WUSATA
Western United States
Agricultural Trade Association



INTERNATIONAL EXPORT DATABASE

Canada

Edible Fruit And Nuts Report

Market
Canada

Commodities
08 - Edible Fruit And Nuts

Topics
All topics

Generated
November 23, 2026

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Recent Updates

Recent Updates provide a concise, time-bound summary of significant changes made to the database within the past three months. Each update will note the date of the change, the relevant subtopic, and a brief description of the update.

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Pending Regulations

Pending Regulations highlight forthcoming regulatory changes with a defined implementation date within the next six months. Each entry will include a short summary of the anticipated requirement and a link to the relevant official source, where available.

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Customs Procedures

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the agency responsible for ensuring that all imports comply with customs procedures. The other agency located at border entries is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which inspects products to ensure compliance with the regulations pertaining to food and agricultural products. CBSA provides an importing goods into Canada guidance page.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the agency responsible for ensuring that all imports have proper documentation at the border point of entry.

Exporters are encouraged to work with their freight forwarder or customs broker to ensure compliance with all relevant customs procedures.

Advance Commercial Information (ACI) System

The CBSA maintains an Advance Commercial Information (ACI) system. Carriers must electronically transmit an eManifest to the CBSA a specified number of hours in advance of arrival depending on the cargo and method of importation. More information is available via CBSA commercial reporting requirements.

Operational Considerations

Every shipment must be imported by a licensed Canadian Importer of Record (IOR) that holds a valid Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) import license. This license holder is legally accountable to CFIA for food safety, traceability, and corrective actions.

U.S. exporters must provide accurate invoices, packing lists, certificates, and lot details to enable clearance through CBSA and CFIA. Inspections, detentions, and permitted corrective actions can affect

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cost, timing, and first shipment success.

Awareness of these practices helps prevent delays and added expense. That said, exporting success depends less on knowing each and every regulation and more on having the right IOR, providing complete documentation, and anticipating border enforcement practices.

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Registration Requirements

Facility and product registration are **not** required for food products, except for certain meat, poultry, and egg products.

Foods are regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which reports to the Canadian Ministry of Health. The *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) establish most requirements, such as licensing, preventive controls, and traceability that apply to most food commodities.

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Phytosanitary Requirements

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) operationalizes Canada's phytosanitary requirements for fruit intended for consumption by specifying, on a commodity- and origin-specific basis, whether phytosanitary certificates, additional declarations, treatments, or import prohibitions apply.

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Import Requirements → Phytosanitary Requirements

08 Edible Fruit And Nuts

Note: Phytosanitary requirements for HS Chapter 08 commodity groups are commodity- and origin-specific and may vary based on pest risk. The information provided below summarizes general regulatory frameworks; exporters should consult CFIA's Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) and applicable CFIA directives to confirm current requirements for specific products and origins.

Canada's phytosanitary import requirements for fresh fruits are governed by multiple CFIA directives. D-95-08 applies to fresh temperate fruits and tree nuts, while D-01-07 covers fresh citrus and tropical fruits. Commodities not fully addressed in these directives may be subject to additional CFIA requirements based on pest risk and origin, as reflected in CFIA's Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) or specific pest directives.

All imported material must be free of pests of quarantine concern to Canada.

All shipments must be free from soil, soil-related matter, plant debris (leaves, twigs), and other organic

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material that could carry pests.

In some cases, a valid phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) is generally required and must include any additional declarations specified for the commodity and origin.

Depending on commodity and origin, CFIA may require:

- Systems approaches (regulated production, packing, pest monitoring)
- Specific post-harvest treatments (e.g., fumigation, cold treatment)
- Inspection and pest control programs in the field and packing house

Specific phytosanitary actions (treatments, systems approaches, certification text) vary by commodity and origin and are detailed in appendices or referenced schedules of the relevant directives.

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Processing Requirements

In Canada, processing requirements for imported food products are primarily governed by the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) and administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The SFCR establishes general food safety, preventive control, and traceability requirements applicable to imported foods, including processed agricultural products. Additional processing-related conditions may be set out in CFIA commodity-specific guidance and import policies.

Processing requirements may also intersect with phytosanitary regulations, where certain processing activities (e.g., peeling, slicing, freezing, or cooking) are recognized as mitigating plant pest risk and can alter applicable phytosanitary entry conditions. In such cases, requirements are established under the *Plant Protection Act* and related CFIA policies.

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For edible fruits and nuts (HS Chapter 8), allowable processing prior to import is generally limited to activities that do not alter the product's status as fresh fruit, such as washing, sorting, grading, trimming, and packing. Processing steps that substantially alter the product (e.g., freezing, drying, or cooking) may reclassify the product as processed and subject it to different import conditions under the SFCR and CFIA guidance. Commodity-specific processing requirements and permitted treatments should be verified through CFIA's Automated Import Reference System (AIRS).

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Certification Requirements

Certificates of Origin

All U.S. products seeking preferential treatment under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) must provide a Certificate of Origin. There is no requirement for this information to be provided on a specific form. It may be provided on an invoice or any other document. The importer, exporter, or producer can make the certification.

Organic Certification

In 2009, the U.S. and Canada enacted the Canada-U.S. Organic Equivalence Agreement. Under this agreement, producers and processors that meet the National Organic Program standards as certified by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agent are not required to become certified separately to the Canada Organic Product Regulation (COPR) and vice versa. Products that have been certified organic under one of the aforementioned set of standards may utilize the USDA Organic seal and the Canada Organic Biologique logo on product labels. Import requirements, packaging, labeling, and inspection regulations are the same regardless of whether the product is certified organic.

Halal Certification

Canada does not mandate halal certification for imported food products. However, if a food is represented, labeled, packaged, or advertised as *halal*, Canadian regulations require that the name of the individual or organization that certified the product as halal be clearly identified at the point of sale. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) does not define halal standards, accredit halal certifying bodies, or assess religious compliance; halal certification is provided by private certifying organizations.

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Importers and exporters are responsible for ensuring that any halal claims are truthful, not misleading, and compliant with Canadian labeling requirements.

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For products classified under HS Chapter 8 (edible fruit and nuts), certification requirements are driven primarily by plant health risk (e.g., fresh versus dried product) and voluntary labeling or marketing claims, rather than by the HS classification itself.

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Import Bans/Quarantines

Import bans and quarantine measures are typically imposed by importing authorities in response to animal health, food safety, or public health risks, such as outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases (e.g., avian influenza, African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease) or contamination incidents. These measures most commonly apply to live animals and animal-derived products, including meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products.

Temporary import suspensions or additional restrictions may be applied on a country-wide or regional basis, depending on the nature and location of the outbreak. Measures may be lifted once the exporting country or region is officially recognized as free of the disease or risk in question.

Official information on current import bans or quarantine measures is typically published by the importing country's competent authority (e.g., agriculture, veterinary, or food safety agencies) and may also be notified through international bodies such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) or the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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Retail Labeling

General Retail Labeling Requirements

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulates food product labeling. Retail labeling requirements are governed by the *Safe Food for Canadians Act (SFCA)* and the *Food and Drugs Act* and are implemented through the *Safe Food for Canadian Regulations* (which incorporate the *Consumer Packaging and Labeling Regulations)* and the *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR).

Labels generally must include the following:

- Food name
- Net quantity in Canadian or metric units
- Date marking and storage instructions (*see below*)
- Name and address of manufacturer or agent
- List of ingredients (*see below*)
- Allergen labeling (*see below*)
- Nutritional labeling (*see below*)
- Country of origin (*see below*)
- Lot code or other unique identifier (*see below*)

Labels must be placed on the principal display surface of the product which is visible under normal conditions of sale. Information shall be shown in an easily legible manner and shall be in letters not less than 1.6 mm.

The Government of Canada provides an Industry Labeling Tool as a reference for food inspectors and

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stakeholders.

Languages

Canada has two official languages: English and French. Information required to be displayed on labels must be written in both English and French, except for manufacturer information which may be written in either one of the official languages.

Quebec Labeling Requirements

The province of Quebec has additional requirements concerning the use of the French language on all products marketed within its jurisdiction. Information on these requirements can be obtained from:

Sous-ministériat à la santé animale et à l'inspection des aliments

200-A Chemin Sainte-Foy

Qubec, Qubec G1R 4X6

Tel: 418-380-2120 and 1-800-463-5023

Fax: 418-380-2169

Email: smsaia@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca

The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) details PLU country of origin labeling requirements for Quebec in a member bulletin from 2015.

Nutritional Labeling

A nutritional facts table is mandatory for most prepackaged foods and must include the following elements:

- Serving size

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- Energy value (expressed in calories per serving of the stated size)
- Fat (grams per serving and as percentage of daily value), saturated fatty acids (grams per serving), trans fatty acids (grams per serving), sum of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids (percentage of the daily value)
- Cholesterol (milligrams per serving and optional percentage of the daily value)
- Sodium (milligrams per serving and percentage of daily value)
- Carbohydrate (grams per serving and percentage of the daily value)
- Fiber (grams per serving and percentage of the daily value)
- Sugar (grams per serving)
- Protein (grams per serving)
- Calcium, potassium, and iron (all expressed as both milligrams per serving and percentage of the daily value)

The CFIA provides detailed nutrition facts table presentation guidelines and a table of reference amounts for food.

Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labeling

Amendments to Canada's *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR) requiring front-of-pack (FOP) labeling for packaged products containing specific nutrients (i.e., saturated fat, sugar, and/or sodium) at or above certain thresholds entered into force on July 20, 2022. A transition period for businesses to update product labels ended January 1, 2026.

Thresholds for the FOP nutrition symbol are based on Daily Value (DV) recommendations found in Canada's Table of Daily Values, which is incorporated by reference into the FDR.

Thresholds for the FOP nutrition symbol

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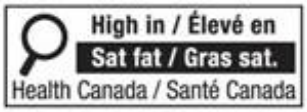
	Saturated fat	Sugars	Sodium
Prepackaged foods with a reference amount > 30 g or 30 mL that are not main dishes	≥ 15% DV		
Prepackaged foods with a reference amount ≤ 30 g or 30 mL	≥ 10% DV		
Prepackaged main dishes with a reference amount ≥ 200 g or 170 g	≥ 30% DV		

Examples of Health Canada's FOP nutrition symbol formats are included below:









Health Canada has published a front-of-pack nutrition symbol labeling guide for industry.

Country of Origin Labeling

When a food product is wholly manufactured outside of Canada, the label must indicate that the product is imported. This information can be provided in one of three ways:

- The identity and principal place of business of the foreign manufacturer; or
- The statement "imported for" or "imported by" followed by the identity and principal place of business of the Canadian company; or
- The identity and principal place of business of the Canadian company with the country of origin of the product.

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Lot Code Labeling

The SFCR includes labeling requirements regarding traceability and the CFIA provides traceability guidelines on its website. Per SFCR traceability requirements, consumer prepackaged food must have a lot code applied, attached, or accompanying the product.

A lot code is not specifically defined in the SFCR. It can be numeric, alphabetic, or an alphanumeric code. Examples of lot code include, production date, best before date, establishment number, or SFC license number.

Additional lot code guidelines are available via the CFIA.

Ingredient Labeling

Ingredients must be declared by their common name in descending order of proportion by weight, as determined before they are combined to make the food. Components (ingredients of ingredients) must be declared by their common name as part of the list of ingredients, either: 1) in parentheses following the ingredient, or 2) in descending order of proportion by weight in the finished food as if they were ingredients.

The CFIA provides detailed ingredient labeling guidelines.

Food Additive Labeling

Food additives must be declared by an acceptable common name in the list of ingredients. However, they may be listed at the end of the ingredients list in any order. Collective/class names in the list of ingredients are allowed. Canada provides a list of food additive synonyms permitted for use.

Allergen Labeling

The CFIA requires that food products containing ingredients capable of causing allergic reactions be

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clearly identified as such on food labels. The CFIA provides a food allergen labeling guide.

Canada's priority food allergens are detailed below:

- Peanuts and tree nuts
- Sesame
- Milk
- Egg
- Soy
- Wheat and triticale
- Crustaceans and mollusks
- Mustard
- Fish
- Sulfites
- Gluten

Additional allergen management guidelines for food manufacturers are provided by Food Allergy Canada.

Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods or Ingredients

Canada does not enforce mandatory requirements for the labeling of genetically engineered (GE) products. The CFIA provides information regarding standards for voluntary labeling and advertising of GE food.

The guide recommends that GE products include labeling statements such as:

- "This (*name of product*) is a product of genetic engineering"
- "Genetically engineered (*name of product*)"

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Date Marking and Storage Instructions

Prepackaged products with a durable life of 90 days or less must be labeled with date marking and storage instructions (where applicable). Storage instructions are mandatory on foods where the storage conditions differ from normal room temperature. Foods with a durable life greater than 90 days are not required to include date marking and storage instructions.

Durable life must be identified using the words "best before". The date shall be expressed in the order of year, month, day. Showing the year is only mandatory when its declaration is needed for clarity. The year shall be expressed by at least the last two numbers of the year. The month shall be shown in words and must be in both French and English or indicated by using specified bilingual symbols.

The CFIA provides examples of acceptable declarations.

Labeling for Irradiated Foods

Irradiated food must clearly show that the product has been irradiated with both a written statement and the following international symbol:



Acceptable written statements to accompany the symbol include "irradiated", "treated with radiation", or "treated by irradiation".

Irradiated ingredients that constitute 10% or more of the final food must be identified in the list of ingredients as "irradiated".

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Claims on Labels

Claims that have been substantiated may be utilized on food labels in Canada. The three classifications as identified by the Canadian government are general health claims, function claims, and disease risk reduction claims.

- General Health Claims: These claims relate to vitamin and mineral nutrients, body weight, the use of educational material, third-party endorsements and logos, heart symbols, and guidance for healthy eating. Though these claims do not require approval by the Canadian government, they are subject to review and must not be false, misleading or deceptive.
- Function Claims: These claims describe the effects of foods or food constituents on normal functions or biological activities of the body associated with health or performance. Prior to its use, minimum levels and content requirements must be met. Additionally, scientific evidence should be available if Health Canada requests it.
- Disease Risk Reduction Claims: These are statements that link food or a constituent of food to reducing the risk of developing a diet-related disease or condition. Prior to use, these claims must be substantiated by scientific evidence.

Products claiming nutritional value must meet certain minimum requirements. The Canadian government provides a table of permitted nutrient content statements and claims.

Organic Labeling

All U.S. organic products imported into Canada must meet Canadian organic labeling requirements and may bear the Canada organic logo. The logo must be requested from the USDA accredited certification body responsible for the certification. Use of the Canada organic logo is voluntary and its use, either alone or with the USDA's organic seal, is permitted provided the organic content of the product is 95%

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or greater. The Canada organic logo is available to producers through USDA accredited certifying agents.

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The labeling requirements of the SFCR for prepackaged HS 08 commodities generally include the following items: common name, net quantity, name and principal place of business, grade (where applicable), country of origin, and lot code or other unique identifier. For fresh fruit packaged in a transparent protective wrapper or bag (defined as a flexible plastic film), some SFCR exemptions may apply. Label information must be declared in both English and French, and the minimum font size for consumer packaged products is 1.6 mm.

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Other Labeling Requirements

Bulk Labeling

Shipping containers require the identification of wholly irradiated foods with a written statement such as "irradiated," "treated with radiation," or "treated by irradiation" but do not require the international symbol. Bulk shipments must also include lot codes or other unique identifiers to meet SFCR traceability requirements.

Foodservice Labeling

Prepackaged individual portions of food served by restaurants, airlines, or other commercial enterprises with meals or snacks are exempt from the requirement to be labeled with a durable life date or packaging date. Lot codes or traceability identifiers are still recommended for institutional tracking.

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For bulk or institutional shipments of HS 08 commodities, the following labeling elements are generally required: common name, net quantity, lot code or other unique identifier for traceability, country of origin, and grade where applicable. Allergens must be declared for tree nuts (e.g., coconuts, Brazil nuts, almonds, walnuts, pecans), and irradiated nuts must include a written statement on bulk shipments. Bulk or foodservice shipments are exempt from durable life or packaging date labeling. Label information should be provided in both English and French where applicable, and lot codes or unique identifiers are

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mandatory to meet SFCR traceability requirements.

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Food Contact Material Requirements

Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulate food packaging in Canada through the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR).

Packaging may also be subject to additional requirements and restrictions under *national and provincial* sustainability regulations.

Division 23 of the *Food and Drugs Regulations* specifies food packaging materials requirements.

Section B. 23.001 stipulates that food may not be sold in any package that may be injurious to human health. Sections B23.002 – B23.008 establish specifications regarding tolerances for substances in food packaging materials.

Canada does not maintain a comprehensive positive list specifying permitted ingredients in food packaging, nor does it require pre-market clearance of food packaging materials. However, packaging materials intended for use with foods in Canada may be submitted *voluntarily* to the Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) for a pre-market assessment of their chemical safety and subsequent issuance of an advisory opinion on their acceptability in relation to Division 23 of the *Food and Drugs Regulations* dealing with the potential transfer of harmful chemicals to foods.

Additionally, a list of permissible polymers for plastic packaging is available on the Health Canada website.

Health Canada provides packaging material guidelines on its website and CFIA provides additional resources regarding the safety of food packaging.

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Sustainability Requirements

Packaging is also subject to food contact materials requirements and restrictions to ensure food safety. The information below pertains only to sustainability-related regulation.

Materials Requirements

The regulatory authority regarding materials sustainability is Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), federal, provincial, and territorial governments of Canada in 2018 approved the Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste to move toward a circular economy for plastics and develop a comprehensive plan to address plastic waste, including for food packaging.

Materials Restrictions

Phased in from 2022 until 2024, Canada's *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*; SOR/2022-138 establish requirements and restrictions regarding the manufacture, import, and sale of single-use plastic (SUP) items.

ECCC maintains an overview of the *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*, including definitions, timelines, and documents covering technical guidelines and selecting alternatives.

In summary, the ban targets "hard-to-recycle" plastics: extruded and expanded polystyrene foam, polyvinyl chloride, oxo-degradable plastics, and plastics containing certain black pigments. Affected foodservice items include clamshell containers, lidded containers, cartons, cups, plates, and bowls.

Exemptions include flexible plastic packaging or wrapping for food that is ready to be consumed, plastic

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food service items containing frozen food requiring preparation before consumption (ex. baking, microwaving), and plastic trays without a lid wrapped in plastic film (typically used for raw meat/fish/vegetables).

Recycling Requirements

Canada does not currently maintain a national recycling scheme. There are no established minimum recycled content requirements or labeling or marking rules for recycling and compostability.

Recycled plastics used for food packaging are subject to the same regulations as new plastic in terms of their chemical safety.

Canada does however maintain guidelines regarding the use of recycled plastics in food packaging.

Waste Requirements

The regulatory authority regarding end-of-life sustainability is Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), which brings together federal, provincial, and territorial governments of Canada, is also involved in establishing the regulatory framework for end-of-life sustainability.

There is currently no end-of-life sustainability law established at the federal level in Canada.

Through the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, the CCME supports the move towards greater producer responsibility, including work towards transforming "product stewardship" initiatives into full extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs.

ECCC provides a list of EPR programs, product stewardship programs, and other initiatives at the provincial and territorial level across Canada.

This database does not include information regarding voluntary systems.

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