



ER2FOOD

Strategic support for facilitating the adoption of Energy and Resources efficiency as drivers for the technical and business development of Egyptian SMEs and start-ups of the FOOD sector

Standards and regulations in EU



This project has received funding from Europe Aid /
Contract ENI 2021/425-091



Agenda

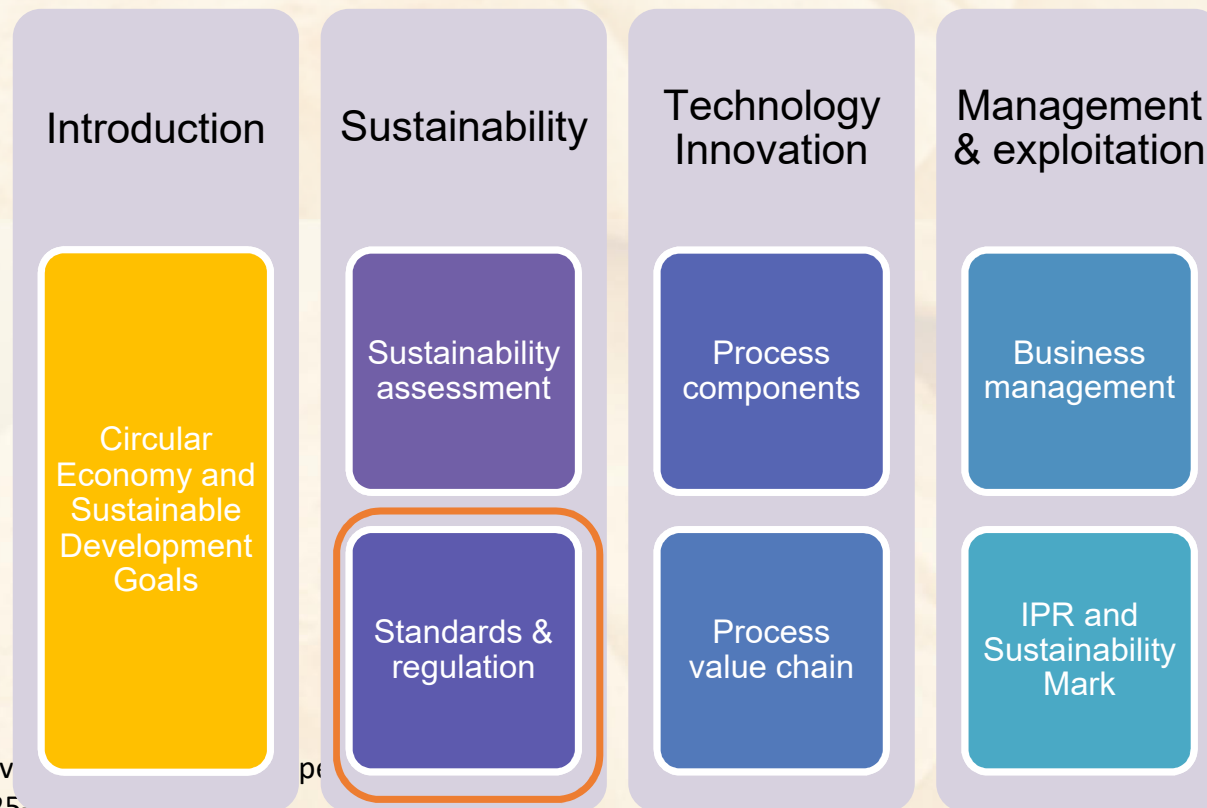
- **Introduction to the module: scope and goals**
- Food in Egypt
- Food export: data
- Food export: regulation
- Conclusions





Introduction to the module: scope and goals

This is one of the training modules defined for the group: “Sustainability”





SCOPE and GOALS

The goal of the project:

- ER2FOOD project aims at providing strategic support and expert consultancy services to Egyptian MSMEs and start-ups from the value chain of industrial bakery, for facilitating the adoption of Energy and Resources efficiency as drivers of their technical and business development

The goals of the module:

- To provide a generic overview of active norms about food management in Egypt
- To share main requirements for food exporting in EU





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Food in Egypt

Standards and regulations in EU

The Egyptian government is consolidating the national food safety system. Implementation is through Prime Ministerial Executive Regulation 412 (February 2019) – **National Food Safety Authority (NFSA)**. On January 2, 2017, Egypt's parliament approved Law No. 1 (2017) establishing the National Food Safety Authority; publishing it in the country's official gazette on January 10, 2017. Prime Ministerial Decrees 683 (2017) and 1733 (2017) established the NFSA's board of trustees and board of directors.

The National Food Safety Authorities: The implementing regulation mandates that the NFSA assume full responsibility from other ministries, public institutions, government agencies, and municipalities for the regulation of foodstuffs. This law eliminates the previous patchwork of food-related regulation, which created confusion and inefficiencies for Egyptian exporters and importers.



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*<https://www.nfsa.gov.eg/>



Food in Egypt

Standards and regulations in EU

National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) in January 2017. It is an Egyptian independent organization under the Office of the Egyptian Prime Minister.

Its **mission** is to

- protect consumer health, by ensuring that food products consumed, distributed, marketed or produced in Egypt
- meet the highest standards of food safety and hygiene.

The agency is responsible for food safety regulation for domestic production, import and export through undertaking inspection, licensing and certification.



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*<https://www.nfsa.gov.eg/>



National Food Safety Authority (NFSA)

- Supervising the handling of food, while ensuring compliance with legislation requirements.
- Inspecting, supervising and licensing food handling, as well as workers at different food handling facilities.
- Establishing the necessary procedures for risk assessment, analysis, management, communication and awareness
- Controlling, developing, and implementing mandatory systems that ensure food safety, including the development of traceability systems.
- Raising community awareness about food safety.
- Conducting studies and research related to food safety and collecting relevant scientific data.
- Issuing export certificates of locally produced food, as well as supervising the facilities that require these certificates to ensure that they comply with the relevant rules and conditions.
- Testing imports and supervising locally produced food.
- Prohibiting the handling of non-safe food for human consumption and preventing fraud and deception in food labeling.
- Setting the regulations and rules for food advertising and the mandatory labeling criteria.
- Establishing procedures and rules for registration, licensing and labelling of: i) Food for Special Dietary Uses (FSDU) ii) Genetically modified foods iii) Irradiated food





NFSA Cooperation Programs

- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):** is implementing the Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation, known as the SAFE project. Since its inception in 2017, SAFE has been providing technical assistance to the NFSA under the Country Support Program in Egypt, a SAFE-led initiative, with the aim to build its capacity and support its mandate to advance the food safety agenda in Egypt.
- **World Food Program (WFP):** In June 2018, the World Food Program (WFP) and the NFSA signed a five-year agreement to raise public awareness on food safety and hygiene, support the government's efforts to ensure access to safe nutritious food. Through the signed agreement, the WFP will work on developing an online training platform for food safety inspectors on key issues related to food safety such as: good manufacturing practices (GMP) for food, food handling, and supply chains efficiency.
- **Land O'Lakes International Development /U.S. Department of Agriculture:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is currently supporting a Food for Progress (FFP) program in Egypt.





NFSA Standards

Standards and regulations in EU

- Labelling requirements
- Packaging and container regulations
- Food additive regulations
- Intellectual property rights



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Labeling requirements - Egypt Standard 1546 (2011)

Labeling guidelines are determined by Egyptian standard 1546 (2011) and are applicable to all food product imports. Foreign language label information must be translated into Arabic. Discrepancy between the English and Arabic dates may result in product rejection. Labels can be printed on the package or be a permanent adhesive sticker. Products cannot show more than one date of manufacture or expiration on the package. For example, goods have been rejected if the inside package has a different date than the one on the outside carton. Information on the label cannot be erased, mutilated, or altered. Requirements are more restrictive for meat and poultry products.

Labels must include the following information:

- i) Name and address of manufacturer
- ii) Brand or trademark, if appropriate
- iii) Country of origin
- iv) Type of product and grade
- v) Name and address of importer
- vi) Production and expiration dates. (These dates may be mentioned separately on the top of the package. They can be applied by laser, imposed, or printed. In such cases, there is no need to repeat them on the label).





Labeling requirements

- vii) Product ingredients
- viii) Storage instructions or temperature requirements for products - storage temperature must be cited with the refrigeration statement on the boxes to fully clarify the type of product being handled (e.g., "KEEP FROZEN - STORE AT OR BELOW ____degrees C.; KEEP CHILLED (OR REFRIGERATE) - STORE BETWEEN ____degrees C. and ____degrees C.").
- ix) Net weight x) Gross weight and total number of the packages per case or carton.
- xi) If the product contains preservatives, the percentage of each preservative should be indicated.
- xii) If the product is meat or poultry, the following statement must appear: "slaughtered according to the Islamic ritual" or "Halal slaughtered."





Packaging and container regulations

According to Ministry of Health Decree 73 (2001) for packaging materials, Egypt maintains no special packaging or container size requirements, regulations, or preferences. There are no restrictions or limitations on the use of any packaging materials like polyvinyl chloride. Articles impacted by the solid waste management (Law No. 4 of 1994) do not have any significant impact on imported food products.





Food additive regulations

On May 31, 2015, the Minister of Health issued Decree 204 (2015) regarding food additives accepted for use by the food industry. This regulation among other food safety regulations will be considered noncompulsory once the National Food Safety Authority issues its own regulation. Until the NFSA replaces or updates regulations, the current ones will remain enforced. The positive list of food colors that are allowed in food products according to Decree 204 (2015) are listed in dedicated Table (see reference document at page 10) .





Intellectual property rights

In June 2002, Egypt passed the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Law 82 (2002), which describes a copyright's legal rights and enforcement procedures, expedited trademark registration, and piracy protection.

- The following certificates and documents must be submitted during the registration process:
- A sample of the logo and brand name.
- A certification of the company's incorporation in its home country.
- A certificate issued by the Commercial Register in Egypt affirming that the proposed name of the company or logo has not been registered in Egypt.

The company must apply for a “Trademark Examination Form” to check whether a similar trademark for the product already exists in the market. If a foreign company wishes to protect its logo, the company must supply the General Administration for Trademark with an example of its logo as registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The foreign company should employ an agent in Cairo to follow the trademark registration process. Article (90) provides trademark protection for ten years, starting at registration. After the ten-year period, the trademark's owner has six-months to submit a renewal for protection, which can be extended for several different periods. However, the new law grants automatic trademark status to internationally known products without registering with the Commercial Registration Department.





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Food export data

	Unit	Exports	Imports	Balance
EU27 Agri-Food trade with Egypt				
Agri-Food trade value	m EUR	1 694	1 050	644
- as share of EU27 total Agri-Food trade	(%)	0.9	0.9	
- as share of EU27 total trade with Egypt	(%)	9.3	16.4	
% change 2019 - 2020		-9.8	-0.5	
Annual rate of change from 2010 - 2020	(%)	2.9	7.8	
EU27 total trade with Egypt				
Total trade value	m EUR	18 144	6 400	11 744
- as share of EU27 total trade	(%)	0.9	0.4	
EU27 world trade				
Total trade value	m EUR	1 931 709	1 714 224	217 485
Total Agri-Food trade	m EUR	184 340	122 320	62 020
- as share of EU27 total trade	(%)	9.5	7.1	28.5

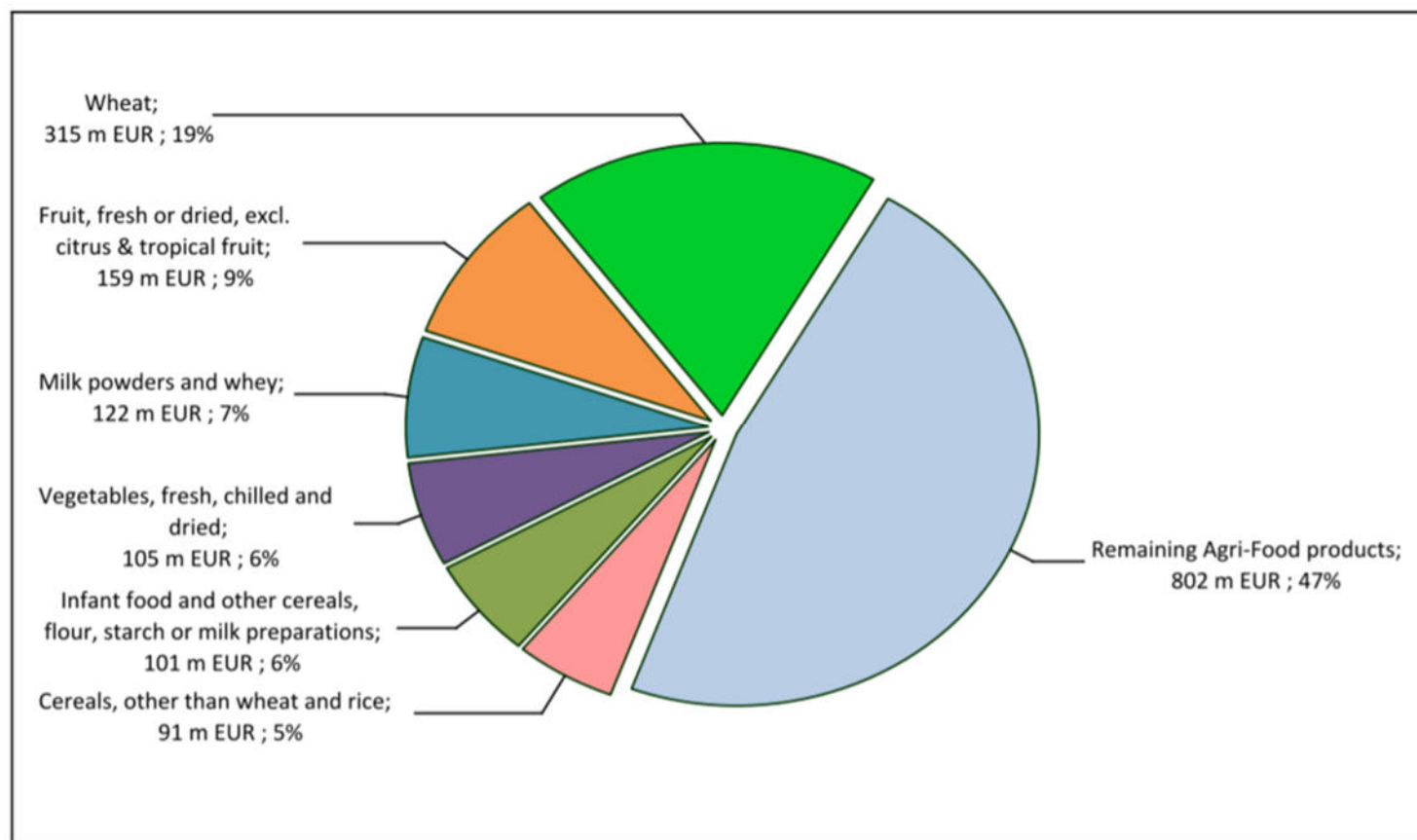


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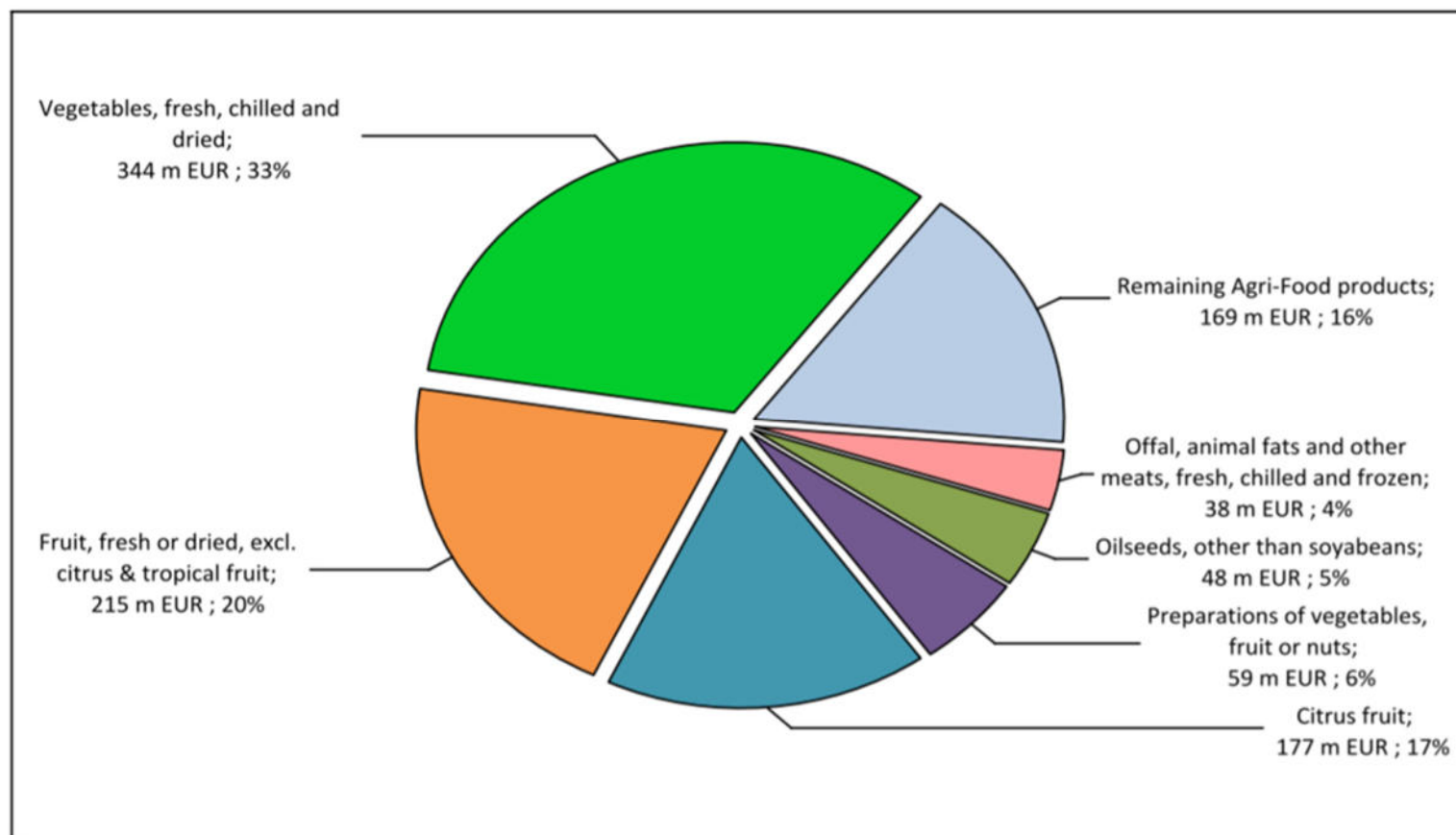


Food export data – Top EU Agri-Food exports to Egypt in 2020





Food export data - Top EU Agri-Food imports from Egypt in 2020





Food export data – evolution of 20 top EU Agri-Food Exports to Egypt, 2016-2020

		Exports						
		Value (million EUR)					%	
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Share in all Agri 2020	Change 2019-2020
1	Wheat	399	277	224	456	315	18.6	-30.9
2	Fruit, fresh or dried, excl. citrus & tropical fruit	109	64	80	153	159	9.4	3.9
3	Milk powders and whey	99	95	103	137	122	7.2	-10.9
4	Vegetables, fresh, chilled and dried	115	86	126	134	105	6.2	-21.6
5	Infant food and other cereals, flour, starch or milk preparations	100	67	106	102	101	6.0	-1.0
6	Cereals, other than wheat and rice	72	19	17	92	91	5.4	-1.1
7	Cheese	76	50	58	74	80	4.7	8.1
8	Cotton, flax and hemp, and plaiting materials	57	66	68	85	77	4.5	-9.4
9	Miscellaneous seeds and hop cones	56	53	51	61	64	3.8	4.9
10	Food preparations, not specified	49	37	52	67	61	3.6	-9.0
11	Pet food	42	44	54	53	59	3.5	11.3
12	Chocolate, confectionery and ice cream	25	19	30	37	42	2.5	13.5
13	Butter	42	18	8	33	39	2.3	18.2
14	Live animals	77	51	38	18	38	2.2	111.1
15	Casein, other albuminoidal substances and modified starches	19	19	20	27	36	2.1	33.3
16	Cocoa paste and powder	22	16	18	25	28	1.7	12.0
17	Cigars and cigarettes	24	17	36	38	26	1.5	-31.6
18	Pasta, pastry, biscuits and bread	16	12	14	21	25	1.5	19.0
19	Beet and cane sugar	21	83	153	56	23	1.4	-58.9
20	Raw tobacco	28	26	24	20	21	1.2	5.0
	Remaining Agri-Food products	225	145	162	188	183	10.8	-2.7

* <https://ec.europa.eu/>



Food export data - evolution of 20 top EU Agri-Food Imports from Egypt, 2016-2020

		Imports						
		Value (million EUR)					%	
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Share in all Agri 2020	Change 2019-2020
1	Vegetables, fresh, chilled and dried	263	294	242	402	344	32.8	-14.4
2	Fruit, fresh or dried, excl. citrus & tropical fruit	125	163	200	225	215	20.5	-4.4
3	Citrus fruit	93	111	129	102	177	16.9	73.5
4	Preparations of vegetables, fruit or nuts	30	40	56	54	59	5.6	9.3
5	Oilseeds, other than soyabeans	35	46	42	47	48	4.6	2.1
6	Offal, animal fats and other meats, fresh, chilled and frozen	22	27	24	28	38	3.6	35.7
7	Bulbs, roots and live plants	31	27	26	29	29	2.8	0.0
8	Tropical fruit, fresh or dried, nuts and spices	16	14	14	16	19	1.8	18.8
9	Essential oils	19	25	22	21	17	1.6	-19.0
10	Fatty acids and waxes	1	1	5	8	15	1.4	87.5
11	Other feed and feed ingredients	22	25	26	37	14	1.3	-62.2
12	Cotton, flax and hemp, and plaiting materials	13	12	12	13	10	1.0	-23.1
13	Food preparations, not specified	1	1	1	2	9	0.9	350.0
14	Sugar, other than beet & cane	16	23	11	15	9	0.9	-40.0
15	Fruit juices	6	12	17	17	8	0.8	-52.9
16	Pasta, pastry, biscuits and bread	2	2	3	4	6	0.6	50.0
17	Miscellaneous seeds and hop cones	3	4	4	3	4	0.4	33.3
18	Casein, other albuminoidal substances and modified starches	4	3	2	4	4	0.4	0.0
19	Waters and soft drinks	3	3	4	4	4	0.4	0.0
20	Coffee and tea extracts	4	2	1	1	3	0.3	200.0
	Remaining Agri-Food products	46	24	20	23	18	1.7	-21.7



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Checks are carried out on food entering the EU market to ensure they meet the same high requirements as foods from EU Member States. Controls carried out on food and food contact materials imports include:

- documentary checks
- identity checks, and
- physical checks

When importing foods into the EU, you must comply with the general principles of food law set out in various Regulations and standards.

These are necessary for:

- the food is safe and defines what is meant by unsafe food
- that food imported into the EU complies with the relevant requirements of food law, or
- where an agreement exists between the EU and the exporting country, with the agreed requirements which are recognised by the EU as equivalent





Food export

Standards and regulations in EU

 Reg. (EU) 178/2002 Laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety	 Reg. (EU) 852/2004 Hygiene of foodstuffs
 Reg. (EU) 1169/2011 Provision of food information to consumers	 Reg. (EU) 1935/2004 Materials and articles intended to come into contact with food
 Reg. (EU) 1169/2011 Provision of food information to consumers	 Reg. (EU) 396/2005 Maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin

Mandatory

 ISO 22000:2005 Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain	 ISO 22005:2007 Traceability in the feed and food chain
 ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems	 ISO 9001:2015 Quality management systems
 ISO 50001:2018 Energy management	

 Eco-management and audit schemes	 Scheme for Food Safety Management Systems	 International Food Standard
 Bio-dynamic certification	 EU organic food	 Global Standard for Food Safety

Voluntary



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Food export - Reg. (EU) No 178/2002

The Reg. (EU) 178/2002 includes the general principles and requirements of the food laws, establish the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and lay down procedures in matters of food safety, providing “a strong science base, efficient organisational arrangements and procedures to underpin decision- making in matters of food and feed safety”. Moreover, another entity has been establishing the RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) involve in the management of the emergencies and risks that can occur in any food supply chain.

The Food Law is analysed in chapter II (General Food Law) and it includes “laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing food in general, and food safety in particular, whether at Community or national level; it covers any stage of production, processing and distribution of food, and also of feed produced for, or fed to, food-producing animals”. Food Law relates to “all stages of the production, processing and distribution of food” (Art. 4) and so it can be adopted from Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups to increase their performance as well as to open export into EU market [General Food Law \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups should strongly consider Section 4, as it is dedicated to the general requirements of food law that food business have to follow: Food safety requirements – Art 14; Food product presentation – Art. 16; Food business operator responsibilities – Art. 17 and Art. 19; Food traceability – Art. 18;





Food export - Reg. (EU) 1169/2011

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, on the provision of food information to consumers, entered into application on 13 December 2014. The obligation to provide nutrition information applies since 13 December 2016.

This Regulation provides in particular clearer and harmonized presentation of allergens (e.g., soy, nuts, gluten, and lactose) for prepacked foods (emphasis by font, style or background colour) in the list of ingredients and mandatory allergen information for non-prepacked foods, including in restaurants and cafes. It also foresees certain nutrition information for the majority of prepacked processed foods, the mandatory origin information for fresh meat from pigs, sheep, goats and poultry and the same labelling requirements for online, distance selling or buying in a shop.

The Regulation clarifies the responsibilities of food business operators with respect to food information.





Food export - Reg. (EU) 852/2004

- Food safety responsibility is primary on food business operator;
- Necessity to ensure food safety throughout the whole supply chain;
- Cold chain maintenance for foods that cannot be store at ambient temperatures;
- HACCP principles and good hygiene practices application at all levels on the food supply chain;
- Establishment of microbiological criteria and temperature control requirements based on a scientific risk assessment;
- it is necessary to ensure that imported foods are of at least the same hygiene standard as food produced in the Community or are of an equivalent standard. This point is the baseline for Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups interested in food export in EU market





Food export - Reg. (EU) 852/2004

In the end, the annex II of Reg 852 includes the general hygiene requirements for all food business operators. In detail, Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups can find useful information about:

- General requirements for food property;
- Specific requirements in rooms where foodstuffs are prepared, treated or processed;
- Transport;
- Equipment requirements;
- Food waste;
- Water supply;
- Personal hygiene;
- Provisions applicable to foodstuffs;
- Provisions applicable to the wrapping and packaging of foodstuffs;
- Heat treatment (for instance, the baking process);

Food safety culture and training are also discussed in the regulation.





Food export - Reg. (EU) 1907/2006 (REACH)

In Regulation (EC) no. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council, known as the "REACH", concerns the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of chemicals. It has to be respected if there is the necessity to produced or imported substances into the European Union in quantities of more than one tonne per year.

The registration of a substance consists in the submission, by manufacturers or importers, of some basic information on its characteristics and, in the absence of available data, the performance of experimental tests to characterize its physicochemical, toxicological and environmental properties.

The purpose of REACH legislation is to limit the exposure of citizens to certain chemicals (especially those considered toxic). Among the more than one thousand substances regulated by REACH, some are expressly prohibited while for others there are margins of tolerance and the product is declared compliant if the percentage of a given substance is below a certain threshold





Food export - Reg. (EU) 1881/2006

Reg. (EU) 1881/2006 of 19th December 2006 defines the admitted maximum levels of certain contaminants in food, important to be controlled in view of the public health security. It can be reminded that the contaminants are non-intentionally added substances (NIAS), but penetrated in the food during the supply chain steps such as the production, packaging and transportation phase. In particular, the focus of the (EU) 1881/2006 is to protect the most vulnerable population groups, such as children, the elderly and pregnant women





Food export - Reg. (EU) 1935/2004

Important for the purposes of supply chain traceability is EC Reg. n. 1935/2004 concerning materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. The principle underlying this Regulation is that packaging materials intended to come into contact, directly or indirectly, with the food have to be sufficiently inert to exclude the transfer of substances (migration or scalping phenomena) in quantities likely to endanger human health or bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the food or a deterioration in their organoleptic characteristics.

To be compliant with the requirements, any traceability system should be ensured at all stages in order to facilitate control, recall of defective products, information to consumers and attribution of responsibility. Economic operators should be able to identify at least the companies from which and to which the materials and articles come from





Food export - ISO 9001 – Quality management systems

The ISO 9001 is the most ISO standard adopted worldwide, with 916842 valid certificates. It is organized in the high-level-structure (HLS), based on a set of 10 clauses that make implementation and auditing more uniform. ISO 9001 points out the requirements for a quality management system in any company. Businesses with standard can demonstrate their ability to provide products and services reliably and that meet customer expectations and that are also in line with regulatory requirements. ISO 9001 implementation lead to concentrate on the important areas of your business and improve efficiency, productivity and then profit.

Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups that successfully adopt ISO 9001 will have the benefits of mistakes/errors reduction, communication and reporting activities improvement, service and/or products with increased quality, activities performed more efficiently, enhanced organizational structure and regulatory requirements compliance,.





Food export - ISO 14001 Environmental management systems

ISO 14001 sets the guidelines to implement an environmental management system, namely policies, processes, plans, practices and records that define the rules governing how the company interacts with the environment. its adoption can support companies to improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and therefore reduce costs.

ISO 14001 adoption can provide assurance to company management, employees and all stakeholders on the value chain, that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

The ISO 14001 certification of the company includes first the implementation of an EMS based on the ISO 14001 requirements, and then recognized certification body will audit and approve the EMS as meeting the requirements of the standard.

The ISO 14001, with the updates of 2015, it structured with the well-known High-Level Structure. The ISO 14001 is based on a plan-do-check-act cycle.

ISO 14001 adoption can deliver multiple benefits to Egyptians MSMEs and start-ups, from reduction of environmental impact and costs, performance improvements and conformance with legislative and regulatory requirements. The reduction in energy, materials and waste management costs by choosing renewable energy sources and committing to less in-house waste are some of the greatest benefits delivered by ISO 14001 adoption. In addition, ISO 14001 is an international-recognized standard, and businesses operating in multiple locations across the globe can leverage their conformance to ISO 14001, eliminating the need for multiple registrations or certifications. ISO 14001 can also improve the company image and credibility as it can provide demonstrable management of the environmental impacts. In the end, ISO 14001 uses a data-based and therefore an evidence-based decision making and also supports a culture of continual improvement.





Food export - ISO 14040-44 Environmental management systems

The awareness of the importance of environmental questions in EU area has led to greater interest in the development of methods aimed at measuring and reducing the impacts caused by production processes. ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 are the two standards focused on the environmental management system which provide the principles for the implementation of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology.





Food export-ISO 22000 Food safety management systems requirements

ISO 22000 represents one of the fundamental voluntary standards on the management of the agri-food sector, compatible and harmonized with the other International Normative regarding that field, in particular the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 (already explain in the previous paragraph). The ISO 22000 can be integrated with the existing Regulation systems and management procedure and it is applied in direct and indirect way to the whole food supply chain, starting from the producers to the distribution channel.





Food export - ISO 22005 traceability in the feed and food chain

Since January 2008, the UNI EN ISO 22005:2008 standard "Traceability in the agri-food chain - General principles and basic requirements for design and implementation systems" provides the principles and specifies the basic requirements for designing and implementing an agri-food traceability system. It can be applied by an organization operating at any stage of the agri-food chain and is the voluntary reference for certification of supply chains and fits into the context of product certifications. The movement may relate to the origin of materials, processing history, or feed or food distribution, and should include at least one next and one previous stage for each organization in the supply chain.



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Conclusions

- Europe and Egypt have a long trading tradition also based on the import/export of food products
- The requirements and certifications which are needed for exporting food products in Europe are many, in any case this also represents a great opportunity, mainly for larger companies (smaller companies would have higher risks and costs)
- Food export to EU is growing as well as the Egypt production capacity





Standards and regulations in EU

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