

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
THE MINISTER

No. 6/3193

Date: 8/8/2011

Regulation No. 1/720

Conditions for importing processed and prepared animal products

The Minister of Agriculture,

In accordance with decree No. 5818 dated 13/6/2011 (forming the government),

In accordance with legislative decree No. 97 dated 16/9/1983 and its amendments (merging public institutions with the Ministry of Agriculture and reorganizing the ministry),

In accordance with law No. 31 dated 18/1/1955 and its amendments specially its second article (Specifying the missions of Ministry of Agriculture),

In accordance with decree No. 5246 dated 20/6/1994 and its amendments (organizing the Ministry of Agriculture...),

In accordance with law issued by decree No. 12301 dated 20/3/1963 (Law of veterinarian quarantine specially its article No. 10),

Directorate of Animal Wealth

Agency of supervision of imports, exports and veterinarian health quarantine (to notify to veterinarian health quarantine centers)

Regional Agricultural Agencies (to notify their Health Quarantine Centers)

Archives

In accordance with the reading of the Directorate of Animal Wealth No. 2156/6 dated 22/7/2011,

In accordance with the suggestion of the Acting Director General of Agriculture,

the following has been decided:

Article one: The following definitions should be applied for the rules of this regulation:

1- Prepared animal food products: These are food products prepared from raw materials of animal origin of livestock meats, poultry, fish or marine animals that are uncooked or partially cooked and are not ready for consumption in its final form, and do not include frozen or chilled meats or their parts that are conserved in water and salt.

1- Processed animal food products: These are food products processed from raw materials of animal origin that are ready for consumption in their final form.

Article two: It is permitted to import processed or prepared animal food products directly from the country of origin or from a marine port or airport near the country of origin accompanied by a bill of freight notifying that the target country of the goods is Lebanon.

Article three: The imported processed or prepared animal food products should be accompanied with the following documents:

- 1- Certificate of origin issued by official authorities in the country of origin.
- 2- Health certificate issued by specialized authorities in the country of origin.
- 3- Freight certificate specifying that the goods are exported to Lebanon.
- 4- Commercial invoice for the processed or prepared products.
- 5- Any other document that is obligated by authorities related to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article four: The maximum usability period for the imported processed or prepared animal food products is specified for two years at most.

and each package of imported processed or prepared animal food product should be labeled with production date and expiry date in a clear way that cannot be erased or altered. It can also be satisfactory to have only the expiry date on condition that the following should be taken into consideration:

- The expiry date should be mentioned together with the Batch or Lot No. on each single package of the product in a clear way that cannot be erased or altered.
- The Batch or Lot No. and its production date and expiry date should be clearly mentioned on the certificate of origin or any other enclosed document authenticated by specialized authorities. It is forbidden to permit any of these products to enter after half their usability period have elapsed.

Article five: The establishments that are interested in importing processed or prepared animal food products should submit a registration application to the Department of Import and Export in the directorate of animal wealth before starting the import with the following documents enclosed:

- 1- Authenticated copy of the factory's registration certificate in the country of origin issued by specialized authorities stating that this factory is under health inspection.
- 2- Authenticated copy of the certificate of applying the system of the directorate of food safety based on HACCP regulations (such as HACCP certificate or ISO22000 certificate or equivalent) for the factory and the product that is to be imported issued by specialized authorities.
- 3- List of the firms producing the raw materials of animal origin that are used in the factory together with the following documents for each firm:
 - A- Authenticated copy of the registration certificate in the country of origin stating that this firm is under health inspection.
 - B- Authenticated copy of the certificate of applying the system of food safety based on the principles of HACCP such as the HACCP certificate or ISO22000 certificate or equivalent.
- 4- The party in concern submits a commitment to pay the expenses of travelling of employees from the Ministry of Agriculture to inspect the slaughter house or factory in the country of origin upon the request of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article six: It is permitted to import processed animal food products from the country of origin in case of re-exporting them from another country on condition that the following rules are applied:

- 1- The product should be principally permissible to be imported to Lebanon.
- 2- They should be exported to the second country in packages ready for sale in their final form.
- 3- The following documents should be enclosed:
 - a- Copy of the original certificate of origin issued from the country of origin and authenticated by the concerned authorities in the exporting country to Lebanon.
 - b- Copy of the veterinary health certificate issued from the country of origin of the imported product authenticated by the concerned authorities in the exporting country to Lebanon.
 - c- Official notice issued by specialized authorities in the exporting country to Lebanon assuring that the product mentioned in the certificate did not undergo any change or alteration in its packages or labels in that country.
 - d- Veterinary health certificate issued by veterinary authorities in the exporting country to Lebanon or from the authorities that are authorized to do that.
 - e- Packing list mentioning the production and expiry date of the products.
 - f- Copy of the commercial invoice specifying clearly the kind of the exported products.

Article seven: It is permitted to import processed or prepared animal food products via transit, on condition that these products should be with a veterinary health certificate issued by the veterinary health quarantine in the free zone where the product was unloaded, also accompanied by a copy of the original veterinary health certificate and the certificate of origin authenticated by the veterinary authorities in the free zone where the unloading took place.

Article eight: It is prohibited to receive any shipment of animal products if it was proved that it was directed to another country where it was not unloaded, whatever the causes were.

Article nine: It is up to the Ministry of Agriculture to refuse to receive imported animal food products if there was any sign in the country of origin that the product was unsafe, based on the newsletters of the World Animal Health Organization or other specialized international organizations.

Article ten: Any literature that contradicts with the contents of this decree is annulled, specially decrees No. 1/66 dated 13/4/1996 and No. 1/228 and No. 1/477 dated 15/12/2005 and No. 1/156 dated 28/6/2009 and No. 1/239 dated 16/5/2009 and No. 1/726 dated 11/11/2010.

Article eleven: This decree is applied directly when issued and a period of six months is given to the firms mentioned in article No. five to register.

Beirut, 8/8/2011

Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Hussein AlHajj Hassan

Copies to be forwarded to:

Prime Minister

Central Inspectorate

Agricultural Inspectorate

Ministry of Economy and Commerce

Liblor Institution

Ministry of Foreign affairs

The Official News paper (to publish)

Board of Customs - Secretariat General of customs

National Agency of Information (to notify via media)

Syndicate of importers and exporters of frozen and chilled fish, poultry and vegetables

Syndicate of importers of food and consumable products

Syndicate of veterinarians in Lebanon

Syndicates of engineers in Beirut and the North