

## **Meat and Processed Food to Myanmar: Opportunities and Regulations**

Historically meat consumption levels in Myanmar have been quite low since almost 90% of Myanmar's population are Buddhist and almost a third live below the poverty line. According to Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), total meat production is 2.96 million metric tons in 2015-2016. Per capital consumption of meat in Myanmar is 8.6 kg/year (Source: FAO Global Trend in Animal Source Protein) which is lesser than other ASEAN countries except India.

Commercial meat production in Myanmar centres on poultry (broiler and layers) and to extent on pork, cattle and beef. Poultry meat is the common food in Myanmar. The poultry sector in Myanmar is growing around 15% per year and with increasing income and extra demand for poultry products. Domestic poultry consumption has been seen a 20 percent year-on-year increase since 2012, according to Myanmar Broiler Association. Current production of the poultry production in Myanmar is 150 million broilers per year and it will increase to an estimated 400 million within 5 – 10 years.

Currently, meat consumption is increasing due to increasing income and international visitors with the greatest demand still for chicken and pork meat, however red meat is also growing in popularity. There is an increasing number of restaurants and bars serving beef and lamb dishes to young people eager to try new tastes. Therefore the demand for quality imported meat and processed food is increasing by the high-end hotels, restaurants and supermarkets because of local producers still need to work towards improving their farms to enhance the quality of their products.

Dairy products, particularly long life butter, milk and cheese are popular with Myanmar consumers. Storage of these products though has been difficult due to the lack of domestic refrigeration and frequently power outages, so buyers tend to only purchase what they need for each day. Modern convenience stores are appearing on many street corners in the major cities and there will be expected to grow many convenience stores in the next few years.

This article provides specifically information for export from the Netherlands to Myanmar of meat and processed foods by describing regulations, procedures and steps from market access.

### **Regulation for Importing Meat**

The regulations for importing meats and their edible animals' products into Myanmar are as follow;

#### **1. Import license**

The consignment of meat and their edible animals products should be accompanied by a valid import license from the Ministry of Commerce.

#### **2. Description of Animal**

The consignments should be accompanied by a certificate containing a full description or identification of the animals.

#### **3. Veterinary Certification**

- a. A health certificate signed by a fully authorized Veterinary officer.
- b. Certificate should include the detailed facts of commodity and the following disease status;
  - The country of origin is free from Rinderpest and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.
  - Origin of country/region/zone is free from foot and mouth disease (FMD).
  - Origin of farms or premises of origin has been free from infectious and contagious disease notifiable in the country of origin the past (12) months preceding the slaughter of the animals and until the time of export.
  - The animals are born and reared in the origin country or have been in the country of origin for not less than (4) months prior to slaughter.
  - The animals have received ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and found to be free from infectious and contagious disease.
  - The meat / meat products have been processed under supervision of fulltime authorized veterinary officials. Every precaution has been taken to prevent any contamination during the manufacturing, packing and until the time of export.
  - The meat/meat products do not contain preservative, additives or any substances posing the harmful risk to human health.

- Products have been sampled to test for food microorganisms as well as drug and pesticide residue.
  - Products have been stored by frozen for not more than (3) months prior to export.
- c. The meat/meat products should bear a health mark or meat inspection legend in any form or a label.

#### 4. Quarantine in Myanmar

- The meat/meat products are subjected to inspection for laboratory testing upon arrival. The owner/importer should be charged for the expenses.
- Failure to follow the import procedures may result in returning the products to the original country or destroyed without compensation.

#### 5. Fees

The following fees are payable for each consignment of meat and edible animal products imported into Myanmar.

- Fresh meat : 1500 MMK per metric ton
- Dried meat : 4000MMK per metric ton

### **Certificates or guarantees needed for meat and animal products import by Myanmar authorities**

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, is the main responsible policy body, also involved in serving and issuing the recommendation letter for the importation of meat and their edible animal products into Myanmar.

The importer should provide the following documents when they apply to get the recommendation letter from LBVD.

- Application form of LBVD
- Application letter with meat importer company's letter head (undertaking for quality and price assurance, storage and market condition)
- Copy of Veterinary Health Certificate and food safety Certificate issued by the competent authority.  
(the exporting country has to be free from HPAI if they want to export chicken meat)
- Copy of HACCP certificate for the processing plant of exporting country
- Undertaking letter for the approval of being inspected by the LVBD on the arrival of imported commodity.
- Pro-forma Invoice
- Sales contract
- Original recommendation letter for the imported commodity issued by Meat Inspection Board of Myanmar Livestock Federation
- Copy of Form 6/26

For More information, please see the following links

Form 6>>[https://dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/uploads/pdf/form\\_6\\_1.pdf](https://dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/uploads/pdf/form_6_1.pdf)

Form 26(Directors' details)>> [https://dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/uploads/pdf/form\\_26.pdf](https://dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/uploads/pdf/form_26.pdf)

After checking the application form with relevant documents by LBVD, department will issue the recommendation letter and the importers have to pay fees to department upon receiving the letter. LBVD will also check and take samples on the arrival of imported commodity and will get the original Health Certificate.

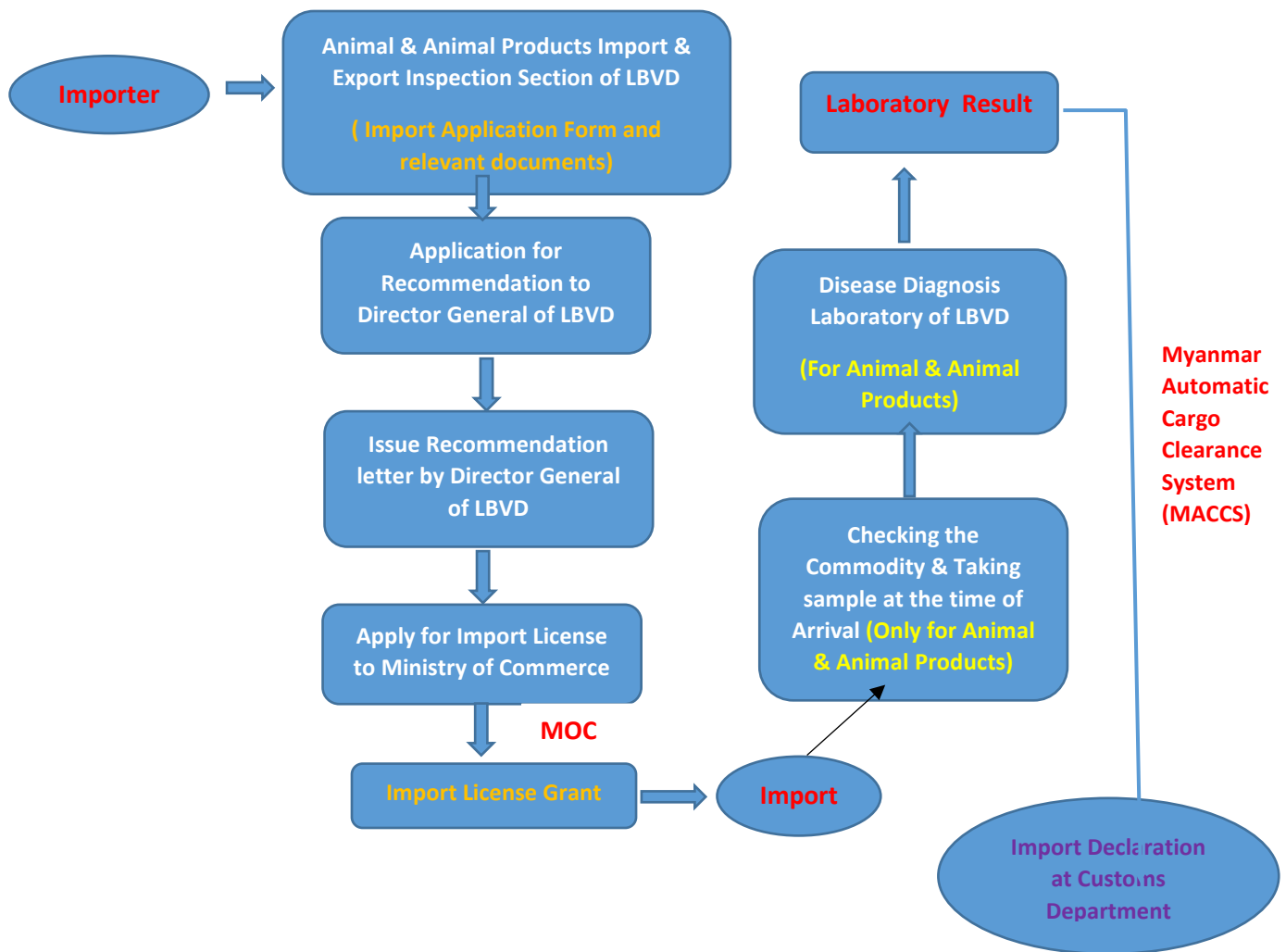
Below is an official link to NVWA (link to CLIENT Export in NL) regarding the approved establishments in the veterinary field.

<https://nvwa.nl/topics/approved-establishments/establishments-in-the-veterinary-field>

<https://nvwa.nl/topics/approved-establishments/animal-byproducts>

The recommendation letter from LBVD will be able to apply import permit/license of meat to the Ministry of Commerce(MOC).

## Procedure to Obtain Recommending letter for Importing meat and animal products into Myanmar



### Certificates or guarantees needed for processed foods import by Myanmar authorities

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Sport is the regulatory body for food safety, which oversees the safety and quality of food, drugs, medical devices and cosmetics in Myanmar. Also involved in serving and issuing the Import Recommendation letter (IR) and the Health Certificate for the importation of import consignment including processed foods into Myanmar.

The Import Health Certificate (IHC) is required for every shipment for the purpose of custom clearance. The following documents are required to apply to get Health Certificate from FDA.

- Import Health Certificate form
- Health Certificate or Certificate of Analysis
- Bill of loading
- Invoice
- Packing list
- Import declaration or Release Order (MACCS)
- Import Recommendation letter(IR)
- Photos of products or sample of products label (2 sets)

Importers must apply for an import recommendation letter (IR) with a product sample and supporting documents. The following documents are required to apply to get IR which has 2 years validity.

- Import recommendation application form
- Food specification
- Ingredients (if not indicate in label)
- Good Manufacture Practices (GMP) certificate or Product Registration from Food Safety authority or Free Sale Certificate or HACCP certificate or ISO 22000 from certified body
- Photos of products or samples of products label (2 sets)

The requirements of labeling are as follow;

- ❖ Brand name
- ❖ Kind of food
- ❖ Net weight
- ❖ Ingredients
- ❖ Name of manufacture and address
- ❖ Country of origin
- ❖ Expired date or manufacture date/shelf life/Batch Number

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Commerce announced on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 that nine kinds of goods (food, household appliances, children's facilities, communications equipment, medicine and food supplements, chemicals, cosmetic, consumer products and professional equipment) will be required to use the Myanmar language on their labels alone or with other languages. The new regulation covers instructions for use, storage or condition, advice on poisonous ingredients and precautions and possible side effects. Department had set 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 as the deadline for companies selling foreign products to use Myanmar language labels as part of an effort to protect public health and safety. However, if the importers have problem for laminated label, they can make/inform flyer/leaflet or handout in Myanmar version. Department has not scheduled to check custom clearance at ports yet for labeling and it is especially for end user consumers.

There are not regulations on the size or weight of imported food containers. Regarding packing materials, however Myanmar has adopted recommendations under the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standard and Quality of Product, Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group for harmonizing standards, including harmonized standards for the following products: lead, cadmium, chromium (6), bisphenol A (BPA), chloromethane and formaldehyde for Specific Migration Limit (SML).

The import recommendation letter and health certificate are both required to get an import permit/license from the Department of Trade which is a part of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC). MOC issues import license for all commodities. The validity of an import license is (3) months and it can be extended two times for another (3) months each time.

*\*\*FDA already informed to Department of Trade, MOC and Custom Department on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 for the low risk food items (1008 items), it is not required to provide both Import Recommendation and Import Health Certificate. For more information, [www.fdamyanmar.gov.mm/?p=585](http://www.fdamyanmar.gov.mm/?p=585)*

Altogether, the following documents are required to request for an import permit/license for import meat & animal products and processed foods.

- Import recommendation letter from relevant departments
- Application form with original company's letter head
- Manual application form with 600 MMK stamp from Public Information Access Center (PIAC) or online license application form via Myanmar Trade Network site (<http://www.myanmartradenet.com/>)
- Original pro-forma Invoice/Sale Contract

The exact procedure for obtaining an import permit can also be checked at <http://www.commerce.gov.mm/en/dot/article/exportimport-procedure>

The Myanmar Customs Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance also plays an important role for import products. An online custom clearance system, Myanmar Automatic Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) was launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016. The new system has been implemented at both Seaport and Airport of Yangon and Myawaddy (Kayin State, at Thai-Myanmar border). This is also part of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), in which Myanmar is required to implement the ASEAN Single Window Access for faster import and export customs clearance. Ever

since the system was implemented, the lead-time for the custom process has yet to speed up and all required supporting documents remain the same. For the registration in the MACCS system, the agent or company still needs to be physically present at the Customs Office and complete and submit the registration form. See more information on below links.

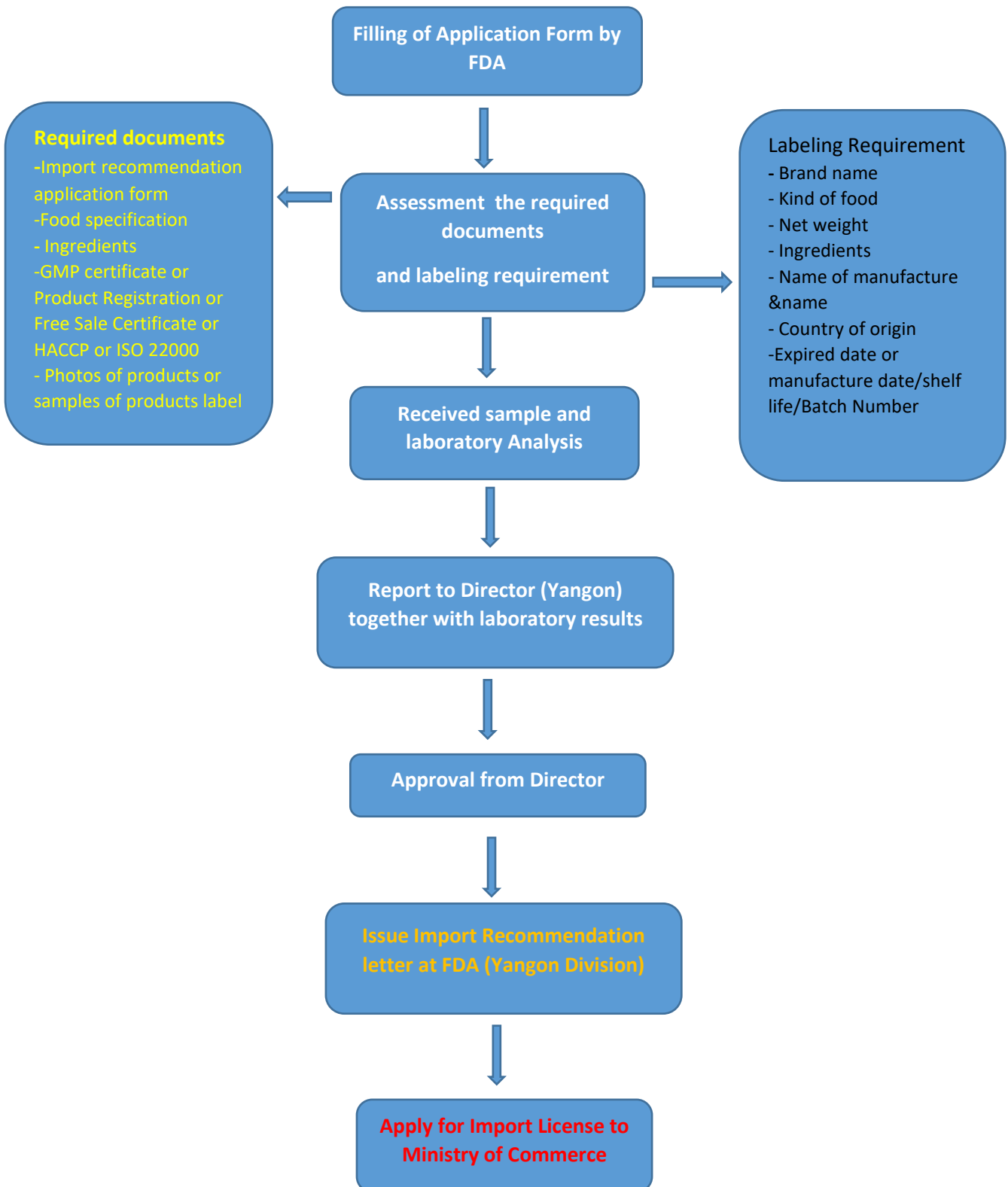
<http://www.myanmarcustoms.gov.mm/>  
<http://www.myanmarcustoms.gov.mm/maccs/Registration.aspx>

In order to clear Customs, importers must be accompanied by a custom declaration and accompany with required documents. All importer have to go through Customs using the CUSDEC-1 Import Declaration Form ( a company must provide an import declaration form called CUSDEC-1) along with the CUSDEC-4 Custom Valuation Form

<https://www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/kcfinder/upload/files/CUSDEC%204.pdf>

List of other necessary documents are a) an import license (when required), b) invoice, c) bill of loading, air consignment note or truck note, d) packing list and e) other certificate, permit or import recommendation as required ( for example; country of origin or SPS or FDA certificate). The custom declaration and supporting documents are required to submit to the custom at the time that the consignment arrive. Custom Department has not adopted pre-arrival processing yet. The custom duty assessed on import goods is a percentage of their declare value and range from 0-15% for agricultural products.

**Procedure for the application to get Import Recommendation letter from FDA in Myanmar**



**Procedure for the application to get Health Certificate for import food in Myanmar**

