

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS INTO THE SEYCHELLES

The importation of meat and meat products and other products of animal origin are regulated under the following statutes and require permit to import:

- Animals and Plants Biosecurity Act 2014;
- Food Act ;
- Trades Tax Regulations – Customs Management Act;

Subject to the following conditions:

1. No person shall import any meat and meat product except under a permit issued by Veterinary Services and all conditions of the permit have been complied with. Veterinary Services must have access to all documentation before an importation can occur.
2. A person/company seeking to import any meat and meat product shall make an application for a biosecurity import permit in respect to the animal product to be imported. For commercial imports the application is done to through the Ministry of Finance at Liberty House whereas for non – commercial imports (10 kgs) can be done directly at Veterinary Services.
3. Meat products may only be imported from approved sources i.e countries / export establishments approved to export meat and products to Seychelles.
4. **It is the importer's or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant statutes and import conditions at the time of importation.**

Note

New market(s) have to apply for market access pursuant to Part VI, Section 73 of the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act. Application should be made to the Director (Biosecurity Agency), Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport, P.O. Box 656, Maison Queau de Quinssy, Mont Fleuri, Mahé, Republic of Seychelles or Ministry responsible for trade.

5. A single use import permit issued by Veterinary Services is required for every consignment of non –commercial meat product. Commercial imports are usually covered by a permit with three (3) months validity but can be amended depending of the current disease status of the approved exporting country or in accordance with the existing regulations of the exporting country.
6. All meat and meat products must originate from establishment approved to export by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country meeting the import requirements of the importing exporting country.

7. Each consignment (commercial or non-commercial) must be accompanied by an Official Health Certificate in English, French or a translation that is clear, legible duly endorsed with original stamp and signature issued by official/registered veterinarian authorized by the veterinary authority of the exporting country in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code regarding certification procedures attesting that Seychelles` animal health and food safety requirements (as per the veterinary import permit) have been complied with. In the event of any disease or food safety issues arising in the exporting country, this must be duly discussed and agreed upon prior to certification or shipment.
8. Meat products coming from approved third countries must be accompanied by a certified copy of the certificate issued by the country of origin.
9. Every carton and basic packaging unit of meat and meat product imported must be properly labelled.
10. Every consignment of meat product imported will be inspected upon arrival prior to release to importer. Sea freight containers will be issued with Landing Permit for landing purposes if the documents are in compliance with the conditions listed in the Veterinary Import Permit. Upon inspection, sampling for laboratory analysis may be required and consignments may be placed on "hold and test" pending the outcome of the laboratory analysis.
11. The current statute makes provisions for small quantities of commercially produced meat and meat products to be imported in the country for personal consumption but require authorization from the relevant Authority.

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GENERAL IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR RED MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND EDIBLE OFFALS

In accordance with the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act 2014, *(name and address of importer)* is hereby authorized to import the following products listed below by air and/or sea freight from *(Name, address and approval number of approved export establishment and list of products to be imported)*

Subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That such meat originated from an area or farm which is free from infectious diseases (to which the animal species is susceptible) of compulsory notification by the OIE.
- (b) That in the case of FMD, the importation is carried out as per the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code in relation to the exporting country's FMD status.
- (c) That the meat derives from animals which have passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter.
- (d) That the meat has been unconditionally passed as sound and wholesome in all respects for human consumption and has not been treated with chemicals and prohibited additives / preservatives/ colouring matter or foreign substances injurious to health. and meet the microbiological requirements of Codex Alimentarius. Moreover, under organoleptic examination, they do not demonstrate abnormal colours or odour;
- (e) The carcass, meat and meat products were prepared, handled, processed and packed in a sanitary manner in accordance with laws of the country of origin with all necessary precautions taken to prevent any danger to public health.
- (f) That the products were held in a cold storage for a period of not less than two weeks after slaughter. All precautions have been taken to prevent contamination whilst in cold storage, transit and that it is in a sound marketable condition at time of shipment.

Note

1. In cases of disease outbreaks or other public or animal health hazards reported in the exporting country, safeguard measures prohibiting or restricting imports can be put in place at very short notice and the importer will be notified accordingly.
2. Specific health requirements for other meats such as game meat amongst others can be obtained on demand.

3. New regulations under the Food Act are being drafted and our trading partners will be notified in due course.

GENERAL IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR POULTRY MEAT AND POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS

In accordance with the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act 2014, (name and address of importer) is hereby authorized to import the following products listed below by air and/or sea freight from (Name, address and approval number of approved export establishment and list of products to be imported):

- a. Each consignment comes accompanied with an original health certificate in English/French or a translation that is clear and legible duly endorsed by an Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date;
- b. The poultry meat and poultry meat products were obtained from clinically healthy poultry, slaughtered and processed in approved establishments, which are under the supervision of a competent veterinary service;
- c. That such meat originated from an area or farm which is free from infectious avian diseases of compulsory notification by the OIE;
- d. The Poultry meat and poultry meat products originate from poultry kept on farms which have been free from Newcastle disease for 6 months prior to export;
- e. The poultry whose meat is intended for export to the Republic of Seychelles was subjected to an ante-mortem veterinary inspection and their carcasses and internal organs to post-mortem veterinary inspection by the state/official veterinary services and found fit for human;
- f. That the poultry meat and poultry meat products meat has been unconditionally passed as sound and wholesome in all respects for human and do not contain harmful microbes, their toxins and residues of radioactive substances, antibiotics, growth hormones, heavy metals and meet the microbiological requirements of Codex Alimentarius. Moreover, under organoleptic examination, they do not demonstrate abnormal colours or odour;
- g. The carcass, meat and meat products were prepared, handled, processed and packed in a sanitary manner in accordance with laws of the country of origin with all necessary precautions taken to prevent any danger to public health.;

Note

In cases of disease outbreaks or other public or animal health hazards reported in the exporting country, safeguard measures prohibiting or restricting imports can be put in place at very short notice and the importer will be notified accordingly.