



Regulatory News Alerts & Updates

Regulatory Alert: Safe Food for Canadian Regulations – Manufactured Foods

January 16, 2024

Important Reminder

In order to import food regulated under the Safe Food for Canadian Regulations (SFCR), commercial importers must be in possession of a Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) license. A valid SFC license is required prior to the importation of the goods and cannot be obtained at time of import.

A valid SFC license to import must be:

- active (not expired, surrendered, suspended, or cancelled)
- issued for the activity "Importing Food"
- issued for the commodities that are being imported

Beginning February 12, 2024, a valid SFC license will be required and must be declared at time of import to prevent clearance delays when importing [manufactured foods](#) into Canada for commercial purposes (for sale or for business, industrial, commercial, occupational, or other similar uses). This would include food products that fall under, but are not limited to, the following sub-commodities:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Confectionary, sweeteners, snack foods
- Nuts, grains, seeds
- Grain derived foods (e.g., bread products, rice, pasta)
- Spices, herbs, flavours, condiments, dressings
- Fats and oils,
- Infant foods (e.g., liquid, and powdered formulas)
- Foods not otherwise listed

In addition, the following food imports will continue to be rejected by the Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) if a valid SFC License and/or a SFC license number is not provided at time of import.

- Meat
- Fish
- Dairy
- Eggs
- Processed Eggs
- Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Honey
- Maple
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

For more information, please visit the CFIA [Importing food with a valid Safe Food for Canadians License](#) article on the Government of Canada website.

Non-Resident Importer (NRI) Food Businesses

SFCR for food importations apply to both resident importer and non-resident importer (NRI) businesses, however, SFC licenses will only be issued to NRIs if they meet the following conditions:

- Operate a fixed place of business in, and ship food directly from, a foreign country the CFIA has recognized as having equivalent food safety standards as Canada
- Ship only specified foods that have been CFIA approved, for import by an NRI, for the country in which they are being exported
- Maintain records of all import transactions in English or French that are readily available for review by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the CFIA, upon request

A list of all recognized foreign countries, and the approved food commodities for importation by an NRI for each country is available on the [CFIA website](#). Food commodities that are not approved for import by an NRI may be imported by a resident importer (Canadian business) with the appropriate License, Certificate, Permit, and Other document (LCPO)s. Specific import requirements for food importations are available in the [CFIA Automated Import Reference System](#) (AIRS).

References:

Definition of Manufactured Foods

<https://inspection.canada.ca/food-licences/importing-food-with-a-valid-sfc-licence/eng/1608588974837/1608588975118#a21>

CFIA - Importing food with a valid Safe Food for Canadians License

<https://inspection.canada.ca/food-licences/importing-food-with-a-valid-sfc-licence/eng/1608588974837/1608588975118>

CFIA – Importing from specific countries

<https://inspection.canada.ca/importing-food-plants-or-animals/food-imports/specific-countries/eng/1526656633984/1526656634249>

CFIA AIRS

https://airs-sari.inspection.gc.ca/airs_external/english/decisions-eng.aspx