

# QATAR – Food programme

## Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity Programme



State of Qatar

### 1. Regulation

Authority:	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Qatar																																																	
Notification:	<p>Technical permission issued based on point No. (12) of article (7) of Emiri decree No. (57) in 2021</p> <p>BUREAU VERITAS (BV) is recognized as a third-party conformity assessment body (On July 7th, 2024).</p>																																																	
Starting date:	July 2024																																																	
Renewal date:	N/A																																																	
Appointed company(ies):	Bureau Veritas and other conformity assessment bodies as stated by the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar.																																																	
Scope of the regulation:	<p>Conformity assessment of goods exported to the State of Qatar.</p> <p>Program is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on a mandatory basis for the followings:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Country of Origin</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Country of Supply/ Export</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Food Category</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>All countries</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Food products treated with irradiation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All countries</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Enoki Mushroom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Patanjali Foodstuff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Buffalo meat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Spices including Curry leaves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lebanon</td> <td>Lebanon</td> <td>Fresh Leafly vegetables</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jordan</td> <td>Jordan</td> <td>Fresh Leafly vegetables</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lebanon</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Grapes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egypt</td> <td>Egypt</td> <td>Fresh fruits and vegetables</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egypt</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Chilled fishes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Myanmar</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Chilled and Frozen Seafood "Fish, shrimp, squid, mussels, oysters Etc."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oman</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Chilled fish and seafood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Korea, and Philippines</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>Processed food products</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All countries except Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries</td> <td>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries</td> <td>All food Re-exported from the countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (Not including products manufactured in the GCC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El-</td> <td>All countries</td> <td>All types and sizes of UHT milk completely or partially from animal origin: full fat, low, or skimmed, whether flavored or unflavored; high or normal protein content, and including long-life UHT Lactose free milk. (It does not include organic</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Country of Origin	Country of Supply/ Export	Food Category	All countries	All countries	Food products treated with irradiation	All countries	All countries	Enoki Mushroom	India	All countries	Patanjali Foodstuff	India	All countries	Buffalo meat	India	All countries	Spices including Curry leaves	Lebanon	Lebanon	Fresh Leafly vegetables	Jordan	Jordan	Fresh Leafly vegetables	Lebanon	All countries	Grapes	Egypt	Egypt	Fresh fruits and vegetables	Egypt	All countries	Chilled fishes	India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Myanmar	All countries	Chilled and Frozen Seafood "Fish, shrimp, squid, mussels, oysters Etc."	Oman	All countries	Chilled fish and seafood	Korea, and Philippines	All countries	Processed food products	All countries except Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries	Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries	All food Re-exported from the countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (Not including products manufactured in the GCC)	Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El-	All countries	All types and sizes of UHT milk completely or partially from animal origin: full fat, low, or skimmed, whether flavored or unflavored; high or normal protein content, and including long-life UHT Lactose free milk. (It does not include organic
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<p>Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay &amp; Vanuatu</p>		<p>milk, Goat milk, canola, and other milk, except for cow's milk)</p>
	All countries	<p>All types and sizes of Pasteurized milk: full fat, low, or skimmed; flavored or unflavored, and including Lactose free types (It does not include organic milk, Goat milk, canola, and other milk, except for cow's milk)</p>
	All countries	<p>All types and sizes of Laban, yogurt, Laban drink, Ayran and Doogh: full fat, low or skimmed; flavored or not; with fruit, herbs or not; including probiotic products, Greek yogurt, Greek style yogurt and Lactose free types. Also including heat treated and non-heat-treated types after fermentation. (It does not include organic products)</p>
	All countries	<p>All types and sizes of white cheese/non-fermented (ripened)/fresh cheese made from animal origin sources, which produced using rennet or acid with or without microbial culture; full, low, or fat-free; whether; flavored or unflavored including Lactose free white Cheese and white cheese made with vegetable oils (It does not include organic cheese)</p>
	All countries	<p>All sizes and types of Mozzarella cheese: full, low, or fat-free, whether final product or prepared for processing, and including lactose-free Mozzarella or Mozzarella made with vegetable oils. (It does not include organic cheese)</p>
	All countries	<p>All sizes and types of Cooked/processed semi-liquid cheese: including processed by adding vegetable oils and Lactose-free; whether low, medium or full-fat; flavored or unflavored, and cream cheese (It does not include processed / cooked cheeses which take a specific shape such as triangles, cubes, or slices, and cooked/ processed semi-solid cheese packed in tin (canned).and Organic cooked/processed semi-liquid cheese)</p>
All countries	<p>Cooking cream, UHT cream, whipping cream, and sour cream (made from animal origin</p>	

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	sources). (It does not include organic cream)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on a voluntary basis for any other type of food products, shipped from any country of supply.</li> </ul>
Assessment based on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentary review</li> <li>Control testing if any</li> <li>Physical inspection</li> <li>Sampling</li> <li>Conclusion of the assessment</li> </ul>
Remark:	Contact Bureau Veritas to confirm that our mandate covers your export

**2. Products subject**

Subjected goods:	All food products (refer to the scope of the regulation)
Second-hand goods:	N/A
Prohibited goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hemp seeds</li> <li>Papaver or Opium poppy seeds</li> </ul>
Counterfeited goods:	Not allowed
Exempted goods:	N/A
Minimum value subject to the programme:	N/A

**3. Technical requirement**

Conformity requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All shipped products shall be registered &amp; approved in the electronic system of the Food Safety Department at the MOPH (WATHEQ)</li> <li>The food establishment in which the food products were handled (manufactured/ stored/ packed/ prepared/ etc.) shall have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an official license from the competent authorities at country of origin or export allowing them to practice their activity and</li> <li>a certified food safety management system integrating HACCP and</li> <li>be certified for Good Manufacturing/Veterinary/Agricultural Practice (may be integrated to the Food Safety Management certification)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Compliance of goods to applicable Qatari (GSO) standards and technical regulations</li> <li>Specific food products require Halal and Slaughtering certificates; phytosanitary certificates; health attestations.</li> </ul>
National deviations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product shall not be among one of the items to which import prohibitions apply such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pork meats, fat, hides, hair, blood, intestines and any other part and their derivatives (including additives, colorants, any derivative substance)</li> <li>Alcoholic wines and intoxicants of all kinds</li> <li>All food items that are manufactured by animal blood</li> <li>Olive oil mixed with other oils</li> </ul> </li> <li>Restrictions about specific countries of origin and reference to it</li> <li>Marking shall not contain depictions that are offensive to the Islamic traditions and social values in Qatar</li> <li>Long-Life / UHT milk, Pasteurized milk and Cooking Cream / UHT Cream / Whipping Cream shall be manufactured from fresh milk and not reconstituted milk (dried)</li> <li>For white/ fresh cheese, Mozzarella cheese, cooked/ processed semi liquid cheese, and cooking cream/ UHT cream/ whipping cream (including sour cream) made with vegetable oils, they shall be low fat cheese only...</li> </ul>

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Labelling requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Marking and Labelling information shall be in Arabic at least (and if an additional language is used, all information shall be matching with the Arabic one)</i></li> <li>- <i>Marking and Labelling shall comply with GSO 9 Food labelling, GSO 2233 for nutritional labelling and other specific requirements with the requirement of the approved technical regulations</i></li> <li>- <i>Shelf life as per GSO 150-1 &amp; 2 except for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For Long-Life / UHT milk, the initial shelf life shall be maximum 3 months, and the remaining shelf life shall be minimum 80% (2 months and 12 days) upon arrival at port of entry.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Pasteurized milk, the initial shelf life shall not exceed the 5 days, and the remaining shelf life shall be minimum 3 days upon arrival at port of entry.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Laban and Laban drinks, the initial shelf life shall not exceed 10 days.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Laban and Laban drinks of heated types after fermentation, the initial shelf life shall not exceed the 21 days.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Yogurt, Ayran and Doogh, the initial shelf life shall not exceed 14 days.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Laban, Yogurt, Laban drink, Ayran and Doogh, the date of production shown on the label shall be 48 hours before its entry into the State of Qatar.</i></li> <li>• <i>For white/ fresh cheese and Mozzarella cheese, the initial shelf life shall not exceed than 45 days.</i></li> <li>• <i>For cooked/ processed semi liquid cheese, the initial shelf life shall not exceed 120 days, and the remaining shelf life shall be minimum 80% (96 days) upon arrival at port of entry</i></li> <li>• <i>For cooking cream/ UHT cream/ whipping cream (including sour cream), the initial shelf life shall not exceed 60 days, and the remaining shelf life shall be minimum 80% (48 days) upon arrival at port of entry.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>For dairy products, country of origin shall be stated clearly on the front of the product retailing packaging/ container.</i></li> <li>- <i>The label of Long-Life / UHT milk and Pasteurized milk shall clearly indicate the addition of vitamins A and D</i></li> <li>- <i>For Laban, Yogurt, Laban drink, Ayran and Doogh, the type of milk used (fresh or reconstituted/ dried) shall be clearly indicated on the label, under the name of the product, and with the same font size and color</i></li> <li>- <i>For white/ fresh cheese, Mozzarella cheese, cooked/ processed semi-liquid cheese, and cooking cream/ UHT cream/ whipping cream (including sour cream) made of vegetable oils, using vegetable oils shall be clarified on the label...</i></li> </ul>
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#### 4. Application

Applicant:	<i>Exporter</i>
Application name:	<i>Request for certificate (RFC)</i>
Required documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Final invoice</i></li> <li>• <i>Official license issued by a competent authority at the export country/ country of origin for the food establishment where the food products were handled (manufactured/ stored/ packed, prepared, etc.).</i></li> <li>• <i>WATHEQ Import permit for each shipped product that confirms that all food products of the consignment were registered &amp; approved on the MOPH platform (BV may accompany exporters/importers in this registration process)</i></li> <li>• <i>Conformity documents (test reports, quality certificates, analysis reports, etc.) related to the goods to be exported.</i></li> <li>• <i>Certificate of food safety management system.</i></li> <li>• <i>For Honey &amp; bee's Products: Food safety management certificate according to GSO 1694.</i></li> <li>• <i>Certificate of Good Manufacturing/Veterinary/Agricultural Practice (may be covered by the certificate of Food safety management</i></li> <li>• <i>For meat and meat products from animals and birds originated from Non-Islamic Country: Halal and slaughtering certifications.</i></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declaration by the exporter for ruminant only confirming that carcasses were submitted at a temperature below 2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter.</li> <li>• Phytosanitary certificate for raw plant products</li> <li>• Veterinary inspection certificate for meat and meat products/ Milk and milk products (dairy products)</li> <li>• Pasteurized milk with extended shelf life more than 5 days requires exception from the Ministry of Industry and Trade before importing.</li> <li>• Long-Life / UHT milk and Pasteurized milk requires a statement or certificate from the competent authorities in the country of origin that Vitamins A and D were added if labels were not indicating the same.</li> </ul>
Application office(s):	Bureau Veritas offices (see contacts sheet on Verigates)

**5. Control testing requirements**

Applicable cases:	Conformity document not available or not acceptable
Laboratory criteria:	ISO 17025 accredited laboratory
Testing:	Control testing according to the applicable Qatari (GSO) standards

**6. Physical inspection requirements**

Scope of inspection:	Review of marking as per applicable standard(s) and identification of products
Destination inspection:	Not allowed
Witness of loading:	Mandatory
Seal of container:	Mandatory
Sampling:	In case of control testing (see section 5 as above) And mandatory for the first consignment, and based on a risk assessment approach for the following consignments
Type of report issued:	Inspection report (IR)

**7. Facilitation procedures**

- Risk assessment approach

**8. Conclusion of the Assessment**

- Certificate of Conformity (CoC)
- Non-Conformity Report (NCR)

**9. Fees**

Paid by exporter.

Bureau Veritas may invoice the Seller in the event of supplementary inspection visits (in vain or unsatisfactory results, testing or any additional task). The costs incurred by the Seller in presenting the goods for inspection, such as unpacking, handling, testing, sampling, sending, repacking... are for the account of the Seller.

**10. Contact**

See contacts sheet for details.

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**11. Other relevant information**

Bureau Veritas operates the program on the following geographical zones (country of supply):

- United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- Korea
- Pakistan
- Vietnam

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The information contained herein is for the purpose of facilitating Verification of Conformity and does not relieve Exporters or Importers from their obligations in respect of compliance with the import regulations of the country of importation. Although every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of the information, as at the date of issuance of this data sheet, Bureau Veritas does not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions and, furthermore, the information may subsequently be subject to change as may be announced by the Authorities in the country of importation. Consequently, Exporters are advised to check with Bureau Veritas, prior to shipment of the goods, if there is any doubt concerning the issuance of a Certificate of Conformity.

