



Gary Teh <garyjob@truesight.me>

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## Fwd: Importing Food Products

1 message

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John Saadeh <john@saadehlawfirm.com>  
To: garyjob@truesight.me, Suheil Z <suheilz@w3blab.io>

Tue, May 16, 2023 at 3:45 PM

Hello,

Please find the below information regarding the Food Import process and requirements. Please take a look and that's see what the next step are.

Kind regards,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wiener, Steven** <Steven.Wiener@fda.hhs.gov>  
Date: Tue, May 16, 2023 at 10:01 AM  
Subject: Importing Food Products  
To: john@saadehlawfirm.com <john@saadehlawfirm.com>

Hello John—

Thank you for your inquiry regarding importing food products to the United States. Please see this link for information on the [General Import Process](#). This [website from CBP](#) is also useful.

Food imported into the United States must meet the same laws and regulations as food produced in the United States. It must be safe and contain no prohibited ingredients, and all labeling and packaging must be informative and truthful. It is the Importer's responsibility to ensure that the imported food is in compliance and to follow the conditions of their customs bond. [How to Start a Food Business](#)

### Summary

1. Ensure all food is manufactured in accordance with [Food Good Manufacturing Practices](#).
2. Ensure all [food labeling](#), including websites/promotional materials, are in compliance.
3. Ensure all required firms are [registered as Food Facilities](#).
4. Ensure the [FSVP Importer has a DUNS #](#) for their U.S. facility if required.
5. Check to see if any [Import Alerts](#) apply to your product and/or manufacturer.
6. Consider hiring a Customs Broker to file your entry with CBP, FDA, and any other applicable federal agencies.
7. File [Prior Notice](#) **PRIOR** to goods arriving to the U.S.
8. Hold goods intact at a location near the port of entry until you receive a May Proceed or Release from FDA.
9. If FDA requests documents or an inspection, provide the requested information and/or documents via [ITACS](#).
10. Monitor status of entry on [ITACS](#) for final admissibility decision.

### Importing Food Overview

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To import a food product into the U.S., all firms, foreign and domestic, that manufacture, process, pack or hold the food need to be [registered with FDA as Food Facilities](#). The registration only applies to physical locations where the food is being manufactured,

processed, packed, or held. Please do not register office addresses that do not perform one of these activities. ([Step-by-Step Guide to Food Facility Registration](#)).

After you receive your food facility registration number, the next step would be to visit the [Import Information page](#) and the [Overview of Requirements for a Food Business](#) on the FDA website for packaging, [labeling](#) and facility information. Please visit the [commodity specific information](#) related to your product to ensure you are aware of any additional regulations specific to the product that you will be importing to the U.S.

As of May 30, 2017, there are [Key Requirements for all FSVP Importers](#), including obtaining a unique identifier called a [DUNS #](#) for their U.S. facility that will hold all of their FSVP records for FDA inspection. This must be a facility in the U.S. You will need the DUNS # to transmit entries to FDA or an exemption code [if the food is exempt](#) from FSVP requirements or the business has a later [compliance date](#). You can read more on obtaining a [DUNS # here](#). This [FSVP Q & A](#) is also very helpful.

Please review FDA's [Import Alerts](#). Import Alerts are a tool used by FDA to prevent potentially violative goods from entering U.S. commerce. [Import Alerts](#) can be product/manufacturer specific, product specific, and/or country specific. Please read the specific instructions in the Import Alert for more information.

Once you have verified your food is manufactured in compliance with all U.S. regulations, all required food facilities are registered, and you are ready to import into the U.S., you will need to ensure that [Prior Notice](#) is filed before the goods arrive in the U.S. Your Customs Broker can do this for you when filing your entry or you can file online yourself ([Step-by-Step Guide](#)). Prior Notice informs FDA when a shipment of your product will be coming to the U.S. Please be mindful that you must submit the prior notice 8 hours prior to arrival if by sea, 4 hours prior to arrival if by air, 4 hours prior to arrival if by rail, and 2 hours prior to arrival if by truck. This [Prior Notice Q & A](#) document may be helpful.

Additional questions regarding food can be directed to FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN):

#### **Outreach and Information Center**

1-888-SAFEFOOD  
1-888-723-3366  
10 AM- 4 PM EST  
Closed Thurs 12:30PM - 1:30PM EST

Inquiries: [Submit Your Question](#)

#### **FDA Guidance**

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GENERAL IMPORTS INFO	FOOD REGULATIONS	SYSTEMS INFORMATION
<a href="#">Importing Human Foods Overview</a>	<a href="#">How to Start a Food Business</a>	<a href="#">FDA-ACE Supplemental Guide</a>
<a href="#">Import Basics</a>	<a href="#">Food Facility Registration</a>	<a href="#">Product Code Builder</a>
<a href="#">Entry Submission Process</a>	<a href="#">Prior Notice</a>	<a href="#">Product Code Builder Tutorial</a>

Actions & Enforcement	Foreign Supplier Verification Program	
Import Alerts	Food Labeling	
	Good Manufacturing Practices	
	Food Guidance Documents	

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I hope this helps. Thank you,

**Steven Wiener**  
Health Communications Specialist | Public Affairs Branch

**Office of Regulatory Affairs**  
**Office of Communications and Project Management**  
**U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

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