

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Dairy and Derived Products Import Guide

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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides information on the steps needed to export dairy products to Cote d'Ivoire.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides information on the steps needed to export dairy products to Cote d'Ivoire. To date, no U.S. dairy product has been imported into Cote d'Ivoire. Trade has been dominated by the European Union due to historical ties and proximity to major dairy producing regions. In 2021, Cote d'Ivoire imported \$212 million dollars' worth of dairy products, mostly from Netherland, France, Ireland, Poland, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Ghana.

### **1. IVORIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTING DAIRY PRODUCTS**

To export milk and derived products to Cote d'Ivoire, the exporter needs to develop a relationship with a local importer who is authorized by the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MIRAH) to do so. The importation of milk and derived products in Cote d'Ivoire is limited to only Ivorian residents who are authorized to conduct such business. Additionally, the local importer will need to possess a professional import/export code, or an occasional import/export code issued by the [Ministry of Commerce](#).

The importer will also need to obtain a Autorisation Prealable d'Importation (API) which is required by MIRAH. The API is necessary to obtain the Fiche de Declaration a l'Importation (FDI), these documents are linked and work to facilitate the shipment of the product coming into Cote d'Ivoire. For the importer to receive these documents, the exporter will need to provide the following information:

- Proforma or final invoice
- How the product will be shipped (sea or air)
- HS Code

### **2. IMPORTING BY SEA**

If the product is shipped by sea, the exporter will need a Bordereau de Suivi de Cargaison (BSC) document. This document can be found online at the [Office Ivoirien des Chargeurs \(OIC\) website](#). This document is necessary to initiate import procedures and is necessary for retail customs declaration processes. If shipping by air, this document is not necessary. To receive this document the exporter will need to provide the following information on the application:

- Proforma or final invoice
- Packing list
- Freight invoice
- Bill of lading
- Certificate of Origin
- Insurance

BSC authentication occurs within 24 working hours from when the online validation request is made by the creator.

### 3. CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

Before any dairy products can be imported into Côte d'Ivoire, they must undergo a qualitative and quantitative inspection and receive a Certificate of Conformity (COC). These inspections are carried out by one of the four private organizations commissioned by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. The organizations responsible for conducting this inspection are:

- [Bureau Veritas Inspection Valuation Assessment and Control-BIVAC BV.](#)
- [COTECNA Inspection SA.](#)
- [INTERTEK, International Limited](#) and
- [SGS, Société Générale de Surveillance SA.](#)

Be aware that only one of these service providers mandated by the government of Côte d'Ivoire can deliver a COC per shipment. The COC for all products entering the country is valid for three (3) months following its date of issuance. It is renewable only once upon request. The duration of the COC cannot extend over the product's expiration date.

#### 3.1 Contacting the Service provider

An exporter wishing to ship milk products to Côte d'Ivoire must contact one of the companies listed above to request a COC application.

Applications for the COC can be found on the different company's website or in their local offices. Costs associated with the process can be found in section 4 below.

#### 3.2 Transmitting documents for certification

Once a service provider is found, the company will provide the exporter with all the necessary information needed to obtain the COC. It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure all paperwork and supporting documents are submitted to the service provider so that the COC can be issued. Supporting documents needed for the COC are as follows:

- Application for Certificate of Conformity form
- Proforma invoice or similar document (must have FOB value)
- Product specification or data sheet
- Certificate of Origin
- FDI document
- H.S Code or Schedule B number of each item in the proforma
- Packing list
- Analysis/test reports (see last page of the document for testing criteria/parameters for the powdered milk)
- Sanitary certificate\*

\*The United States Government has not negotiated specific language to be included in sanitary certificates with Côte d'Ivoire. According to Ivoirian government contacts, sanitary certificates issued by the competent authority in the U.S. should be accepted. However, it is important to note that due to the ambiguity regarding required information for the certificate, Ivoirian customs officials may reject the certificate due to a lack of information. FAS is collaborating with the Ivoirian Veterinary Service to

establish an approved sanitary certificate for dairy products and should have specific information on this issue in the near future.

If some documents are not available, the selected service provider will arrange for the necessary tests to be performed. It is understood that the exporter may use either one of the service provider's laboratories or any other accredited laboratory. However, the tests/analyses reports are only considered valid by the service provider when the following conditions are met:

- An approved laboratory has issued it:
  - ISO 17025 accredited laboratory
  - Manufacturer's laboratory
  - Otherwise, qualified laboratory (as per the service provider/Ivorian's procedures)
- The selected service provider can establish traceability between the conformity document and the goods of the consignment
- It covers the same production, meaning the same batch, as the goods of the consignment
- It follows applicable standards/requirements in the following hierarchical order: Ivorian standards and technical regulations, then regional standards, then international standards, then manufacturers' specifications.

Upon receipt of the documents, the service provider will notify the exporter that the documents were received. The service provider will then perform a risk analysis related to the product then Identify the appropriate verification method (routes). In this case, Route A would be selected.

There are three methods of verification.

- ROUTE A – For sensitive products

This route is recommended for sensitive products. It is compulsory for dairy products to follow this route. Dairy product exporters need to follow this process for every shipment as the COC is only valid for one shipment at a time.

- ROUTE B – For registered products

This route is recommended for homogeneous products. For products that belong in this route, the exporter can use the same COC for multiple shipments without having a systematic physical inspection for each consignment. The COC is valid for one year and remains valid only if the registered products are not modified (composition and packaging).

- ROUTE C – For licensed products

This route is intended for manufacturers, their official distributors or brand owners with a constant volume of shipments of homogeneous products. While applying to this route, it allows the exporter to get a COC for every shipment without having a systematic physical inspection of their shipments. The COC is valid for one year and remains valid only if the registered products are not modified (composition and packaging).

#### 4. INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION OF PRODUCT CONFORMITY

Once all documents are received, the service provider will proceed to implement their inspection. The inspection and verification of compliance will be carried out using guidelines from the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA), Code of Good Practice.

When a discrepancy is identified, the service provider will immediately contact the exporter to (i) inform them of the discrepancy, (ii) request the necessary corrective actions so that the product complies with the requirements of the applicable Standard.

The service provider will inform the exporter of the steps they need to take to resolve any compliance issues it encounters. Once the required corrections have been made, the exporter will submit the supporting documentation to the service provider. The service provider will review the documentation received and ensure that the corrective action taken is appropriate and that the product complies.

When all requirements have been met, the exporter provides the following documents to the service provider:

- Transport document (B/L, LTA, or consignment note)
- Commercial Invoice

The service provider will issue a Certificate of Conformity which is delivered to the exporter by hand or electronically. The Certificate of Conformity will certify that the product(s) in question conform with the technical standards and regulations in force in Côte d'Ivoire. It is critical that the exporter not ship the goods before the COC is issued.

The exporter transmits the Certificate of Conformity to the Importer together with the other documents necessary for export (See Section 6 for additional documents required).

The costs of the inspection (stated in the table below) are usually covered by the exporter.

<b>Fees based on a Percentage of the FOB declared value</b>	0.45%
<b>Fees Minimum in CFA Francs (USD)</b>	100 000 (\$172)

These fees include:

- Reviewing and verifying all documentation
- Physical inspection of the controlled goods
- The issuance of the COC.

However, the fees do not include the following activities:

- Testing: to be quoted on a case-by-case basis
- Sealing the containers
- Product sampling
- Loading supervision
- Product Registration
- Manufacturer Licensing
- Additional fees where goods or facilities are not ready or available at the time the supplier has advise and therefore an additional inspection visit is required.

## **5. FINAL CLASSIFICATION AND VALUE REPORT**

With the COC and other documents, the importer proceeds to the customs office for clearance to import the product via the [Single Window of Foreign Trade \(GUCE\) site](#).

All goods with a FOB value greater than or equal to one (1) million FCFA must obtain a Final Classification and Value Report (FCVR) from the Single Window of Foreign Trade [GUCE](#). The FCVR is part of the mandatory documents to validate a Customs Declaration.

Once the dairy product has been shipped and the final documents have been received by the exporter (Bill of Lading, Final Invoice, etc.), they must provide the following documents to obtain the FCVR for customs declaration purposes:

- Final Commercial Invoice.
- Bill of Lading (B/L) or Air Waybill (AWB), or Road Waybill (Consignment note).
- Packing list.
- Freight invoice.
- A copy of the FDI.
- Certificate of origin

Within five working days of submitting the above documents, the customs authorities will send the Final Classification and Value Report (FCVR) to the importer or forwarder by e-mail.

The FCVR will mention the assessment made by the customs authorities of the customs value of the goods and the HS codes of the imported goods.

## **6. FINAL DOCUMENTATIONS FOR THE IMPORTER TO ACCESS THE PRODUCT**

When the product arrives in Cote d'Ivoire, the final step is for the local importer to receive the product. They will need all the required documentation to obtain local certificates that are required by the government to access the product. The exporter will need to provide the following information to the importer:

- Manufacturer's certificate
- Veterinary certificate
- Sanitary certificate

- Final Commercial Invoice.
- Certificate of origin
- Bill of Lading (B/L) or Air Waybill (AWB), or Road Waybill (Consignment note).
- Certificate of Conformity (CoC)
- Freight invoice.
- Insurance

Notice that these authorizations and/or local certificates would be taken care of by the importer and/or forwarder.

## 7. ANNEX 1: TESTING CRITERIA FOR MILK POWDERED

SL No.	TEST PARAMETERS	STANDARD REQUIREMENTS	STANDARD REFERENCE	STANDARD CLAUSE NO.	TEST METHOD	CT	
<b>1</b>	<b>Composition Requirements</b>						
1.1	Cream Powder	Milk fat	≥ 42% m/m	CODEX STAN 207	3.2	---	✓
		Water <sup>a</sup>	≤ 5% m/m			---	✓
		Milk protein in milk solids-not fat <sup>a</sup>	≥ 34% m/m			---	✓
1.2	Whole milk powder	Milk fat	≥ 26% m/m but < 42% m/m			---	✓
		Water <sup>a</sup>	≤ 5% m/m			---	✓
		Milk protein in milk solids-not fat <sup>a</sup>	≥ 34% m/m			---	✓
1.3	Partly skimmed milk powder	Milk fat	> 1.5% m/m but < 26% m/m			---	✓
		Water <sup>a</sup>	≤ 5% m/m			---	✓
		Milk protein in milk solids-not fat <sup>a</sup>	≥ 34% m/m			---	✓
1.4	Skimmed milk powder	Milk fat	≤ 1.5% m/m			---	✓
		Water <sup>a</sup>	≤ 5% m/m			---	✓
		Milk protein in milk solids-not fat <sup>a</sup>	≥ 34% m/m			---	✓
---	<sup>a</sup> The water content does not include water of crystallization of the lactose; the milk solids-not-fat content includes water of crystallization of the lactose.						
<b>2</b>	<b>Additives (Maximum limit)</b>	Refer exhibit B.1	CODEX STAN 207	4	---	✓	
<b>3</b>	<b>Contaminants (Limits taken from Codex Stan 193)</b>						
3.1	Aflatoxin M1		≤ 0.5 µg/kg	CODEX STAN 207	5	---	✓
3.2	Heavy metals	Lead (Pb)	≤ 0.02 mg/kg			---	✓
3.3		Tin (Sn) <i>Note: Applicable for canned products.</i>	≤ 250 mg/kg			---	✓
<b>4</b>	<b>Microbiological Contaminants (EC No. 2073/2005)</b>						
4.1	Listeria monocytogenes <sup>1</sup>		≤ 100 cfu/g			---	✓
4.2	Salmonella <sup>1</sup> Note: Applicable for milk in powdered form only.		Absence in 25 g	EC No. 2073/2005	Annex 1 Chapter 1	---	✓
---	1) Microbiological contaminants - Criterion applies for products placed on the market during their shelf-life.						

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.

**End of Report**