings, saplings, and propagation materials the following documents are required:

- a. Petition for Application,
- b. Filled out Control Certificate,
- c. Original copy of invoice/pro-forma invoice or its copy certified by importer. Items required to be included in invoice/pro-forma invoice:
  1. Invoice/Pro-forma invoice date and number (date cannot be older than six months),
  2. Type and variety of seed to be imported,
  3. Quantity, lot/batch number and monetary value of seed to be imported,
  4. Name, authorized signature, and seal of importer,
  5. Contact details of exporter.
- d. Letter of Commitment given by importer stating that seed is non-GE
  - A document given by the exporter certifying that the seed is not GE. In case the document is a copy, it must be approved by the importer. The exporter can also make a non-GE statement on a pro-forma invoice,
  - Unless a non-GE document is provided by the exporter, an analysis report certifying that it is non-GE shall be provided by the importer.
- e. Preliminary import permit bank receipt showing that the application fee has been paid,
- f. Other documents which are required by MinAF.

According to import control regulations, food and feed of plant origin and materials and articles intended to come into contact with food do not require Control Certificate approval to be imported. Instead, there is a pre-notification system in place for these commodities. The importer should register the required information for each product in the electronic system called the Food Safety Information System (FSIS), which is accessible by importers. The required information includes the product name, product category, country of origin, name of importer, name of exporter or manufacturer, ingredient list, and label of the product. This information is evaluated and approved by the authorized Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorate (PAFD) to determine whether it complies with the legislation in force. There is no pre-shipment testing requirement that must be met or inspections that must be conducted prior to shipment. PAFD's inspectors conduct official controls and inspections according to internal sampling and testing procedures at Turkish customs during the import stage. Once the product is imported, business operators (importer, wholesaler, retailer etc.) at each step of the marketing chain must set a traceability system for the product in question and provide necessary documents when requested by MinAF.

For detailed information about export certificates other than Control Certificate that GOT requires for agricultural products to be imported into Türkiye, please see the GAIN report on Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate 2025 for Türkiye which is accessible [here](#).

### **Import Process Complexities and Exceptions**

While many foreign foods are imported into Türkiye without any problem, some companies have encountered difficulty understanding and complying with demands from import officials for certificates that are not normally issued in the United States. Requirements and standards for some imported foods and/or agricultural products may be stricter or different than those currently applied in the EU.

Requirements for sending samples are slightly different for products intended for human consumption. For the import of samples, there is no pre-permission or Control Certificate requirement. Technically, there are no documentation requirements if the sample is for an exhibition or scientific research.

For commercial samples, the importer needs to fill out a special form supplied by PAFD and provide a copy of the pro-forma invoice (if it is free of charge, just state the use on the invoice). Once the PAFD receives the form, they prepare a letter to the relevant customs office to notify them to release the sample. There is no health certificate requirement. For the commercial sample amounts, please see Section IX of this report.

### **Section VII: Other Specific Standards**

MinAF follows a dual approach in the preparation of food regulations. There is "horizontal" legislation which covers aspects which are common to all foods such as additives, contaminants, labeling, hygiene, official controls, etc. "Vertical" legislation applies to specific products such as food supplements, wine, spirits, meat and meat products, infant and follow-on formulas, honey, bee products, fruit juices, energy drinks, sugar, spices, etc.

Some of the important horizontal and vertical regulations are below, and they are accessible [here](#) in Turkish:

<b>Name of the Regulation</b>	<b>Important articles</b>
<b>Official import controls of food and feed products of plant origin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Based on Turkish Government <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed</li><li>-Importers should get an electronic username and password for pre-notification</li><li>-Importers should electronically fill attached-pre-notification form (form is attached to the regulation) for plant origin food; feed and food contact material and attached copies of certificate, ingredient list, and other documents which will be determined by MinAF.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Border inspection post or provincial directorates provide a date of inspection</li> <li>-Frequency of analysis is determined by risk analysis</li> <li>-If there is non-compliance, importers can either use special treatment, declare change in intent of use, send it back, or confiscate the product</li> <li>-If there is a protocol between two countries, an electronic certificate will be accepted</li> <li>-Turkish translation labeling should be done before actual import control is carried out</li> </ul>
<b>Measurements to monitor certain substances and their residue on live animals and animal products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 96/23/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 97/747/EC</li> <li>-If inspectors detect residues for imported animals or animal products, they will increase the frequency of analysis from the same country of origin</li> </ul>
<b>Food Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 852/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Defines general hygiene criteria for premises including HACCP criteria and good management practices</li> </ul>
<b>Plant Quarantine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on Turkish Government <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed</li> <li>- Includes the determination of harmful organisms hindering import and the issues that plants, plant products and other substances shall be subject to in terms of plant health in the entry and exit procedures for Türkiye and official controls</li> <li>- Products brought into free zones from abroad, those imported into Türkiye from free zones, and those dispatched to outside the customs area of Türkiye from free zones are subject to the provisions of this regulation</li> <li>-Determines the rules for official control, entry-exit gates, import controls, transit controls, list of plants, plant products and other substances banned for entry, list of harmful organisms that are banned from entering Türkiye, special conditions that plants, plant</li> </ul>

	products, and other substances are subjected to, and Phytosanitary Certificates
<b>Official controls of food and feed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on Turkish Government <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-MinAF may delegate some of their control and inspection authority to accredited private food control offices or some NGOs. Import and export controls are excluded.</li> <li>-Authorizes MinAF to publish the list of approved establishments, approval-suspended premises, and approval-cancelled establishments, to increase transparency.</li> <li>-Defined traceability, responsibility, and general requirements for imports and exports</li> <li>-Establishes rapid alert system</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-notification and veterinary checks of animal and animal products entering the country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 282/2004/EC</li> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 136/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Pre-notification of imports of animals and animal products</li> <li>-Veterinarian responsibilities to check and sign forms</li> </ul>
<b>Specific rules for animal products official inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 854/2004/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Approval of premises</li> <li>-General hygiene rules</li> <li>-Raw meat inspections</li> <li>-Role and duties of official veterinarian and their assistant</li> <li>-Live animal inspections and animal welfare</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks and pre-notification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 97/78/EC</li> <li>- Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services,</li> </ul>

<b>on animals and products entering the country</b>	Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -Pre-notification and veterinary checks at the border inspection post -Issuance of veterinary entry document electronically or by using other communication tools. -Frequency of veterinary controls
<b>Veterinary checks on live animals entering the country</b>	-EU harmonization regulation 97/794/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC - Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -One day before arrival, importers should inform the amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection -Veterinary controls should consist of documentary checks, as well as physical checks -First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts - Turkish Government Official Veterinarians visit the exporting country and verify that animals to be exported to Türkiye comply with the technical specifications determined by MinAF before export
<b>Veterinary checks on products entering the country</b>	-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC - Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -One day before arrival, importers should inform the amount, variety and expected date of arrival to veterinary border inspection -Veterinary controls should consists of documentary checks and physical checks -First veterinary checks should be done at the border inspection posts
<b>Animal and animal products entering the country are to be subjected to veterinary controls</b>	-EU harmonization regulation 97/78/EC -EU harmonization regulation, 91/496//EC -EU harmonization regulation, 2007/275//EC -Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A list which is attached to the regulation classifies which products are considered animals and animal products under control</li> </ul>
<b>Veterinary checks for products destined for introduction into free zones, free warehouses, customs warehouses or operators supplying cross-border means of sea transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 2000/571/EC</li> <li>-Specific rules for Art. 14 and 15 of the Regulation Veterinary checks on products entering the country</li> <li>-For products that do not meet national requirements for entry into warehouses in free zones or customs area warehouses, they will be subjected to additional controls to ensure the correct handling of the products during their transport and storage.</li> </ul>
<b>Transshipment of products at the border inspection posts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 2011/215/EC</li> <li>-Specific rules for Art. 11 of the Regulation Veterinary checks on products entering the country</li> <li>-The regulation determines the responsibilities of the person responsible for the load and the estimated time of unloading of the consignment.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical and Hygiene Rules on Meat Import</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Based on the Regulation of Veterinary checks on products entering the country</li> <li>-Technical Criteria of Imported Meat</li> </ul>
<b>Animal welfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Defines required criteria of animal farms including barns, cages for chickens etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal welfare during animal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> </ul>

<b>transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Requirements of animal transportation vehicles including ships and trucks</li> <li>-Responsibilities, training, inspections, and reports</li> </ul>
<b>Animal by-products that are not intended for human consumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation 1069/2009/EC</li> <li>-Categorization of byproducts</li> <li>-Collection and transportation criteria</li> </ul>
<b>Semen, ovum and embryo production center establishments regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Registration, approval, and certification of production centers</li> </ul>
<b>Special hygiene regulation for animal products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 853/2004//EC</li> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Defines requirements for animal slaughtering and animal products processing facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Feed hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 183/2005//EC</li> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Registration and approval of feed premises</li> </ul>
<b>Placing on the market and use of feed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC</li> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> <li>-Principles of labeling and presentation</li> </ul>
<b>Methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EU harmonization regulation, 767/2009//EC</li> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> </ul>
<b>Turkish food codex on maximum residue limits of pesticides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed</li> </ul>

<b>Turkish food codex on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1337/2008//EC -EU harmonization regulation, 2065/2003//EC -Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on food additives</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1333/2008//EC -Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed
<b>Turkish food codex on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulations, 1925/2006/EC and 307/2012/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on food enzymes</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulations, 83/417/EC, EU/1493/1999, 2000/13/EC, 2001/112/EC, EU/1332/2008
<b>Turkish food codex on microbiological criteria for foods</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, 2073/2005//EC
<b>Turkish food codex on food labeling and provision of information to consumers</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, EU 1169/2011
<b>Turkish food codex on nutrition claims</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, EU 1924/2006
<b>Health claims for foods and food supplements</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation, EU 1924/2006
<b>Turkish food codex</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services,



<b>on contaminants</b>	Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation,1881/2006/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food</b>	-Based on Turkish <a href="#">Law no. 5996</a> on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food, and Feed -EU harmonization regulation,1935/2004/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on composition and labeling of foods suitable for people intolerant to gluten</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 41/2009/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on sampling and testing methods for dioxin and similar products</b>	-EU harmonization regulation, 1881/2006/EC
<b>Turkish food codex on energy drinks</b>	-Went into effect on 6/30/2017 -Sets limits for caffeine, glucuronolactone, taurine, inositol and energy amount of product -Requires a warning on the label stating: “Do not use this product with alcohol or by mixing with alcohol. Consumption of this product is not advised for children, people below 18 years old, elderly people, diabetics, people who have hypertension, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people who have metabolic disorder, kidney problems and those who are susceptible to caffeine. It is not a sport beverage, it shouldn’t be consumed before, during and after physical activity. It is advised not to consume more than 500 ml/day”
<b>Turkish food codex on dietary foods for special purposes</b>	-Went into effect on 4/22/2002 -Identifies the scope, product properties and labelling requirements of dietary foods for special purposes -Defines baby foods, energy restricted foods for loss of weight, dietary foods for medical purposes, sport foods and foods for diabetics as dietary foods for special purposes
<b>Turkish food codex</b>	-Went into effect on 12/6/2003

<b>on sport foods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sets the criteria of sport foods like sport drinks, bars, high protein containing products, high carbohydrate containing products etc.</li> <li>-Sets additional nutrition reference values for sport foods</li> <li>-Sets special labelling rules for sports foods</li> </ul>
<b>Regulation on food irradiation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Based on the Decree Law 560 and Turkish Law 2690 of Turkish Atomic Energy Agency</li> <li>-Principles of food irradiation, re-irradiation</li> <li>-Requirements for license, permit, registration</li> <li>-Labeling of irradiated foods</li> </ul>

Some food products are regulated by MinAF via vertical legislation, through individual communiqués to meet special requirements. The production, processing, storage, transportation, placing on the market, product criteria, and specific labeling requirements are set in these communiqués, available [here](#) in Turkish.

Some vertical communiqués under Turkish Codex Regulation are:

- Communiqué on Aromatized Wines
- Communiqué on Wine
- Communiqué on Beer
- Communiqué on Spirit Drinks (hard alcohol)
- Communiqué on Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Communiqué on Fruit Juices and Similar products
- Communiqué on Coffee and Coffee Extracts
- Communiqué on Chocolate and Chocolate Products
- Communiqué on Food Supplements
- Communiqué on Fermented Milk
- Communiqué on Infant Formulas
- Communiqué on Follow-on Formulas
- Communiqué on Cereal-based Supplementary Baby Foods for Infants and Young Children
- Communiqué on Foods for Athletes (energy bars, isotonic/protein/carbohydrate drinks, etc.)
- Communiqué on Black Tea
- Communiqué on Frozen Food
- Communiqué on Gluten-Free Foods
- Communiqué on Ice cream
- Communiqué on Jams, Marmalades, and Jelly
- Communiqué on Lentils
- Communiqué on Pasta
- Communiqué on Rice
- Communiqué on Salt

Communiqué on Sugar  
Communiqué on Vegetable Oils  
Communiqué on Olives  
Communiqué on Egg and Egg Products  
Communiqué on Meat and Meat Products  
Communiqué on Cheese  
Communiqué on Wheat Flour  
Communiqué on Honey  
Communiqué on Spices

A complete list of Communiqués is accessible at the MinAF's [website](#) in Turkish.

There is no specific legislation for production, import, or marketing of food and agricultural products to be halal in Türkiye. Currently, certification of halal products is voluntary in Türkiye. The GOT established the Halal Accreditation Authority (HAA) under [Law No. 7060](#) published in the Official Gazette on November 18, 2017 (available [here](#) in Turkish). HAA provides halal accreditation services to conformity assessment institutions. According to Article 10 of [Law No. 7408](#) (available [here](#) in Turkish), which was published in June 2022 and amended [Law No. 7060](#), halal conformity assessment institutions must now be accredited by the HAA. Even with this change, certification of halal products remains voluntary. For further information on Halal Accreditation Authority and its activities please see the [GAIN report Türkiye Established a Halal Accreditation Authority](#), dated December 20, 2017.

Besides MinAF's technical and hygienic requirements, for all meat products to be imported into Türkiye, slaughtering should be carried out under halal conditions, under the supervision of veterinarians assigned by MinAF. For additional information on the practical implications of halal in exporting meat products to Türkiye, please contact FAS/Ankara.

## **Section VIII: Geographical Indications, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

The [Law on Industrial Property No. 6769](#) was entered into force by its publication in the Official Gazette No. 29944 on January 10, 2017 (available [here](#) in Turkish). This law consolidated and updated several existing decrees about intellectual property rights into a single, enforceable piece of legislation regulating trademarks, patents, designs, utility models, geographical indications (GIs), and traditional product names in line with EU standards and Türkiye's local requirements. It encompasses applications, registrations, and post-registration processes, protection and renewals regarding trademarks, geographical signs, design, patent, utility model and traditional product names, and legal and criminal sanctions concerning the violation of these rights. The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (Turk Patent), which is the competent authority, published the implementing regulation of the Law in the Official Gazette on April 27, 2017 (available [here](#) in Turkish). The regulation sets detailed requirements for registration, post-registration, protection and renewals of trademarks, patents, designs, utility models, geographical indications, and traditional products which fall into the scope of the law. Post is unaware of specific instances where Türkiye's current regulations related to GIs, trademarks, brand names, patents, designs, utility models have damaged U.S. companies' rights.

Many organizations are applying for GI protection of products in Türkiye. MinAF has jurisdiction over the implementation of GIs related to agricultural products. Currently, there are 1,727 protected products and 693 pending (three of them are foreign-origin products which are basmati rice, Bordeaux wine and tequila) in a wide range of sectors, including agricultural products. There are 13 protected GIs of foreign-origin agricultural products, which are: Champagne, Cognac, Douro Port, Pisco, Prosciutto di Parma/Parma ham, Scotch Whisky, Zivania, Parmigiano Reggiano/Parmesan cheese, Grana Padano cheese, Hellim/Halloumi cheese, Gorgonzola cheese, Red Korean ginseng, and White Korean ginseng. There are no pending foreign-origin agricultural products for GI protection. The database for protected and pending GIs is accessible [here](#) in Turkish. Once GI applications are published in Turk Patent's bulletin there is a 3-month period to register objections. For detailed information please see [GAIN Report on Geographical Indications in Türkiye](#), dated December 27, 2017.

## **Section IX: Import Procedures**

MinAF is the competent authority responsible for import policies, legislation, and official controls and inspections of food and agricultural products related to food and agricultural product safety.

Imports of food products into Türkiye are allowed only if they comply with the regulations related to import controls and the Turkish Food Codex. Türkiye is harmonizing its food import regulations and the Turkish Food Codex Regulation with those of the EU. If the product in question is not covered by the Turkish Food Codex, officials can refer to international regulations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius, or relevant EU Directives. If Türkiye is not harmonized to international or EU standards, importation will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

Customs gates for the entrance of food and agricultural products which will be subjected to import controls and inspections by MinAF are designated by the Ministry of Trade.

There are 48 customs gates designated for import control of animals and animal products (available [here](#) in Turkish). MinAF has also established 23 Veterinary Border Inspection Posts (VBIP), which are only authorized to carry out import controls of animal and animal products (available [here](#) in Turkish).

There are 49 customs gates designated for import control of forestry products with HS Codes 44.01, 44.03, 44.04, 44.06, 44.07, 44.15 and 44.16, which require quarantine controls (except wooden packages covering commodities) (available [here](#) in Turkish).

There are 44 customs gates designated for import control of propagation materials (seed, seedlings, saplings, flower bulbs) which require quarantine controls (available [here](#) in Turkish).

There are 67 customs gates designated for import control of products other than propagation materials which require quarantine controls (available [here](#) in Turkish).

There are 44 customs gates designated for import control of plant-origin food and feed stuffs in the aspect of food and feed safety and materials which are intended for contact with food stuffs in the aspect of product safety (available [here](#) in Turkish).

For animal and animal products which will be subjected to veterinary control, the importer should inform the VBIP, or designated customs gate in the absence of VBIP, about the arrival of the shipment

at least one working day in advance for live animals and before arrival for animal products by submitting the Veterinary Entrance Document (VED). The VED should be submitted electronically in advance for notice of import and transit procedures. When the commodity arrives at port/VBIP or the designated customs gate, import procedures are started.

For plant and plant products which will be subjected to plant health controls (quarantine controls), the importer should inform the Agricultural Quarantine Directorate (AQD) of MinAF via the electronic [Plant Quarantine Registration and Tracking System](#):

- 4 hours before the arrival of the commodity, if it is transported by air
- 12 hours before the arrival of the commodity, if it is transported by road
- 24 hours before the arrival of the commodity, if it is transported by sea

For food and feed of plant origin and articles intended to come into contact with food, the importer should notify the PAFD about the shipment details by filling the “Shipment Notification Form” through the Food Safety Information System (FSIS) and upload the Free Sale or Health Certificate and other required documents like ingredient list, label, invoice, etc. related to the product between 3 and 20 days before the arrival of the commodity. PAFD evaluates these documents to decide if the commodity in question is eligible for import or not, in line with relevant legislation. PAFD may require any of these documents be translated into Turkish at any time of the import process.

MinAF implements an exemption for the import controls of food which are free of charge and not for commercial use if intended for:

- scientific purposes, for exhibitions, or for sporting or cultural activities,
- consular or diplomatic representatives’ own use,
- a donation during a time of crisis,
- sample purposes only.

Amounts of food of plant origin and packaging materials for sample purposes to be exempted from import controls are as follows:

- Food additive up to 10 kilograms (kg) or 10 liters (L),
- Food flavor up to 1 kg or 1 L,
- Bulk commodity (raw, processed, semi processed) up to 50 kg or 50 L,
- Prepackaged products for direct consumption up to 50 kg or 50 L,
- Packaging materials up to 50 units,

- Alcoholic beverages up to 14 bottles if volume of each bottle is 0.7 L; 10 bottles if the volume of each bottle is 1 L; 6 bottles if the volume of each bottle is 1.5 L,
- Foods for special dietary purposes and food supplements up to 5 units or 5 bottles (if the unit amount of the product weighs more than 2 kg or 2 L, then, the total amount should not weigh more than 25 kg or 25 L),
- Food supplements up to 10 units/boxes, 4 kg or 4 L (if the unit amount of the product weighs more than 2 kg or 2 L, then the total amount should not weigh more than 50 kg or 50 L),
- Raw materials to be used in the production of food supplements or foods for special dietary purposes should not weigh more than 1kg or 1 L.

For animal sourced food products which are not for commercial purpose and accompanied by passengers or ordered via mail or phone or internet, requirements and amounts (if allowed) were identified by MinAF via the Communiqué published in the Official Gazette on February 1, 2012 (available [here](#) in Turkish).

Food and agricultural products for commercial purposes are subjected to the official controls and inspections of MinAF, including shipments ordered via mail or cross-border e-commerce.

## **Section X: Trade Facilitation**

There are two competent authorities issuing advance rulings for agricultural products in Türkiye. These are the Ministry of Trade which has the authority for issuing advance rulings for Binding Tariff Information (BTI) and Binding Origin Information (BOI) and the Ministry of Treasury and Finance which has the authority for issuing Tax Rulings (TR). Depending on the type of advance ruling requested, business operator can make an application to the relevant competent authority with a petition and supporting documents for an agricultural product in question which fall into the categories such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dried agricultural products, processed agricultural products, oil seeds and vegetable oils, herbs and spices, feed etc. Validity of the advance ruling depends on the type of ruling issued. For example, the validity BTI and BOI is three years if the conditions remain the same. For TR there is no specified validity period as long as the regulation in force and ruling conditions remain the same. While BOIs and TRs are not publicly available, Ministry of Trade publishes BTIs on its [website](#) in Turkish.

The GOT has an internal single window system which was established by the Ministry of Trade. This internal window was first opened in 2014 and agricultural products started to be involved in the system in 2016. The single window system is gradually being rolled out across the relevant government agencies to improve communication and coordination. As of December 2024, 174 types of documents are processed by 22 government agencies in various sectors including the agriculture sector. This system is accessible by relevant government agencies and importers, but unavailable to foreign exporters.

***Import procedures of plants, plant products, food and feed of plant origin, and articles intended to come into contact with food:***

The importer notifies the PAFD about the shipment details by filling out the “Shipment Notification Form” through the “Food Safety Information System” and then uploads the required certificate(s) related to the product that will be imported between 3 to 20 days before the arrival of the commodity.

When the product arrives at port/VBIP or designated custom, import procedures are started. Depending on product type, the importer should present the approved Control Certificate (if required for that commodity) together with the original invoice, ingredient list, certificate of origin, plant health certificate or certificate of free sale or health certificate, as well as other import documentation, such as the bill of lading, etc. After the identity and documentary verifications, PAFD inspectors carry out physical checks, including taking samples of food, feed of plant origin, and articles intended to come into contact with food according to the analysis frequency requirement set by PAFD. If a sample is taken, it is sent to MinAF’s official laboratory, or a private laboratory authorized by GDPC for physical, chemical, and microbiological analysis depending on the nature of the product. The process normally takes up to one week, depending on the type of analysis needed.

If feed or food is a bulk or semi-processed commodity which requires quarantine control, it is additionally or only inspected by Agricultural Quarantine Directorate’s (AQD) plant quarantine inspectors for consistency with the legislation in place. There are currently 13 AQD throughout the country. AQD inspectors carry out quarantine checks including taking samples of the product according to the analysis frequency requirement which is set by AQD. If a sample is taken, it is sent to MinAF’s official laboratory designated by GDPC for quarantine control analysis. Plant quarantine checks are carried out according to the Regulation on Plant Quarantine which is accessible [here](#) in Turkish.

At the beginning of each year, MinAF publishes the names of analysis and their unit costs applicable in the official controls of food, feed and agricultural products on its [website](#) in Turkish.

Importation of the product is allowed if the results of the checks and analysis are found to be acceptable and consistent with regulations. PAFD or AQD sends a conformity letter to the customs officials through the single window system to release the product in question. If the inspection results do not comply with Turkish legislation requirements, the importer may request secondary sample tests which are sent to designated national reference laboratories within seven days. The reference labs’ results are final. In the case that the secondary test results show that the product does not comply with Turkish import requirements, the shipment is rejected by PAFD or AQD. Then, the shipment may be sent back to the exporting country or a third country by the request of the importer/exporter or subjected to special treatment or destruction (depending on the product in question and non-compliance) in the custom area in the absence of previous options.

Depending on the type of product, original documents must accompany the product at the time of import controls. MinAF does not accept electronic certificates, instead, it requires original copies of phytosanitary certificates/certificates of free sale/health certificates at the time of import controls. Please see detailed information about export certificates in the GAIN report on FAIRS Export Certificate for Türkiye for 2025 which is accessible [here](#).



***Import procedures of live animals and animal products:***

The importer should inform VBIP, or the designated custom gate in the absence of VBIP, about the arrival of live animals at least one working day before arrival by filling out and submitting the VED electronically. For animal-sourced products, the importer should inform the VBIP/designated custom gate in advance. A web-based registration system has been developed by MinAF for the approval procedures of the Control Certificate which are carried out by the authorized Provincial Directorates and related General Directorates of MinAF and for the import procedures and controls of animal and animal products, which are carried out by the Veterinary Border Inspection Post Directorates and the authorized Provincial Directorates. All import procedures are carried out by this web-based registration. Since the system must be used by the companies and persons who are importing animal and animal products to Türkiye, the relevant importer should apply to the Veterinary Border Inspection Post Directorates and the authorized Provincial Directorates to utilize this system without an additional registration fee. All transit procedures are carried out via the same system too. All transit applications must be made by using this system with a Passport Number or Turkish Identity Card Number without any password.

When the commodity arrives at the port, the importer must provide the Control Certificate, if the product requires it, and other documents (ex: Veterinary Health Certificate, the list of animals with ID numbers, test documents, invoices, etc.) to the VBIP or customs gate to obtain customs clearance. MinAF inspectors carry out the veterinary checks (documentary, identity, and physical checks, if needed). If the results comply with the relevant laws, then the products are released.

Additionally, for live animals, once documentary and identity checks are carried out at the border, the animals are sent to a quarantine area (which might be at the importer's farm), and tests are carried out by taking samples from the animals for diseases included on the veterinary health certificate. The frequency of samples is determined by GDFC according to a risk assessment or national monitoring plans. If the test results are compliant with the legislation, then the VBIP or PAFD sends a conformity letter to the customs officials to release the product in question. The process normally takes up to one week, depending on the type of analysis needed. Analyses are carried out by official control laboratories and private laboratories authorized by GDFC. At the beginning of each year, MinAF publishes the names of analysis and their unit costs applicable in the official controls of livestock and animal products on its [website](#) in Turkish.

Electronic Veterinary Health Certificates are not accepted by MinAF and the original copy of the Certificate must accompany the commodity at the time of import. Please see more detailed information about export certificates in the FAIRS Export Certificate 2025 for Türkiye report which is accessible [here](#).

Currently, MinAF does not require documents to be signed or stamped by consulates for agricultural products to be imported except the Manufacturer Certificate which is required for the importation of plant protection products. Manufacturer Certificate signed by the competent authority must be apostilled or approved by Turkish Embassy or Consulate. For detailed information on Manufacturer Certificate please see the GAIN Report on FAIRS Export Certificate 2025 for Türkiye [here](#) and the [GAIN Report on Manufacturer Certificate Required for Shipping Plant Protection Products to Turkey](#).

Exporters should be in close communication with importers in Türkiye since the officials may require a stamp/consular signature or additional document etc. at any step of the import process where needed.



Common delays during the import process are generally related to the verification/authentication of Health Certificates/Free Sale Certificates provided by the competent authorities in the United States. In such a case the USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara may need to provide a letter to MinAF confirming that the certificate in question is authentic, or the certifying authority is the competent authority for issuing it, after communicating with the certifying authority in the United States. Türkiye has a complex web of tariffs and taxes on imported agricultural products. At the end of each year, the Ministry of Trade, which oversees customs-related matters, announces the tariff schedule for the coming year. For more information about tariffs and taxes, please see the [GAIN report on Navigating Türkiye's Customs Duties on Ag Products](#), dated April 2, 2024.

## **APPENDIX I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts**

### General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC)

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF)

Address: Üniversiteler Mah. Dumlupınar Bulvarı, No: 161, 06800, Yeni Bina 4-5-6-7.kat Çankaya, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 287 33 60

Fax: + 90 (312) 258 76 93

E-mail: [tarimbilgi@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:tarimbilgi@tarim.gov.tr)

### General Directorate of Livestock (GDL)

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF)

Address: Üniversiteler Mah. Dumlupınar Bulvarı, No: 161, 06800, Çankaya, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 287 33 60

Fax: + 90 (312) 258 73 44

E-mail: [haygem@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:haygem@tarimorman.gov.tr)

## **The Main Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authorities:**

Istanbul Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Address: Bağdat Caddesi. No.307 Erenkoy, Kadıkoy, Istanbul, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (216) 468 21 00

Fax: + 90 (216) 355 37 15

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

Izmir Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Address: Kazim Dirik Mahallesi Sanayi Caddesi No: 34 Bornova, Izmir, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (232) 435 10 02

Fax: + 90 (232) 462 24 93

Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

E-mail: [izmir@tarimorman.gov](mailto:izmir@tarimorman.gov)

Mersin Provincial Agricultural Directorate

Address: Gazi Mahallesi 1303 Sokak No:13/A Yenisehir, Mersin, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (324) 326 40 06

Fax: + 90 (324) 326 40 12  
Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)  
E-mail: [mersin@tarimorman.gov](mailto:mersin@tarimorman.gov)

**There are 41 provincial food and feed control laboratories, the four largest being:**

National Food Reference Laboratory  
Address: Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvari No:70 Yenimahalle, Ankara, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (312) 327 41 81  
Fax: + 90 (312) 327 41 56  
E-mail: [ugrl@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:ugrl@tarimorman.gov.tr)  
Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@gthb.hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@gthb.hs01.kep.tr)

Ankara Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Ankara, Türkiye  
Address: Gayret Mahallesi, Sehit Cem Ersever Caddesi No:11/1 Yenimahalle, Ankara, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (312) 315 00 89  
Fax: + 90 (312) 315 79 34  
E-mail: [ankara.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:ankara.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr)  
Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

Istanbul Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Istanbul, Türkiye  
Address: Florya Caddesi, No:78 Senlikkoy, Florya, Istanbul, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (212) 663 39 61 or + 90 (212) 663 39 62  
Fax: + 90 (212) 663 42 96 or + 90 (212) 662 42 13  
E-mail: [istanbul.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr](mailto:istanbul.gidalab@tarimorman.gov.tr)  
Registered E-mail: [tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tarimveormanbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

Izmir Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate-Izmir, Türkiye  
Address: Kazimdirik Mahallesi, Sanayi Caddesi No:34/7, Bornova, Izmir, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (232) 462 61 18 or + 90 (232) 435 62 56  
Fax: + 90 (232) 462 41 97  
E-mail: [izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:izmir.gidalab@tarim.gov.tr)  
Registered E-mail: [izmir.gidalab@gthb.hs01.kep.tr](mailto:izmir.gidalab@gthb.hs01.kep.tr)

#### General Directorate of Import

Ministry of Trade  
Address: Söğütözü Mahallesi Nizami Gencevi Caddesi 63/1  
06530, Çankaya, Ankara, Türkiye  
Phone: +90 (312) 204 75 00  
Registered E-mail: [ticaretbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:ticaretbakanligi@hs01.kep.tr)

## **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Offices in Türkiye:**

### **The U.S. Embassy, Ankara**

1480 Sokak. No:1  
Cukurambar Mahallesi,  
06530 Cankaya  
Ankara - Türkiye  
Phone: +90 (312) 294 00 00  
E-mail: [agankara@usda.gov](mailto:agankara@usda.gov)

### **The U.S. Consulate General, Istanbul**

Kaplıcalar Mevki Sokak  
İstinye, 334460 Istanbul  
Istanbul - Türkiye  
Phone: +90 (212) 335 90 00  
E-mail: [agistanbul@usda.gov](mailto:agistanbul@usda.gov)

## **APPENDIX II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

### [Turkish Food and Drink Industry Association Federation](#)

Chairman: M. Demir Sarman (Mr.)  
General Secretary: Ayse Nihal Mortepe (Ms.)  
Address: Altunizade Mahallesi, Kısıklı Caddesi Tekin Ak İş Merkezi No:3 Kat:2 Daire:7 34662  
Bağlarbaşı-Üsküdar, Istanbul, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (216) 651 86 81  
Fax: + 90 (216) 651 86 83  
E-mail: [genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr](mailto:genelsekreterlik@tgdf.org.tr)  
Registered E-mail: [tgdf@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:tgdf@hs01.kep.tr) <mailto:tgdf@hs01.kep.tr>

### [All Food Importers Association \(TUGIDER\)](#)

Chairman: Mustafa Manav (Mr.)  
General Secretary: Emel Molla (Ms.)  
Address: Büyükdere Cad. Somer Apt.No:64 Kat:5 D:13 Mecidiyeköy. İstanbul, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (212) 347 25 60  
Fax: + 90 (212) 347 25 70  
E-mail: [tugider@tugider.org.tr](mailto:tugider@tugider.org.tr)

### [Association of Food Ingredients and Improvers Manufacturers \(GIDABIL\)](#)

Chairman: Dr. Mehmet Çetin DURUK (Mr.)  
General Secretary: Canan Elibollar (Ms.)  
Address: Kısıklı Caddesi Tekin Ak İş Merkezi K:2 No:3/7 Altunizade, Üsküdar, Istanbul, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 532 416 66 57 and :+ 90 216 651 86 81-82  
Fax: + 90 216 651 86 83  
E-mail: [gidabil@gidabil.org.tr](mailto:gidabil@gidabil.org.tr)

### [Turkish Feed Manufacturers Association](#)

Chairman: Murat Ulku Karakus (Mr.)  
General Secretary: Serkan Ozbudak (Mr.)  
Address: Oveçler Mahallesi Cetin Emec Bulvarı Lizbon Caddesi No:38/7  
Çankaya, Ankara, Türkiye  
Phone: + 90 (312) 472 83 20 (pbx)  
E-mail: [info@yem.org.tr](mailto:info@yem.org.tr)

Cattle Breeders' Association of Türkiye

Chairman: Kamil Ozcan (Mr.)

General Secretary: Ibrahim Karakoyunlu (Mr.)

Address: Eskişehir Yolu üzeri Mustafa Kemal Mah. 2120 Cd. No:5 Gözüm İş Merkezi D:1-2 06520

Çankaya, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 219 45 64

E-mail: [dsymb@dsymb.org.tr](mailto:dsymb@dsymb.org.tr)

Turkish Red Meat Producers Central Union

Chairman: Bulent Tunc (Mr.)

General Secretary: Adnan Gultek (Mr.)

Address: Umit Mahallesi 2527. Sokak No:7 Umitkoy, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 219 51 84

E-mail: [info@tuketbir.org.tr](mailto:info@tuketbir.org.tr)

Association of Poultry Industrialists and Breeders (BESD-BİR)

Chairman: Naci Kaplan (Mr.)

General Secretary: Ahmet Ergun (Mr.)

Address: Umit Mahallesi 2527. Sokak No:7 Umitkoy, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312)472 77 88

Address: Cetin Emec Bulv. 1314. Cad. 1309 Sok. 5/A, 06460 Oveciler, Ankara, Türkiye

E-mail: [besd-bir@besd-bir.org](mailto:besd-bir@besd-bir.org)

Grain Suppliers Association (HUBUDER)

Chairman: Gulfem Eren (Ms.)

General Secretary: Hikmet Ozkan (Mr.)

Address: Ebulula Mardin Caddesi, Yildirim Oguz Goker Sakak No:1 Carlton 17 Blok D:10 Akat,

Besiktas, Istanbul, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (212) 265 0571-72

Cell: + 90 (531) 105 62 40

E-mail: [hubuder@hubuder.org.tr](mailto:hubuder@hubuder.org.tr)

Turkish Seed Industry Association (TURKTED)

Chairman: Burak Gonen (Mr.)

General Secretary: Kenan Yalvac (Mr.)

Address: Guvenlik Caddesi, Guvenlik Apt. No:7/1, 06540, Asagi Ayranci, Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 419 00 32

E-mail: [turkted@turkted.org.tr](mailto:turkted@turkted.org.tr)

Feed Additives' Manufacturers, Importers and Distributors Association (TUYEKAD)

Chairman: Cengiz Ozkan (Mr.)

General Secretary: Gokalp Aydin (Mr.)

Address: Söğütözü Mahallesi Anadolu Blv. Anadolu Sitesi 2182 Sokak Blok No: 3D/A4 No:3 Çankaya,

Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312)820 3688

E-mail: [info@tukeyad.org.tr](mailto:info@tukeyad.org.tr)

Turkish Patent and Trademark Office

President: Muhammed Zeki Durak (Mr.)

Vice President: Mehmet Duyar (Mr.)

Address: Gazi Mahallesi Hipodrom Caddesi No:13 (06560) Yenimahalle-Ankara, Türkiye

Phone: + 90 (312) 303 10 00

Fax: + 90 (312) 303 11 73

E-mail: [contact@turkpatent.gov.tr](mailto:contact@turkpatent.gov.tr)

U.S. exporters are advised to contact the USDA/FAS office in Ankara or Istanbul for additional information and/or a list of private sector firms which can help with customs clearance and import regulation issues. In most cases, the importing company or agent should be familiar with (and ultimately responsible for) existing regulations and their implementations.

**APPENDIX III: HS Codes of commodities which require a Control Certificate**

**A- HS Codes of animals and animal products**

01.01	04.01	1603.00
01.02	04.02	16.04
01.03	04.03	16.05
01.04	04.04	18.06
01.05	04.05	19.01
01.06	04.06	19.02
02.01	0407.00	19.04
02.02	04.08	19.05
02.03	0409.00	2103.90.90
02.04	04.10	21.04
0205.00	0504.00	2105.00
02.06	05.06	21.06
02.07	05.07	2202.99
02.08	0510.00	2208.70
0209.00	05.11	23.01
02.10	15.01	30.01
03.01	15.02	30.02
03.02	1503.00	3503.00
03.03	15.04	38.22
03.04	1506.00	7101.21.00.00.00
03.05	1516.10	-
03.06	15.17	-
03.07	1518.00	-

03.08	1601.00	-
03.09	16.02	-

The Control Certificate is valid for 4 (four) months for the above commodities. However, for those HS codes 0504.00, 15.04, 1516.10, 15.17, 1518.00, 18.06, 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, 19.05, 2103.90.90, 21.04, 2105.00, 21.06, 2202.99, 2208.70, the Control Certificate is valid for 12 (twelve) months.

**B- HS Codes of propagation materials such as seeds, seedlings, saplings, and flower bulbs**

Seeds, Seedlings, Saplings, and Flower Bulbs		
0601.10.10.00.00	0602.90.91.00.00	1005.10.90.00.00
0601.10.20.00.00	0602.90.99.00.00	1006.10.10.00.00
0601.10.30.00.00	0701.10.00.00.00	1007.10.10.00.00
0601.10.40.00.00	0703.10.11.00.00	1007.10.90.00.00
0601.10.90.10.00	0703.20.00.00.12	1008.21.00.00.11
0601.10.90.90.00	0712.90.11.00.00	1008.21.00.00.12
0601.20.30.00.11	0713.10.10.00.11	1008.50.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.12	0713.10.10.00.19	1008.60.00.00.11
0601.20.30.00.13	0713.20.00.00.11	1201.10.00.00.00
0601.20.30.00.14	0713.31.00.00.11	1202.30.00.00.00
0601.20.90.10.11	0713.32.00.00.11	1204.00.10.00.00
0601.20.90.10.19	0713.33.10.00.11	1205.10.10.00.00
0601.20.90.90.00	0713.33.10.00.19	1205.90.00.00.00
0602.10.10.00.00	0713.34.00.00.11	1206.00.10.00.00
0602.10.90.00.00	0713.35.00.00.11	1207.10.00.00.00
0602.20.10.00.00	0713.39.00.00.11	1207.21.00.00.00
0602.20.20.00.00	0713.40.00.00.11	1207.30.00.00.00
0602.20.30.00.00	0713.50.00.00.11	1207.40.10.00.00
0602.20.80.00.19	0713.60.00.00.11	1207.50.10.00.00
0602.30.00.00.00	0713.90.00.00.13	1207.60.00.00.00
0602.40.00.00.00	1001.11.00.00.00	1207.70.00.00.00
0602.90.30.00.00	1001.91.10.00.00	1207.91.10.00.00
0602.90.45.00.11	1001.91.20.00.11	1207.99.20.00.11
0602.90.45.00.12	1002.10.00.00.00	1207.99.20.00.19
0602.90.46.00.00	1003.10.00.00.11	1207.99.91.00.00
0602.90.47.00.00	1003.10.00.00.19	12.09
0602.90.48.00.00	1004.10.00.00.00	1212.99.41.00.00
0602.90.50.00.00	1005.10.13.00.00	1212.99.49.00.00
0602.90.70.00.11	1005.10.15.00.00	-

0602.90.70.00.12	1005.10.18.00.00	-
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**C- HS Codes of forest breeding materials such as seeds, saplings for trees, grafts**

0602.90.41.00.11	0602.90.41.00.29
0602.90.41.00.12	1209.99.10.00.00

**APPENDIX IV: HS Codes of animal and animal products, which do not require a Control Certificate but are still subject to veterinary controls and inspection**

0502.10	2835.25.00.00.00	3926.90
05.05	2835.26.00.00.00	41.01
0508.00	2922.49	41.02
05.11	2925.29.00.00	41.03
0602.90.10.00.00	29.30	4205.00.90
1212.99.95	2932.99	4206.00.00.00.00
1213.00.00.00.00	2942.00	43.01
1214.90	3006.92.00.00.00	51.01
1501.90.00.00.00	3101.00	51.02
15.04	3105.10	51.03
1505.00	32.04	6701.00
1521.90	33.02	95.08
1522.00	35.01	9602.00
17.02	35.02	97.05
20.04	3504.00	-
20.05	35.07	-

23.01	3913.90	-
23.09	3917.10	-

## **APPENDIX V: Acronyms used in the report**

**AQD:** Agricultural Quarantine Directorate

**BTI:** Binding Tariff Information

**BOI:** Binding Origin Information

**DD:** District Directorates

**EFSA:** European Food Safety Authority

**EU:** European Union

**EPPO:** European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

**FSIS:** Food Safety Information System

**GE:** Genetically engineered

**GDFC:** General Directorate of Food and Control

**GMOs:** “Genetically Modified Organisms”

**GMP:** Good Manufacturing Practices

**HACCP:** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points

**HAA:** Halal Accreditation Agency

**ISO:** International Standardization for Standardization

**MinAF:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

**MinEUCC:** Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

**MMDA:** Medicine and Medical Devices Agency

**MoH:** Ministry of Health

**MRLs:** Maximum Residue Limits

**OIE:** World Organization for Animal Health

**PAFD:** Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Directorates

**TR:** Tax Rulings

**VBIP:** Veterinary Border Inspection Post

**VED:** Veterinary Entrance Document

**WTO:** World Trade Organization

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments