

National Regulations

Labelling. Spanish legislation (royal decree "Norma General del Etiquetado") establishes a general set of rules regarding packaging and labelling. Consumer food items, alcoholic drinks, animal foods, etc., must be labelled in Spanish to indicate contents, composition, metric weight, origin, date of packaging, name of packer and expiry date. The Codigo Alimentario Espanol, administered by the Ministry of Health, lists food and drug additives permitted in Spain. In addition to these general norms, specific requirements pertain to a wide range of products.

While a certain similarity already exists between Spanish labelling requirements and those of other EEC countries, uniformity is proceeding through regular consultation with the EEC Labelling Commission. Early harmonization of labelling norms relating to automobiles, medical instruments, food, electricity, chemicals, textiles, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals is under way.

Health Certificates. Importation of live animals, plants, seeds and vegetable products falls within the jurisdiction of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and is subject to health certificate and phytosanitary requirements to which an exporter must strictly adhere.

Import Licences. These are generally not required. Global quotas exist for a limited range of products considered to be market sensitive.

Exchange Controls. Transfers of profits and dividends are normally freely authorized. Repatriation of capital is allowed without restriction. To ensure subsequent transferability of profits and capital, capital inflow should pass through recognized banks and receipts should be carefully kept.

Spain adheres to the GATT and the Brussels nomenclature has been adopted. Valuations for ad valorem duty are made on an "arm's length" valuation basis.

Samples. Spain is a signatory of the ATA convention and carnets are acceptable (see Chapter 1, "Temporary Entry — Carnet"). Temporary admission under licence may be obtained on payment of a refundable bond based on an ad valorem estimation of duty that would otherwise be payable.