

Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Agriculture
The Minister

Decision No. 481/1

Date 8-4-2026

Conditions for importing powdered milk, powdered milk products, and powdered products made from milk, vegetable oil, and UHT liquid oil.

The Minister of Agriculture

Based on Decree No. 53 dated February 8, 2025, (Forming the Government)

Based on Legislative Decree No. 97 dated September 16, 1983, and its amendments, (Merging Public Institutions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Reorganizing the Ministry)

Based on Decree No. 5246 dated June 20, 1994, (Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture...)

Based on Decision No. 1034/1 dated November 21, 2011, (Regulating the packaging, labeling, and display of milk and dairy products);

Based on Decision No. 322/1 dated October 13, 2004, (Regarding permissible levels of aflatoxin in certain foodstuffs);

Based on Decision No. 239/1 dated May 16, 2009, Concerning the conditions for importing animal products;

Based on Decision No. 324/1 dated June 24, 2025, concerning the adoption of electronic documents;

Based on the Lebanese standard specifications for the products covered by this decision;

Based on the proposal of the Director General of Agriculture;

And after consulting the State Council (Opinion No. 241/2024-2025 dated July 15, 2025).

The following is decided:

Article 1: Scope of Application

This decision applies to the following products:

1. Dried milk
2. Dried products composed of one or more milk components, (dried milk protein, dried whey, dried milk lactose, dried milk casein, etc).
3. Dried products composed of milk and/or a milk component and other non-dairy ingredients intended to partially or wholly replace any milk component, (such as vegetable oil, etc.)
4. Dried products in which milk and/or a milk component constitutes a substantial proportion.
5. Ultra-high temperature (UHT) treated liquid milk.

Article 2:

Imported dried milk must be produced and packaged in the same factory in the country of origin.

Article Three: Factory Registration

Anyone wishing to import any of the products mentioned in Article One of this decision must submit an application to register the factory and the product to the Directorate of Animal Resources, Department of Economics, Manufacturing, and Marketing, along with the following documents:

1. An official statement proving that the production facility is licensed by the official authorities in the country of origin.
2. A certificate of compliance with a food safety management system (HACCP or ISO 22000, etc.) from an internationally accredited certification body. If requested by the Directorate of Animal Resources, the applicant must provide a copy of the detailed documentation related to this system and a periodic audit report issued by an internationally accredited office.
3. An original official veterinary health certificate agreed upon by the veterinary authorities in both Lebanon and the country of origin.
4. An original official radiation certificate issued by the country of origin, or a radiological analysis certificate for the product issued by an accredited laboratory for conducting radiological tests.
5. An original official dioxin certificate issued by the country of origin, or a dioxin analysis certificate for the product issued by an accredited laboratory for conducting dioxin tests.
6. An official certificate stating that the ultra-high temperature (UHT) processed liquid milk is derived from natural milk without any added powdered milk, issued by the competent authority in the country of origin.

7. A sample of the product labeling form conforming to Decision No. 1034/1 dated November 21, 2011, in the same color and size that will be adopted.

Note 1: The certificates required in points 1 through 6 above can be provided on a single document or as several separate documents.

Note 2: The authenticity of the documents required in points 1 through 6 above can be verified using one of the following methods:

- QR code.
- A digital link mentioned on the document.
- Legalization by accredited Lebanese diplomatic missions in the country of origin (Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the country of origin, Lebanese Embassy).

Alternatively, the relevant official authorities in the country of origin that issued the document can be contacted by the Directorate of Animal Resources.

Note 3: If you wish to import a different brand or different weights of the same product that has already been registered, submit the requirements in point 7 above so that the brand or weights can be added to the previous registration.

Article 4: Required Documents for Import

Anyone wishing to import any of the products mentioned in Article One of this decision in packages weighing more than 3 kg must submit prior notification to the Directorate of Animal Resources - Department of Economics, Manufacturing, and Marketing before each shipment, including the following documents:

1. A copy of the proforma invoice for the imported goods.
2. A notarized undertaking from the importer to provide the Ministry of Agriculture with a detailed digital list, printed on a CD, of the locations where the imported goods are sold or distributed. This list must include the names and addresses of the companies, the quantities delivered, and the batch numbers, according to the form approved by the Directorate of Animal Resources.

Article 5: Required Documents Upon Arrival of Products:

Documents required upon arrival of goods:

1. Certificate of Origin.
2. An original official veterinary health certificate agreed upon by the veterinary authorities in both Lebanon and the country of origin.
3. An original official radiation certificate issued by the country of origin, or a radiation analysis certificate for the product issued by an accredited laboratory for conducting radiation tests.

4. An original official dioxin certificate issued by the country of origin, or a dioxin analysis certificate for the product issued by an accredited laboratory for conducting dioxin tests, valid for one year from its date of issue.
5. A chemical and microbiological analysis certificate issued by an official laboratory or a laboratory accredited by the official authorities in the country of origin.
6. An original official certificate confirming that the product is free from melamine contamination, issued by the country of origin and duly certified.
7. The original invoice for the imported goods.
8. A copy of the factory and product registration certificate issued by the Directorate of Animal Resources.

Note: The certificates required in points 2 through 6 above can be provided on a single document or as several separate documents.

Article 6: Product Shelf Life and Document Retention Period:

The following table is used to determine the product shelf life and the retention period for documents and invoices detailing the fate of imported goods:

Product	Maximum Product Shelf Life	Document Retention Period from Production Date
Dried Milk	24 months	36 months
Liquid Milk UHT	6 months	12 months
Dried Milk Products and Combined Dried Milk and Vegetable Oil Products	24 months	36 months

The product's arrival time at Lebanese border crossings must not exceed half of its shelf life.

Article 7: Labeling

The labeling information must comply with the provisions of Decision No. 1034/1 dated November 21, 2011, concerning the regulation of the packaging, labeling, and display of milk and dairy products, and the relevant Lebanese specifications.

Article 8: Temperature During Transport:

The product shall be transported in dry containers equipped with a thermograph at a temperature not exceeding 30°C. In all cases, the temperature must not exceed 5 degrees Celsius above 30°C for any three days during the shipping period.

Article 9: Composition and Microbiological and Chemical Properties:

Technical Specifications:

The product must conform to its applicable Lebanese standard.

1- Dried Milk

Composition

Content	Dried Milk		
	Whole Milk	Partially Skimmed	Skimmed
Milk Fat	26% Minimum	Between 1.5% and 26	1.5% Maximum
Moisture, Maximum	5%	5%	5%
Milk Proteins	34% Minimum	34% Minimum	34% Minimum
Acidity by titration (ml - 0.1) NaOH system (10 g non-fat solids)	18 ml Maximum	18 ml Maximum	18 ml Maximum
Isolation Index	1 Maximum	1 Maximum	1 Maximum
Burned Materials	Disc B or better	Disc B Or better	Disc B or better

* In nonfat milk solids

2- UHT milk Whole

Composition

Content	UHT liquid Milk		
	Whole Milk	Partially Skimmed	Skimmed
Milk Fat	3% minimum	Between 0.5% and 3	0.5% maximum
Nonfat Solids	8.5% minimum	8.5% minimum	8.5% minimum
Acidity calculated as lactic acid	0.18% maximum	0.18% maximum	0.18% maximum

Hygiene Conditions:

1- Must conform Product with the microbiological characteristics specified in the table below

Characteristics	Listeria monocytogenes in 25g	Salmonella in 25g	Staphylococcus aureus	Total coliforms at 37°C	Microorganisms at 30°C	Sulfite-reducing anaerobic bacteria	Bacillus cereus	Yeasts and molds
Milk Powder and other dried milk-based products	n=5 C=0 Nothing	n=5 C=0 Nothing	n=5 C=0 m<10	n=5 C=2 m<10 m = 10	n=5 C=2 M = 5 x 10 ⁴ M = 5 x 10 ⁵	n=5 C=1 M=10 M=50	n=5 C=1 m=1x10 ² M=1x10 ³	n=5 C=2 m = 10 ² M = 5 x 10
Liquid Milk UHT	-	-	-	----	<10 in 0.1 ml (1)	n=5 C=0 m<1	-	

n: Number of samples to be analyzed

c: Maximum number of samples where the bacterial content is allowed to fall between m and M

m: Permissible bacterial content in the product

M: The maximum limit that the bacterial content in any sample to be analyzed must not reach or exceed.

(1): After incubation at 30°C for 15 days.

2. The aflatoxin M₁ content in liquid milk must not exceed 0.05 micrograms per kilogram, (For dried milk, the concentration or dilution ratio must be considered).

3. The radioactive contamination level must not exceed 50 becquerels per kilogram (Bq/kg).

4. The dioxin contamination level must not exceed the following maximum limits:

- Sum of dioxins (pgWHO-PCDD/F-TEQ/g): 2.0 pg/g fat
- Sum of dioxins and dioxins-like PCBs (pgWHO-PCDD/F-PCB-TEQ/g): 4.0 pg/g fat
- Sum of nondioxin-like PCBs (ng/g): 40 ng/g fat

Maximum levels expressed as fat are not applicable for food containing < 2% fat. For food containing less than 2% fat, the maximum applicable level is the level on a product basis corresponding to the level on a product basis for food containing 2% fat, calculated from the maximum level established on a fat basis, making use of following

formula: Maximum level expressed on product basis for food containing less than 2% fat = Maximum level expressed on fat for that food x 0,02.

5- The quantity of pesticide residues must not exceed the limits permitted in the relevant Lebanese standard specification.

6. The quantity of veterinary drug residues must not exceed the limits permitted by the specifications issued by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

7. The product processing must be carried out in accordance with the conditions and requirements stipulated in Lebanese Standard Specification No. (656) concerning "General Rules for Food Hygiene," and in accordance with the Hygienic Practices for Milk and Dairy Products (CAC/RCP 2004-57) and any other relevant texts issued by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Article Ten: Field Inspection

The Directorate of Animal Resources, Department of Economy, Manufacturing, and Marketing, through a committee of relevant personnel responsible for inspecting food product manufacturing plants of animal origin, has the right to conduct health inspections of production facilities in the country of origin and to review their documentation at any time and at the importer's expense.

Article Eleven:

All texts and regulatory decisions that conflict with the provisions of this decision are hereby repealed. This decision shall be published and communicated as necessary and shall enter into force immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

A copy shall be sent to:

The Prime Minister's Office
Central Inspection
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Ministry of Public Health
Higher Customs Council-Directorate General of Customs
Lebanese Standards Institution
National Council for Scientific Research- Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission
Official Gazette (for publication)
National News Agency (for dissemination through media outlets)
Syndicate of Lebanese Food Industrialists
Syndicate of Food Importers
Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute
Directorate of Animal Resources
Regional Agricultural Offices
Archives