

Food Products Requirements

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Requirements for Imported Food Products in Venezuela

Below is the complete overview of sanitary registration requirements for imported food products in Venezuela, including regulatory requirements, dossier documentation, labeling requirements, and estimated approval timelines.

The competent health authority is the Ministry of People's Power for Health (MPPS) through the Autonomous Health Comptroller Service (SACS), with support from official laboratories when analysis is required.

Sanitary Registration of Imported Food Products in Venezuela

1. Applicant Prerequisites

Before applying for registration:

- Company legally established in Venezuela
- Valid sanitary operating license or permit
- Registration as a food importer with the health authority
- Designated sanitary responsible person
- Contract or authorization from the foreign manufacturer

2. Administrative Documents

Administrative section of the dossier:

- Official sanitary registration application form
- Importer sanitary license
- Company commercial registration
- Power of representation from manufacturer to importer

- Free Sale Certificate or Health Certificate from country of origin
- Proof of payment of fees
- Product holder declaration

3. Technical Requirements of the Dossier

3.1 Product Technical Information

- Product trade name
- Product description
- Qualitative and quantitative formula (ingredients and additives)
- Physicochemical specifications
- Microbiological specifications
- General manufacturing process
- Proposed shelf life
- Storage conditions
- Packaging type and materials

3.2 Certificates and Analysis

- Manufacturer's certificate of analysis (physicochemical and microbiological)
- Stability or shelf-life studies (if applicable)
- Manufacturer quality certificates
- Documentation of compliance with international food standards (if available)

3.3 Samples

- Commercial product samples for official analysis when required by the authority

4. Food Labeling Requirements

Labeling must be in Spanish and submitted within the dossier for prior approval.

Mandatory label information:

- Product name
- List of ingredients in descending order
- Net content (weight or volume)
- Manufacturer name and address
- Importer name and address in Venezuela
- Country of origin
- Batch number
- Manufacturing date and expiration date
- Storage conditions

- Venezuelan sanitary registration number (once approved)
- Nutritional information (nutrition table)
- Allergen warnings when applicable
- Instructions for use or preparation (if applicable)

Labeling documents within the dossier:

- Final artwork of primary packaging
- Final artwork of secondary packaging
- Nutritional label design
- Official Spanish translations if original labeling is in another language
- Signed declaration of labeling compliance

5. Additional Requirements

- Apostilled or legalized foreign documents
- Official Spanish translations
- Payment of regulatory fees
- Declaration of compliance with Venezuelan sanitary regulations

6. Estimated Timeline for Registration

Timelines may vary depending on food category and technical observations:

Typical timelines:

- Administrative review: 1 – 2 months
- Technical evaluation: 3 – 6 months
- Laboratory analysis (if required): 2 – 4 months

Average total time:

- 6 – 12 months to obtain sanitary registration.

7. Validity of the Sanitary Registration

- Typical validity: 5 years
- Renewal requires updated sanitary certificates, valid labeling, and product documentation