

## Resources on Importing Agricultural Products

Although the Markets Division at the Colorado Department of Agriculture does not specifically handle import inquiries, we receive many requests for importing information. We offer this list of resources to help you with your importing search. If the Colorado Department of Agriculture can be of further assistance, please call (303) 239-4114.

### What's currently in resources on importing:

#### 1. Why do I need a "Harmonized System Number," and how do I find it?

A Harmonized System number, sometimes called a 10-digit Schedule B number, is used to properly classify import and export products. It is used to assess duty rates, label documents and aid in research of a product. The number can be found at the Internet site; [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/schedules/b/index.html](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/schedules/b/index.html) , choose Schedule B. You can also call 1-800-USA-TRADE for more information. With your Harmonized system number and the National Trade Database (NTDB) available at your local library, you can obtain information on U.S. imports on your target market.

**NTDB** (National Trade Database) is a valuable resource for anyone doing research on importing or exporting. It is a CD-ROM program (updated monthly) and is often available at your local library. It provides information on import and export statistics for all countries, food market reports, country commercial guides, markets research reports , government programs and resources, international contacts and much more. If you have access to CD-ROM, you may receive NTDB on monthly basis (\$40) or yearly subscription for \$360, by contacting the, Stat USA at the U.S. Department of Commerce,(202) 482-1986

#### 2. How do I obtain licensing to import?

Not all products require a license to import. To find out about a specific product, call the U.S. Customs Office and ask for an import specialist.

Denver (303) 361-0712  
Colorado Springs (719) 574-6607

#### 3. Critical requirements for food products.

The U.S. government (through the Food and Drug Administration -FDA) has mandated new regulations for the food industry. All food manufacturers, whether domestic or foreign just be registered with the US Government. In addition, all shipments of food products to the U.S. must also now provide prior notice to the US FDA on incoming shipments to the U.S.

#### Mandatory registration for all food facilities

The [Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002](#) (the Bioterrorism Act) requires domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States to register with the FDA by **December 12, 2003**.

### **Who must register?**

Owners, operators, or agents in charge of domestic or foreign facilities that manufacture/process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States are required to register the facility with the [FDA](#).

Domestic facilities are required to register whether or not food from the facility enters interstate commerce.

Foreign facilities that manufacture/process, pack, or hold food also are required to register unless food from that facility undergoes further processing (including packaging) by another foreign facility before the food is exported to the United States. However, if the subsequent foreign facility performs only a minimal activity, such as putting on a label, both facilities are required to register.

### **Prior notification of shipments of food products to the U.S.**

Any shipments of food products into the U.S. must be reported to the FDA prior to arrival!

In 2002 Congress passed the Bioterrorism Act as a part of its ongoing effort to combat terrorism - in this instance, by reducing the ability for international terrorists to carry out terrorist attacks in the U.S. by contaminating imported foods.

The Act requires that FDA receive prior notice before food is imported or offered for import into the United States. Advance notice of import shipments allows FDA, with the support of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to target import inspections more effectively and help protect the nation's food supply against terrorist acts and other public health emergencies.

Information and regulations can be viewed at the FDA site below.  
[www.cfsan.fda.gov/%7Epn/pnview.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/%7Epn/pnview.html)

### **4. Where can I find information on labeling requirements?**

The Food and Drug Administration has information on specific labeling requirements.

Food and Drug Administration, Denver Office, (303) 236-3000

### **5. Importing plants in to the U.S.**

The importation of plants is closely regulated by the U.S. D A. To determine regulations for plants contact:

USDA APHIS PPQ, Colorado office 303-371-335

### **6. Where do I get my product tested?**

Food and Drug Administration will be able to tell you the testing location and procedures for your product.

Food and Drug Administration, Denver Office, (303) 236-3000

## **7. What are the import and duty regulations?**

The U.S. Customs office has all the current import and duty rates as well as quotas for specific products and countries. Ask for an import specialist.

### **U.S. Customs:**

Denver, (303) 371-3014 (limited services)  
Colorado Springs, (719) 574-6607

## **8. Other Sources: Federal Government Information Line 1-800-688-9889**

Provides a complete federal government directory as well as assistance with locating agencies with information on importing agricultural products. If you are looking for a specific section of an agency, the operator will be able to provide the needed information. Information on government publications and other programs and services is also available.

### **Importing Into The United States**

The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has posted an updated version of **Importing into the United States: A Guide for Commercial Importers** (Publication # 0000-0504) on their website. The updated publication can be accessed online at <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications/>. The main sections in the guide include: U.S. Customs and Border Protection: Mission and Organization, Entry of Goods, Informed Compliance, Invoices, Assessment of Duty, Classification and Value, Marking, Special Requirements, and Foreign Trade Zones.

The following web site provides links to all U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies involved in importing of agricultural products as well as links to all other U.S. government agencies with involvement and regulation of imports.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/import.html>

### ***Denver***

U.S. Government Printing Office & Bookstore, (303) 844-3964  
1660 Wynkoop Street  
Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80202-1144

### ***Pueblo***

U.S. Government Printing Office & Bookstore, (719) 544-3142

### **United States Department of Agriculture**

**Public Information Line (8.30 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST, M-F), (202) 720-2791**

### **Food and Drug Administration**

**General Information, (301) 827-5006**

Above Information Provided by the Federal Government Information Line 1-800-688-9889 and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division, (303) 239-4114.