

**Phytosanitary & quality
import requirements into Belgium for
Fruit and Vegetables**

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Contents

1. Statutory import requirements
2. Phytosanitary requirements
 - 2.1. Legal basis
 - 2.2. Prohibited articles and pests
 - 2.3. Controlled fruit and vegetables
 - 2.4. Conditions relevant to certificates

Contents

3. EC marketing standards for fruit and vegetables
 - 3.1. Legal basis
 - 3.2. Specific standards
 - 3.3. Example : citrus fruit
4. Import procedures
 - 4.1. General information
 - 4.2. Import inspection
 - 4.3. Customs procedures
5. What happens to the product

1. Statutory import requirements

- **Phytosanitary requirements**
 - Absence of harmful organisms
 - Conformity with specific requirements
- **Quality requirements**
 - Conformity with EC marketing standards
- **Food safety requirements**
 - Absence of traces of pesticides or other pollutants

2. Phytosanitary requirements

2.1. Legal basis

- Directive 2000/29/CE, as amended
- Royal Decree of 03/05/1994, as amended

2.2. Prohibited articles and pests

- Certain plants, bark, soil, potatoes, ... ;
(no fruit and vegetables are prohibited)
- Plant pests e.g.
 - *Monilinia fructicola* (brown rot, twig cancer)
 - *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *citri* (citrus cancer)
 - *Cercospora angolensis* (citrus leaf spot)
 - *Guignardia citricarpa* (citrus black spot)
 - Non european *Tephritidae* (fruit flies) e.g. *Dacus ciliatus*

2.3. Controlled fruit and vegetables

2.3.1. General information

- (Reforwarding) Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)
- Official inspection in the country of origin
- Free from certain serious pests and diseases

2.3.2. Origin southern hemisphere

Botanical name	Common name	Requirement
Artococcus	custard apple	PC
Citrus and hybrids	orange, lemon, lime, ...	PC, free from leaves and peduncles
Cydonia	quince	PC
Diospyros	persimmon, date plum	PC
Fortunella and hybrids	kumquat	PC, free from leaves and peduncles
Malus	apple	PC
Mangifera	mango	PC
Passiflora	passion fruit	PC

Botanical name	Common name	Requirement
Poncirus and hybrids	ornamental citrus	PC, free from leaves and peduncles
Prunus	cherry, plum, peach, apricot, ...	PC
Psidium	guava	PC
Pyrus	pear	PC
Ribes	gooseberry, blackcurrant, redcurrant	PC
Syzygium	jambolan and rose apple	PC
Vaccinium	cranberry, blueberry	PC
All other fruit & veg.		none

2.4. Conditions relevant to certificates

- Issued by the official plant protection service
- Inspection not more than 14 days before the date of dispatch
- Signed within the same 14 day period by an authorised officer
- Preferably in Dutch or French, English is acceptable
- Accompany the consignment

3. EC marketing standards for fruit and vegetables

3.1. Legal basis

- Regulation (CE) N° 2200/96 : main issues
- Regulation (CE) N° 1148/2001 : inspections
- Specific standards for 39 products

3.2. Specific standards

3.2.1. Fruit

Apples	Citrus fruit	Peaches	Walnuts
Apricots	Hazelnuts in shell	Pears	Watermelons
Avocados	Kiwi fruit	Plums	
Bananas	Melons	Strawberries	
Cherries	Nectarines	Table grapes	

3.2.2. Vegetables

Artichokes	Carrots	Leeks	Spinach
Asparagus	Cauliflower	Lettuces	Sweet peppers
Aubergines	Courgettes	Mushrooms	Tomatoes
Beans	Cucumbers	Onions	Witloof chicory
Brussels sprouts	Endives	Peas	
Cabbages	Garlic	Ribbed celery	

3.3. Example : citrus fruit

- Provisions concerning quality
 - Minimum requirements
intact, free of bruising, sound, clean, etc.
 - Maturity requirements
minimum juice content, colouring
 - Classification
Class "Extra", "I", and "II"

- Provisions concerning sizing
 - Minimum size
 - Size scales
 - Uniformity
- Provisions concerning tolerances
 - Quality tolerances
 - Size tolerances

- Provisions concerning presentation
 - Uniformity
 - Packaging
 - Presentation

- Provisions concerning marking
 - Identification
 - Nature of the produce
 - Origin of the produce
 - Commercial specifications
 - Official control mark (optional)

4. Import procedures

4.1. General information

- Registered importers/import agents
- Official points of entry : ports, airports, ...
- Compulsory notification of each imported consignment with regulated articles (phytosanitary, quality) to the local service
 - Phytosanitary certificate (country of origin)
 - Phytosanitary import certificate (Belgium)

4.2. Import inspection

4.2.1. Documentary check

- Presence of the required documents
- Correctly filled out

4.2.2. Identity check

- Conformity between the content of the consignment and the information on the documents

4.2.3. Physical check

- Visual inspection
 - Conformity with relevant marketing standard
 - Presence of quarantine organisms
- Sampling (phytosanitary)
 - Suspicious symptoms
 - Risk analysis
 - Monitoring programmes
- Laboratory analysis (phytosanitary)

4.3. Customs procedures

- Present the correct documents to facilitate clearance
- Clearance only after the plant health check
- Tariff classification
- Import duties

5. What happens to the product

- Conformity : clearance, free circulation
- Non-conformity :
 - Quality : reassignment, destruction, sent back
 - Phytosanitary : treatment, destruction, sent back

In case more information is requested, the first step is to consult the listed legislation:

- http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search/search_lif.html
- http://www.just.fgov.be/index_fr.htm

In case there still are questions, more information can be asked at

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EU Legislation Concerning Third Country Imports of Fruits and Vegetables into the EU

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/2000/en_2000L0029_do_001.pdf

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1996/en_1996R2200_do_001.pdf

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on checks on conformity to the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/2001/en_2001R1148_do_001.pdf
