

# A Practical Manual for Producers and Exporters from Asia

## REGULATIONS, STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS



This manual has been jointly produced by the Trade and Markets Division (EST) and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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# Why this manual?

## Objectives

*Provide producers and exporters with information on:*

- *the regulations of main import countries*
- *major voluntary certification programmes*
- *contacts where more information on import regulations and certification programmes can be found*

Many producers and exporters feel that the market for certified agricultural products is very complex and that the opportunities and requirements associated with the certification programmes are not always clear. In addition, producers do not always know if the requirements are compulsory (created as an official law or regulation in the importing country) or voluntary. After having read this manual, the reader should be able to understand the main voluntary certification programmes, their importance, the differences between them as well as their advantages and limitations. In order to be able to export his or her products any producer or exporter must also conform with the regulations of importing countries. Therefore, the reader will be able to find in this manual information concerning the main import regulations in the United States of America, the European Union, Japan and other selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region. However, topics such as farming practices and post-harvest activities are beyond the scope of this manual.

This manual comprises two parts:

- governmental standards or regulations and import requirements (Part 1)
- main voluntary private standards and certification programmes (Part 2)

It is difficult to provide comprehensive information on import regulations and certification programmes for many reasons such as the changing nature of regulations in importing countries and the diversity of products and their characteristics. Therefore, numerous Internet addresses have been provided where additional information can be obtained when necessary. You will find at the end of the manual a blank page that will enable you to update or add the Internet links gathered during your search.

We hope this manual responds to your needs.

## FOREWORD

The 28th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Jakarta in May 2006 urged member countries and FAO to assist small producers by providing support in enterprise development and marketing. The Conference also requested FAO to continue assisting countries in enhancing capacity to meet international food quality and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards - thus facilitating trade and safeguarding plant, animal and human health - and assist in establishing and maintaining appropriate regulations, monitoring and surveillance to ensure food quality and safety.

FAO is promoting practices leading to favourable enabling business environments in Asia. Improving the business capabilities of agro-enterprises is a regular component of FAO's technical assistance on rural livelihoods development to member countries. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is also involved in improving food quality and safety in Asian countries through a wide range of interventions.

This practical manual on standards, certification and regulations for agricultural exports is the fruit of a multidisciplinary team effort. It was officially launched at the *Regional technical consultation on independent certification* that FAO organized in October 2007 in Nakhonpathom, Thailand, to raise the awareness of regional agrifood stakeholders on marketing tools available to them to improve their competitiveness and the quality and safety of their products.

The ongoing process of accumulating technical experience and knowledge on developing agro-enterprises and food quality and safety will be synthesized and major policy issues will be presented to the Ministers of Agriculture of the region's member countries at the 29th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Pakistan in 2008, through an issue paper on *Agribusiness and competitive agro-industries in the context of globalization and free trade* and an information paper on *Food safety and trade in Asia-Pacific*. I hope this process will lead to high-level policy recommendations and decisions on actions to foster more competitive agro-enterprises and production of high-quality and safe agrifood products in the region.



He Changchui

Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

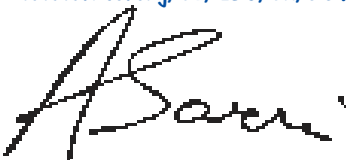
## PREAMBLE

An important part of the mandate of the Trade and Markets Division (EST) of FAO is to identify the problems affecting commodity trade and propose solutions to address them, through both international and national action. EST provides technical assistance to developing countries to help them understand and overcome the various constraints to trade. EST became involved in issues regarding private standards and certification as these continued to arise in the analytical work on trade and economic problems related to the agricultural commodity markets which it analyses.

EST has produced several technical studies and information publications on standards and certification to assist decision makers in the public and private sectors. In April 2004 it organized a Conference on *Voluntary Standards and Certification* that gathered over 120 stakeholders from the private and public sectors to discuss opportunities and constraints associated with private standards and seek solutions. Since then, it has published a series of regional extension manuals aimed at producer organizations, trainers, extension agents and exporters describing the import regulations of the main export markets and major private standards and voluntary certification programmes. There is a manual for each of the following regions: Central America, South America, West Africa and East Africa. With the present manual, EST is extending the coverage of the series to the Asian region.

All these manuals as well as the other reports and studies published by EST on private standards and certification can be downloaded from its Internet portal on responsible agricultural production and trade:

[www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/20953/22218/highlight\\_44152en.html](http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/20953/22218/highlight_44152en.html)



Alexander Sarris

Director

Trade and Markets Division (EST)

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# PART 1

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## **TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND CONTROLS FOR IMPORTING**

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To export their products into the international market, producers and exporters must comply with technical regulations (mandatory standards) set by public institutions to ensure product quality, environmental protection and consumer health. These regulations are different depending on the product and the country of export and import. Some regulations are based on international food standards, while others were developed by individual countries. Non-compliance with these requirements may lead to quarantining or product rejection by import countries.



*Sampling and testing product quality*

Intergovernmental bodies work towards the international harmonization of standards. These include:

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission, created by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practices under the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

[www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index\\_en.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp)

- The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) which adopts international standards for phytosanitary measures and governs the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

[www.ippc.int/ipp/en/default.jsp](http://www.ippc.int/ipp/en/default.jsp)

- The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), which develops health standards for international trade in animals and animal products

[www.oie.int/eng/en\\_index.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm)

This part of the manual focuses on the main technical regulations and import requirements of the world's top three import markets: the United States of America, the European Union and Japan. However, the Asian market also provides interesting market opportunities for Asian exporters. The reader will therefore find at the end of this part a list of contacts where information on import regulations in selected Asian countries can be found. In addition, the manual gives a link to a Web site that lists local organizations which provide support to exporters and may inform them on the regional market.

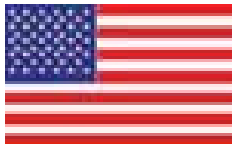
# 1. COMMERCIAL QUALITY AND LABELLING REGULATIONS

Consumers are increasingly concerned about their health, the country of origin and the quality of the products they consume. Most popular regulations focus on grade, size, weight, and package labelling. Regarding labelling, required information includes: country of origin, product name, variety and quantity. Requirements relating to commercial quality are about variety, colour, expiration date, external damage and shape.



*Cold chain, grading, and selection to meet top quality standards for export*

## United States of America



The United States of America requires that agricultural imports be graded according to the standards of the American Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

For more information on product grading and quality requirements established by the USDA:

USDA: [www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm)

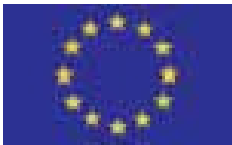
USDA: [www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab-8e.html](http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab-8e.html)

FDA: [www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/lab-ind.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/lab-ind.html)

One of the components of the 2002 Farm Bill (the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) is the implementation of mandatory country of origin labelling (COOL). For more information on this programme:

USDA: [www.ams.usda.gov/cool/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/)

## European Union



The European Union requires that imported fresh fruits and vegetables meet the European Union marketing standards for quality and labelling. The control is done by an inspection body

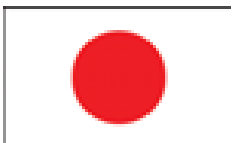
at the point of import or in the case of some approved third countries, at the point of export. For more information on the marketing standards of the European Union, consult the United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Web site:

DEFRA EU Marketing Standards: [www.defra.gov.uk/hort/hmi.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/hort/hmi.htm)

EU on-line Export Help Desk for developing countries: [www.export-help.cec.eu.int/](http://www.export-help.cec.eu.int/)

## Japan



Japan requires that imported products comply with regulations in the Food Sanitation Law, the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) Law and the Measurement Law. For more information on standards and import procedures for specific products:

Japan External Trade Organization: [www.jetro.go.jp/en/market/regulations/](http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/market/regulations/)

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: [www.maff.go.jp/soshiki/syokuhin/hinshitu/e\\_label/index.htm](http://www.maff.go.jp/soshiki/syokuhin/hinshitu/e_label/index.htm)

## 2. FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS

Producers need to ensure the quality and safety of their produce and avoid all potential hazards such as risks from contaminated water or from other microbial or chemical contaminants.

### **Maximum residue limits of pesticides**

Regulations on the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides etc.) are effective both at national and international levels. Producers and exporters must comply with the regulations of their country (when the latter has a regulation on maximum residue limits of pesticides) and the regulations of import countries. They may only use chemicals that are registered for use on a particular crop and must strictly follow the directions indicated in the instructions leaflet or on their containers (boxes and bottles).



*Excessive pesticide use is harmful and may also result in rejection of a shipment by the importing country*

The following links contain comprehensive information on food safety regulations at international level (e.g. Codex Standards and WTO rules) or national level:

[www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp](http://www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp)

[www.fao.org/aq/agm/agns/index\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/aq/agm/agns/index_en.asp)

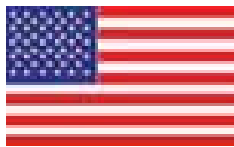
Home page of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

[www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index\\_en.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp)

Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

[www.codexalimentarius.net/web/procedural\\_manual.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/procedural_manual.jsp)

## United States of America

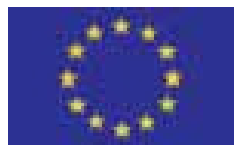


In the United States of America, the maximum residue limits for pesticides are established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and controlled by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the point of import for all agricultural products. For more information on the requirements and the maximum residue limits established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): [www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_04/40cfr180\\_04.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/40cfr180_04.html)  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/viewtols.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/viewtols.htm)  
[www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/index.html)

The following Web site enables users to get maximum residue limits for the United States of America and other importing countries according to crop, pesticide active ingredient or pesticide type and country:

[www.fas.usda.gov/http/MRL.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/http/MRL.asp)

## European Union



The European Union continues to lower the maximum limits of pesticide residues permitted in products. For many pesticides there are now common limits that apply to the entire European Union. However, for some pesticides the residue limits vary from country to country. Each country verifies that regulations are met (usually through the ministry of agriculture) at its point of entry. When European Union countries have not set up maximum limits, exporters are required to obtain an import tolerance. For more information about pesticide residue limits in the European Union member countries:  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index_en.htm)  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/index_en.htm)  
[www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21289.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21289.htm)

For appropriate contact points in the member states:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/evaluation/contact\\_dec.xls](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/protection/evaluation/contact_dec.xls)

For information about application procedure of an import tolerance:

[www.pesticides.gov.uk/applicant\\_guide.asp?id=1239](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/applicant_guide.asp?id=1239)

## Japan



In Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Environmental Department are responsible for establishing and testing residue limits. These limits are based on the Food Sanitation Law. For information on food safety:  
[www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/index.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/index.html)

## Product traceability

In response to recent problems about food safety (e.g. mad cow disease) and global terrorism, many governments are increasing control over all stages of food production, processing and distribution to protect consumers against the biological, chemical and environmental contamination of food. Traceability (product tracing) is the ability to follow the movement of food through specified stages of production, processing and distribution. They also enable efficient recall in case of the products' contamination. Furthermore, they help determine the origin of a food safety problem, comply with legal requirements and meet consumers' expectations for the safety and quality of purchased products.



*Documentation at harvest and coding on packages are components of a traceability system*

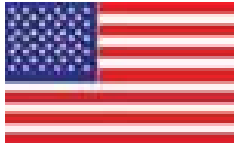
A growing number of governments and retailers are now requiring that the HACCP principles together with the application of Good Hygienic Practices (GHPs) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) be used in food production.

[www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/food\\_fruits\\_en.stm](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/food_fruits_en.stm)

[www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/quality\\_haccp\\_en.stm](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/quality_haccp_en.stm)

HACCP manual: [www.fao.org/docrep/w8088e/w8088e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/w8088e/w8088e00.htm)

## United States of America



The Government of the United States of America has adopted the Bioterrorism Act, which requires that all exporters register with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and give notice prior to product arrival in the United States of America. For more information about the United States of America Bioterrorism Act:

Food and Drug Administration:

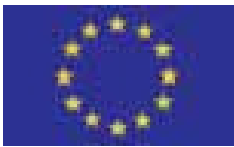
[www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ffsbta5.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ffsbta5.html)

[www.access.fda.gov/](http://www.access.fda.gov/)

The Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL) programme requires that from 30 September 2008 the country of origin should be indicated on the product's label for a number of agricultural products. COOL will have impacts on traceability requirements of the United States of America towards its supplier countries. General information on this programme can be found at:

USDA: [www.ams.usda.gov/cool/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/)

## European Union



The European Union regulations on traceability entered into force in January 2005. In order to comply with these rules, it is important that European Union importers identify the origin of products. As a consequence, the latter could require exporters to comply with traceability requirements even if exporters in trading partner countries are not legally required to fulfil the traceability requirement imposed within the EU. General information on traceability can be found at:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/foodlaw/guidance/guidance\\_rev\\_7\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/foodlaw/guidance/guidance_rev_7_en.pdf)

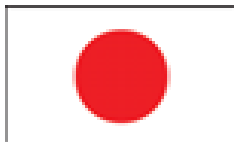
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/foodlaw/traceability/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/foodlaw/traceability/index_en.htm)

[www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/132041.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/132041.htm)

For explanations on the foodstuff hygiene requirements, please consult:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/hygienelegislation/guidance\\_doc\\_852-2004\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/hygienelegislation/guidance_doc_852-2004_en.pdf)

## Japan



At the time of preparing the manual, no traceability requirements for exporters existed in Japan.

### 3. PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS

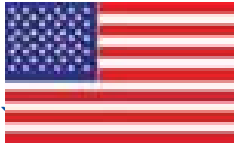
Producers must comply with phytosanitary regulations to prevent the entry and spread of plant diseases and pests into new areas. The major importing countries around the world implement pest risk analysis in order to determine the risk level of an imported product and inspect products on arrival to ensure that the level of risk is not exceeded.



*Local official inspecting imported goods*

It is necessary to apply for phytosanitary certificates for regulated products such as plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables, and cut flowers. For detailed information on phytosanitary certificate content: [www.ippc.int/IPP/EN/default.jsp](http://www.ippc.int/IPP/EN/default.jsp) (under phytosanitary regulation section)

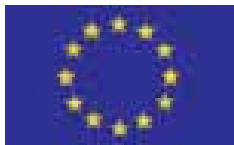
## United States of America



In the United States of America, inspectors from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (an agency of United States Department of Agriculture) must examine and approve all shipments before they can be cleared for customs. If signs of pests or disease are found, the produce may be either fumigated (or treated in another manner), returned to the country of origin or destroyed. For further information on the plant quarantine system of the United States of America:

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits)

## European Union



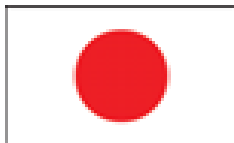
To export to the European Union, producers and exporters must comply with the plant health regulations of the European Union. Regulations are enforced at the point of entry. For more information on the plant health regulations in the European Union, contact the International Phytosanitary Portal at:

[www.ippc.int/IPP/En/nppo.jsp](http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/nppo.jsp)

or for the Consolidated text on the phytosanitary requirements of the European Commission (Council Directive 2000/29/EC plus amendments) go to:

[www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/2000/en\\_2000l0029\\_do\\_001.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/2000/en_2000l0029_do_001.pdf)

## Japan



The Japanese Government requires supplier countries to comply with the Plant Protection Law, the Plant Health Law and the Food Sanitation Law. These regulations are enforced by the Plant Protection Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). More information on Japanese phytosanitary regulations or the Japanese quarantine system can be found at:

Plant Protection Station: [www.pps.go.jp/english/](http://www.pps.go.jp/english/)

Japan External Trade Organization: [www.jetro.go.jp/en/market/regulations/pdf/plant2003apr-e.pdf](http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/market/regulations/pdf/plant2003apr-e.pdf)

Animal quarantine: [www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/ryoko/index.htm](http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/ryoko/index.htm)

## 4. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Final authorization for product entry depends on the customs officials in the country of import. To clear customs, the exporter must fill out the necessary forms (commercial, shipping) and pay all fees (duties, taxes). Since processing these forms can be time consuming, some countries now offer preclearance programmes to save time. This means that products can be cleared for customs in the country of origin by officials who can guarantee that product regulations were followed.

Non-compliance with one of these regulations of import countries may cause product rejection.

### United States of America



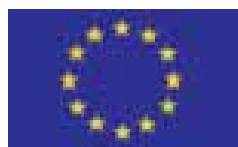
Customs officials can only authorize the entrance of products into the United States of America after inspections by APHIS and the FDA at the point of entry. Exporters must also pay the necessary duties there, as determined by quantity, value, description and country of origin. To speed up the processing time at the border, exporters can complete certain customs procedures before departure. For example, through APHIS International Services it is now possible for some countries to get preclearance on import documents like phytosanitary certificates. For more details about the available preclearance arrangements in the United States of America:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/preclearance/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/preclearance/)

Exporters can also use an Automated Commercial System developed by the American Customs to process documents electronically. For more information:

[www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/operations\\_support/automated\\_systems/ams/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/operations_support/automated_systems/ams/)

### European Union

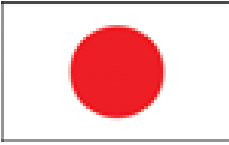


Procedures for customs clearance in the European Union vary according to countries. However, many of these countries have electronic customs systems and other programmes that speed up clearance time. For specific information about customs procedures and tariff rates (by country):

Taxation and Customs Union: [www.europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/common/about/welcome/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/common/about/welcome/index_en.htm)

Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI): [www.cbi.nl](http://www.cbi.nl)

## Japan



Prior to arrival of the products, exporters must notify the quarantine station at the point of entry through an electronic system operated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. To

reduce the time spent at customs, a sample of the product can be brought to an official lab in Japan or in the exporting country and the results submitted for preclearance. Consumption tax and duties are paid before final clearance is given. For further information about import procedures:

[www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/index.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/index.html)

Japanese customs: [www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm](http://www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm)

## How to deal with rejected shipments?

Shipments of agricultural products may be rejected at the entry port of the importing country because of non-compliance with one or more of the regulations mentioned above. If the problem identified is very serious, the shipment and all its packaging material will be destroyed at the cost of the exporter. If the problem identified is not so serious, the exporter may choose to redirect the shipment to another market where the rules are less demanding, also at the exporter's cost.

Most industrialized countries now share similar import regulations so it is increasingly difficult to redirect shipments to other markets, especially perishable fresh produce. Furthermore, the European Union has a system of food safety alert which automatically informs all member countries of a rejected shipment; this prevents the same shipment from re-entering the European Union through another port. Likewise, the Patriot Act of the United States of America prevents any shipment from re-entering the country if it has already been barred at one port of entry.

After passing customs, a shipment may still be rejected by the importer if it does not conform to his or her requirements; it will then be destroyed at the

exporter's cost. Thus, shipment rejection is extremely costly for exporters. This is why it is essential to ensure that exported goods comply with all the rules and regulations of importing countries and with the requirements of the importer before the goods leave the exporting country. It is also important to document any rejection procedure so that records may be kept for future reference. There are mechanisms to contend a rejection decision, but these are not well adapted to the perishable nature of food products.

If you suspect that one of your shipments may have a problem that could cause rejection, it is best to recall the product or inform your customer immediately. This shows proactive action and due diligence to ensure food safety. Remember that any rejected product brings a bad reputation not only to your business, but also to the whole industry in which you operate, and eventually to all products produced in your country!

## **5. IMPORT REGULATIONS IN SELECTED ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES**

Your government is a primary source of information on regulations for exports and import rules in foreign markets. Please contact the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Foreign Trade of your country. The economic or trade department of the embassy of the importing country may also provide information on import regulations.

In addition, you will find below a list of possible sources of information in the import countries. Please note that this list is not comprehensive and does not reflect any judgement whatsoever by FAO on the organizations or Web sites that have or have not been included.

### **AUSTRALIA**

Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations:

[www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import](http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import)

### **BHUTAN**

Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) Ministry of Agriculture, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel.: +975 2 327 031

Fax: +975 2 327 032

### **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ): [www.aqsiq.gov.cn/](http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/)

e-mail: [webmaster@aqsiq.gov.cn](mailto:webmaster@aqsiq.gov.cn)

Tel.: +86 10 8226 0001 or +86 10 8226 1600

Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM): [www.mofcom.gov.cn/](http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/)

Tel.: +86 10 6512 1919

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA): [www.agri.gov.cn/](http://www.agri.gov.cn/)

Tel.: +86 10 6419 3366

### **HONG KONG, SAR**

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department:

[www.fehd.gov.hk/](http://www.fehd.gov.hk/)

Chief Health Inspector (Import/Export)

Tel.: +852 2867 5570

Fax: +852 2521 4784

Web site of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for  
Information on Imports:

[www.afcd.gov.hk/](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/)

### **INDIA**

Import rules for agricultural products: [www.exim.indiamart.com/](http://www.exim.indiamart.com/)

### **MALAYSIA**

Information on import rules and regulations: [www.agrolink.moa.my](http://www.agrolink.moa.my)

### **NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand Food Safety Authority

[www.nzfsa.govt.nz/labelling-composition/](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/labelling-composition/)

### **PAKISTAN**

Information on rules for importing agriculture and aquaculture products:

[www.cbr.gov.pk](http://www.cbr.gov.pk)

## **PHILIPPINES**

Bureau of Food and Drugs (Department of Health):

[www.bfad.gov.ph](http://www.bfad.gov.ph)

Tel.: +63 (2) 807 072; 842 56 06; 842 4538

Fax: +63 (2) 842 4603

Contact: Executive Director ([director@bfad.gov.ph](mailto:director@bfad.gov.ph))

Department of Agriculture:

[www.da.gov.ph](http://www.da.gov.ph)

Tel.: +63 (2) 928 8741 to 65

Fax: +63 (2) 929 8183; 928 5140

Contacts: Secretary for Agriculture, Chief, International Relations Division

## **SINGAPORE**

Import regulations

[www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/info/imp/Import+Requirements.htm](http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/info/imp/Import+Requirements.htm)

## **THAILAND**

Import rules for agriculture products:

[www.doa.go.th/en/](http://www.doa.go.th/en/)

[www.nfi.or.th/nfi/home.php?form\[module\]=links&form\[index\]=index&form\[lang\]=eng](http://www.nfi.or.th/nfi/home.php?form[module]=links&form[index]=index&form[lang]=eng)

Import rules for aquaculture products:

[www.fisheries.go.th/english/index.php](http://www.fisheries.go.th/english/index.php)

## **VIET NAM**

Viet Nam Customs Department:

[www.itpc.hochiminhcity.gov.vn/english/trade\\_guide/vn\\_tariff/vn\\_index.html](http://www.itpc.hochiminhcity.gov.vn/english/trade_guide/vn_tariff/vn_index.html)

Ministry of Agriculture:

[www.agroviet.gov.vn/en/default.asp](http://www.agroviet.gov.vn/en/default.asp)

Ministry of Fisheries:

[www.mofi.gov.vn](http://www.mofi.gov.vn)

## 6. ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING EXPORT AND QUALITY IN ASIA

Producers and exporters need to familiarize themselves with a large variety of technical regulations and import requirements which can at first seem complicated. However, there are a number of international and national organizations located in each of the Asian countries that work to help producers comply with these regulations. Do not hesitate to contact them. They can provide additional information or relevant training.



*Tea farmer gets information about European import restrictions and procedures from an NGO supporting farmers' organizations.*

### At international level

European Union on-line Export Help Desk for developing countries:

[www.export-help.cec.eu.int/](http://www.export-help.cec.eu.int/)

Guidelines to facilitate trade:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/pdf/guide\\_thirdcountries\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/pdf/guide_thirdcountries_en.pdf)

International Trade Centre: [www.intracen.org/menus/itc.htm](http://www.intracen.org/menus/itc.htm)

Market Access Database: [www.mkaccdb.eu.int](http://www.mkaccdb.eu.int)

APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation zone

One-stop Web site for import regulations for all APEC members countries:

[www.apec.org/apec/apec\\_groups/committees/committee\\_on\\_trade/market\\_access\\_group/import\\_regulations/australia.html](http://www.apec.org/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/market_access_group/import_regulations/australia.html)

### At national level

Your government may have programmes assisting exporters of agricultural products and farmers producing for export. Please contact your Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Foreign Trade.

In addition, the following Web page lists a selection of Asian organizations that may provide information and assistance for exporting:

[www.fao.org/es/esc/en/20953/21020/highlight\\_35950en.html](http://www.fao.org/es/esc/en/20953/21020/highlight_35950en.html)

