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Report Highlights:

This report highlights all major certificates and permits that the government of Nigeria (GON) requires for exporting food and agricultural products from the United States to Nigeria. It also complements the FAIRS – Annual Country Report for Nigeria (2024). Post recommends that prospective exporters read both reports for a better understanding of Nigeria’s food and agricultural standards and requirements, export certifications, and permits. Minor updates were made to all sections except Section III - Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements. Appendix I was revised to reflect office holder changes of the required export certificates/permits.

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DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Lagos, Nigeria, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, 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 U.S. 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food and agricultural exports into Nigeria must conform to national and international standards. Prospective exporters must obtain approvals, permits, export certificates and licenses after product testing, and certification through the competent authority in the exporting country or an independent accredited body. The goal is to ensure products and commodities meet internationally acceptable food safety, public health, and environmental standards.

Various government agencies are responsible for issuing import permits and licenses to importers for the various categories of goods to be brought into Nigeria. No generic import license/permit exists covering all food and agricultural food imports. The types of agricultural goods or food products to be imported will determine the required import licenses. In general, a significant number of agricultural and food products require more than one license from two or more government agencies to complete the process.

Before the import permitting begins, an importer must determine which products requires an import permit and which agency is responsible for issuing the necessary import permit. Not all goods can be imported into Nigeria. Contraband items are found on the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) [prohibited items list during import](#). Requesting GON ministries, agencies and departments are indicated in Section I.

SECTION I: EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT

Certificate of Registration (Sanitary Certificate)	Certificate of Listing for Supermarket Items	Animal Feed and Premix Import Permits
Seed Import Permit	Fish and Fishery Products	Biosafety Certificate
Wildlife Import Permit	*CITES Permit	Quarantine Permit of Entry (Phytosanitary Certificate)

*CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments that aims at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Office
Processed Food Products, Wines, and Spirits	Certificate of Registration (Sanitary Certificate)	Food Safety/ Public Health	National Agency for Food, Drug, Administration, and Control (NAFDAC), under the Federal Ministry of Health.
Processed Food Products, Wines, and Spirits	Certificate of Listing for Supermarket Items under GLS*	Food Safety/Public Health/Trade	NAFDAC
Animal Feed and Premix	Animal Feed Premix Import Permits	Food Safety/Public Health	Veterinary Medicines and Allied Products Directorate (VMAP) of NAFDAC
Semi-Processed Foods and Plant Products	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificates	Food Safety/Public Health/Trade	National Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS) issues the phytosanitary certificate under International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and NAFDAC. NAQS is the competent authority for issuing sanitary certificates under Codex Alimentarius
Seeds	Seed Importation Permit	Food Safety/Human and Environmental Health and Protection	National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) and NAQS—both are agencies of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS).

Animal and Animal Products	Animal and Animal Products Import Permit	Veterinary Certificate of Health	Department of Veterinary & Pest Control Services-- DVPCS (Office of the CVO) and NAQS (both are department and agency of FMAFS respectively). NAFDAC for Consumer-oriented animal products (such as processed beef, dairy products, etc.)
Wildlife	CITES (Wildlife Import) Permit	Wildlife and Environmental Protection; International Trade	The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) with Department of Veterinary & Pest Control Services--DVPCS (Office of the CVO) and NAQS.
Fish and Fishery Products	Fish Import Permit	Food Safety and Public Health	Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF) and NAQS—both are under the FMAFS. NAFDAC for consumer-oriented fish products (such as canned fish, fillets, etc.)
GMO Products	Biosafety Certificate	Human and Environmental Health/ Protection	National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA)—an agency of the FME.

*Global Listing for Supermarkets (GLS)

II: SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATES(S).

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Specific Attestation Required on Certificate	Format
Processed Food Products, Wines, and Spirits	Certificate of Registration (Sanitary Certificate)	<p>All processed and semi-processed food items intended for export to Nigeria must meet hygiene and human health measures specified under Codex Alimentarius. The NAFDAC Registration Number must be acquired by manufacturers or representatives/agents of foreign exporters of processed, high-value food products.</p> <p>NAFDAC would only give a registration number or certificate of registration after the product has passed the quality and standard test carried out by the Agency. After a successful product registration, the importer can import the products in large quantities.</p> <p>Application to register food products with NAFDAC must be accompanied by the following certificates and/or documents explained in Section V of this report):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certificate of Analysis of the Product Issued by the Manufacturer 2. Certificate of Manufacture by a Government Authority 3. Certificate of Free Sale issued by a Government Authority 4. Power of Attorney, notarized, issued by the manufacturer to the Nigerian local agent 5. Contract Manufacturing Agreement 	<p>No food item shall be manufactured, packaged, imported, advertised, sold, or distributed in Nigeria unless NAFDAC approves, registers, and assigns it a registration number.</p> <p>http://www.nafdac.gov.ng/food</p> <p>Application Forms and templates: Product Registration & Regulation – NAFDAC</p>
Processed Food Products, Wines, and Spirits Permit (GLS)	Certificate of Listing for Supermarket Items	<p>Supermarkets or importers are required to register and obtain a permit to import listed mixed container loads of high value products under NAFDAC's GLS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The items must be those regulated by NAFDAC and sold in supermarkets and other 	<p>For format and other details: https://www.nafdac.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/Files/Resources/Guidelines/DR_And_R_Guidelines/Guidelines-for-the-Global-Listing-of-Supermarket-Items-GLSI.pdf</p>

		<p>specialties required by hotels, fast food chains, and international organizations (excluding registered items).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already registered products shall not be allowed for listing. Such items should be sourced from companies that registered them or a 'letter of no objection' shall be obtained from the party that registered them. • The importation of products banned by the GON shall not be allowed. 	
Animal Feed and Premix	Animal Feed and Premix Import Permit	<p>All animal feed, pet products, feed concentrates, feed additives, premixes, and fish meals require registration with the Veterinary Medicines and Allied Products Directorate (VMAP) of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), before marketing in Nigeria.</p> <p>No import of feed supplements, feed concentrates, feed additives, premixes and fish meal are permitted without obtaining an import permit from NAFDAC in accordance with the provisions of NAFDAC Act CAP N1 (LFN) 2004, other related legislation and accompanying guidelines.</p> <p>No company is permitted to import bulk feed supplements, feed concentrates, feed additives, premixes, and fish meal without authorization.</p>	<p>For format and other details: https://www.nafdac.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/Files/Resources/Guidelines/VETERINARY_GUIDELINES/Guidelines-for-Issuance-of-Permit-to-Import-Feed-Supplements-Feed-Concentrate-Feed-Additives-Premixes-Fish-Meal-New-Applicant.pdf</p>

Plant and Plant Products	Quarantine Permit of Entry (Phytosanitary certificate)	NAQS must certify and permit all exports of plants and plant products to Nigeria to ensure they are free from quarantine pests and conform to international phytosanitary standards to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of exotic pests and diseases. The Permit must strictly follow international standards set by International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and WTO/SPS Agreement and other specific Nigerian phytosanitary requirements.	Exporters are expected to complete an import permit application form. The issuance of import permit (valid for 12 months) would depend on the risk involved. A permit may not be issued if the plant type required is prohibited or if the country of origin is known to be a high- risk area. For details: http://naqs.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plant_Import_Guidelines.pdf
Live Aquatic Products	Quarantine Permit of Entry for Aquatic Products	For the importation of live aquatic products, the consignor or their agent must satisfy all quarantine regulations on examination and approval procedures before signing any trade contract and must obtain a Quarantine Permit of Entry for aquatic products before loading of consignment to Nigeria. Without a permit of entry, no aquatic products are allowed into Nigeria. The permit of entry is also required for the release of the consignment to its consignee in Nigeria. Without it, the consignment would be rejected for failure of Quarantine Integrity.	Format and details: http://naqs.gov.ng/animal-import-requirements/
Processed and Semi-Processed Foods and Plant Products	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate	Products must pass all necessary tests and analyses to protect human, animal, and plant life and health from the risks that could arise due to entry, establishment, or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organisms, or disease-causing organisms. Processed plant products must pass both NAQS and NAFDAC tests to be approved and certified.	

Seeds	Seed Importation Permit	Seeds importation into Nigeria whether for research, planting, consumption, or commercial reasons, requires a Seed Importation Permit from the NASC and the NAQS. Information/documents required are: Crop to be imported/variety, class of seed, quantity (in kg) per variety, country of import, seed license certificate, letter of reference from bank, etc.	For details on standard operating procedure for issuance of seed importation permit visit: National Agricultural Seed Council Seed importation
Animal and Animal Products	Animal and Animal Products Import Permit	No animal or animal products can be exported to Nigeria without a permit and shall be accompanied with International Veterinary Certificate.	The permit shall contain complete details of import including name and address of exporter, importer, description of goods, quantity, value, origin details, list of ingredients, species of animals it was derived from, and identification marks. The full details of inspecting authority of the exporting country needs to be mentioned clearly with a stamp of licensing authority.
Wildlife	CITES (Wildlife import) Permit	Apply for import permit to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services. 1) Obtain import/export permit for wildlife subject to the acquisition of CITES permit from the FME. 2) Notify NAQS of import permit details. 3) Notify NAQS of the arrival date. 4) A valid foreign export permit issued by the country of origin must be presented.	For details: https://www.nesrea.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Protection-of-Endangered-Species-in-International-Trade-Regulation-2011.pdf

Fish and Fishery Products	Fish Import Permit	<p>No fish and fishery products can be exported to Nigeria without an import permit. Fish and Crustaceans falls under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS) chapter 03 which includes Fish, Chilled fish, Fish meat, Frozen Fish, Fish fillets, Dried Fish, Smoked Fish, Cooked Fish, uncooked fish, Fish pallets, Crustaceans, Mollusks with shell, Mollusks without shell, Aquatic invertebrates for human consumption, etc.</p> <p>The import permit (usually valid for six months) should contain complete details of import including name and address of exporter, importer, description of goods, quantity, value, origin details, list of ingredients, species of fish it was derived from, and identification marks. The full details of inspecting authority of exporting country needs to be mentioned clearly with the stamp of licensing authority.</p>	Federal Department of Fisheries, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
GMO Products	Biosafety Certificate	<p>Persons and businesses intending to import or deal in genetically engineered products (GE) must ensure they apply for a biosafety permit first or such products will be confiscated, outlet shuttered, and violators prosecuted under the penalties stipulated in the NBMA Act of 2015. The application to NBMA will be in writing and with reference to information on the item found in the Biosafety Clearing-House. The Agency will forward information to NAFDAC to carry out food and feed safety assessment for review and certification.</p>	<p>For details: https://nbma.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Biosafety-Regulations-2017-final-signed.pdf</p>

SECTION III: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Title of Certificate	Does the original certificate need to accompany the product?	Can the certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Will the country accept a U.S. Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration?	Does it have to come from a federal/competent authority?
Certificate of Registration (Sanitary Certificate)	No	Yes	No	Yes
Certificate of Listing for Supermarket Items	No	Yes	No	Yes
Animal Feed and Premix Import Permits	No	Yes	No	Yes
Quarantine Permit of Entry (Phytosanitary Certificate)	Yes	No	No	Yes
Phytosanitary Certificate	Yes	No	No	Yes
Seed Importation Permit	Yes	No	No	Yes
Animal and Animal Products Import Permit	Yes	No	No	Yes
Veterinary Health Certificate	Yes	No	No	Yes
Fish Import Permit	Yes	No	No	Yes
Biosafety Certificate	Yes	No	No	Yes

**SECTION IV: OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION
REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE MARKET ENTRY**

Title of Certificate	Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to ensure market entry
<p>Power of Attorney or Contract Manufacturing Agreement</p> <p>Applies to: Processed food products (whether of Plants or animal origin), wines, and spirits, animal feed and premix</p>	<p>An applicant must submit a power of attorney or contract manufacturing agreement from the manufacturer authorizing the Nigerian representative to act in their capacity in Nigeria. The director or president of the company must sign this document and state the names of the products to be registered or imported into Nigeria. It must also state the ownership of the brand names/trademark of the product and should be notarized by the notary public in the country of the manufacturer (https://www.nafdac.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/Files/Resources/Guidelines/R_and_R_Guidelines/IIMPORTS/Guidelines-for-the-Registration-of-Imported-Food.pdf)</p>
<p>Certificate of Manufacture and Free Sale</p> <p>Applies to: Processed food products (whether of Plants or animal origin), wines, and spirits, animal feed and premix</p>	<p>An appropriate health/regulatory body in the country of manufacture issues the certificate indicating the name of the manufacturer and products to be registered. It is also to be authenticated by the Nigerian Embassy in the country of origin or any other embassy or high commission of any commonwealth or West African country can authenticate it where no Nigerian Embassy or high commission exists.</p>
<p>Certificate of Analysis</p> <p>Applies to: Processed food products (whether of Plants or animal origin), wines, and spirits, animal feed and premix</p>	<p>The certificate of analysis must be presented on letterhead of the quality control laboratory where the sample was tested or evaluated, and it should contain the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The analysis of the product or goods ○ The batch number of the product ○ The manufacturing and expiration dates ○ The name, designation, and signature of the analyst

<p>Notarized declaration of the applicant</p> <p>Applies to: Processed food products (whether of Plants or animal origin), wines, and spirits, animal feed and premix</p>	<p>The applicant should declare that the information submitted is true and correct. Information on the name, position and signature of the applicant, product particulars should be to be type-filled in the notarized declaration and should be dated, signed, and stamped by a notary public in Nigeria.</p>
<p>GMP Invitation Letter also known as Evidence of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspection by NAFDAC.</p> <p>Applies to: Processed food products (whether of Plants or animal origin), wines, and spirits, animal feed and premix</p>	<p>A letter of invitation to inspect the factory abroad shall be written by the manufacturer and shall state the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manufacturer Information: Name of the company, full location address of the factory, email address and current phone number, the name of contact person overseas, telephone number, email address. Name of airport closest to the location and guide map illustrating the shortest land/air route to the factory overseas. ○ Local Agent’s Information: Name of the company, full location address and telephone number, fax number, and email address. Name(s) of the product(s) for registration, name and mobile phone number of the contact person in Nigeria.
<p>Product Sample Import Permit</p>	<p>Upon satisfactory documentation, permit is issued for the product(s) to be registered to be brought in samples for sample vetting by NAFDAC upon registration.</p>

Radiation Monitoring

Attestation of radioactivity is not required for exports into Nigeria.

APPENDIX I:

Certificate Name	Available at
Sausage and similar product Export Certificate of Wholesomeness Form 9060-5	FSIS website
FDA Certificate of Free Sale	FDA website
FDA Certificate of Exportability	FDA website
Biosafety Certificate – NBMA Form D	NBMA website
Seed Importation Permit	NASC website
Certificate of Registration	NAFDAC website
Quarantine Permit of Entry	NAQS website

To obtain an electronic copy, scanned copy, or outline of each Export Certificate, please contact relevant officers below:

A. PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

Prof. Moji Christianah Adeyeye

Director-General, NAFDAC

Plot 2032, Olusegun Obasanjo

WayZone 7, Wuse, Abuja,

Nigeria

Tel: +234 906 000 7693

nafdac@nafdac.gov.ng

<https://www.nafdac.gov.ng/>

B. STANDARDS, CODEX, LABELLING & PACKAGING

Ifeanyi Okeke

Director General, Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

52, Lome Crescent, Wuse Zone 7, Abuja, Nigeria info@son.gov.ng; Phone: +234 8002255766,

+234(0)7056990099 <https://son.gov.ng/>

Phone: +234 8072801989 (Cell, preferable) or +234 12708230 (office)

Mohammed Yunusa, Head, Codex Entry Point, Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng

<https://son.gov.ng/>

C. LIVESTOCKS, GENETICS & HONEY:

Dr. Columba Vakuru, CVO and Director, Department of Livestock Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Area II, Garki Abuja, Nigeria +234 8035988903

vakurucolteru@yahoo.com

Dr Chinyere Ikechukwu-Eneh (Akujobi), Director, Commodity Certification/Trade Standards & Measures, Dept. of Veterinary & Pest Control Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Abuja, Nigeria +234 803 587 7722 chimed22@yahoo.com

D. PLANT, PRODUCE AND COMMODITIES

Dr. Vincent Isegbe, Executive Director, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), Plant Quarantine Department, Enugu House, 18, Ralph Shodeinde St; C B D Abuja, Nigeria +234 8093540848 contact@naqs.gov.ng; visegbe@gmail.com; <https://www.naqs.gov.ng/>

E. SEEDS AND REGULATIONS

Dr. Ishiak Othman Khalid, Acting Director General, National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), Km 29, Abuja-Lokoja Expressway, Sheda, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria +234 8113887697, info@seedcouncil.gov.ng; <https://seedcouncil.gov.ng/>

F. WTO, SPS & TRADE RELATED ISSUES

Tuayeringha S. O. Gana, Director of Trade, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment Old Federal Secretariat, Garki Area 1, Abuja, Nigeria Oyinkrogana@yahoo.com

G. AQUACULTURE, FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS

Mr. Wellington Omoragbon, Director of Fisheries, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, FCDA Complex, Area II, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria wellington_omoragbon@yahoo.com.

H. BIOTECH/GMO PRODUCTS

Dr. Agnes Asagbra, Director General, National Biosafety Management Agency, National Parks Service premises along Airport Road; Abuja, Nigeria nbma@nbma.gov.ng +234 8180805451

I. COMMERCIAL LAW DEPARTMENT, TRADEMARKS, PATENTS AND DESIGNS

Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, No. 5, Ndola Crescent, Zone 5, Wuse-Abuja, Nigeria info@iponigeria.com, +234 8092194426 or +234 8092194416, www.iponigeria.com

J. NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase I, Annex II, Ground Floor, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama District, P. M. B. 406 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria +234 70 1761 0750
NCeRS Desk Direct: +234 81 8341 3611
NCeRS Desk: admin@copyright.gov.ng, info@copyright.gov.ng,
<http://www.eregistration.copyright.gov.ng/ncc/contactus>

K. NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

Abidjan Street, Wuse, P.M.B. 26, Zone 3, Abuja, Nigeria
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Attachments:

No Attachments