

**KEY MARKET ACCESS BARRIERS IN EGYPT UNDER THE MARKET ACCESS PARTNERSHIP**

<b>Barrier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>
<p><b>Mandatory requirement of registration of factories and the certificate of inspection for all shipments</b></p> <p><i>(MADB No 10800)</i></p>	<p><b>Compulsory registration of companies</b></p> <p>Decree No. 43/2016 provides for mandatory registration of foreign manufacturers exporting to Egypt in order to create a registry of factories exporting 25 categories of products (among others agricultural products, cosmetics, toys, textiles and garments) to Egypt. Each individual decision to register must be approved by a decree from the Minister of Trade. Among the documents required for the registration, the Decree includes a certificate that the producer and/or the trademark owner maintain "a quality control system" issued from a body recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). All documents must be certified by a chamber of commerce and legalised by the Egyptian embassy abroad, with an Arabic translation from an accredited translation center. This procedure creates considerable administrative and economic burden without any gain for consumer safety. Furthermore there have been considerable delays in registering a number of EU companies (in many cases going beyond one year) and many still remain unregistered. It has been raised in the WTO and bilaterally, so far without result. The Decree has had a chilling effect on EU imports in the categories of goods subject to the registration requirements - Between 2015 (a year prior to entry into force of the Decree) and 2017, EU imports of goods covered by the Decree decreased 40%, while overall EU imports remained stable.</p> <p><b>Compulsory pre-shipment inspections</b></p> <p>Ministerial Decree No.991/2015 mandates that pre-shipment inspections and certificates of conformity to Egyptian quality standards issued by ISO 17025 accredited labs are mandatory for custom release of certain goods (the same list as the one covered by Decree 43/2016). Every consignment must be physically</p>	<p>To be raised at future meetings of the Trade Sub-Committee and as appropriate at informal meetings with the Egyptian authorities</p>

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	inspected before shipment at the origin by an approved third-party inspection company, unless exporter can be registered on a 'white list' of exporters under Decision 770/2005 (Register of 'Trustworthy Importers and Exporters'). To be registered under the latter, the importer or producer must maintain a quality control system and his production must be carried out according to standards approved by the Egyptian Organization of Standardization.	
<p><b>Stamping of exporter's declarations of origin by chambers of commerce</b></p> <p><i>(MADB No 13062)</i></p>	<p>While Egypt has confirmed that exporters' declarations of origin made out on an invoice are fully valid as such, Egyptian customs procedures mandate that invoices are stamped by chambers of commerce in exporting countries. This issue was raised bilaterally, however, Egypt claims that it has a right to regulate formal requirements pertaining to import documents, such as invoices.</p>	<p>To be raised at future meetings of the Trade Sub-Committee and as appropriate at informal meetings with the Egyptian authorities</p>
<p><b>Import conditions for wheat and other cereals</b></p> <p><i>(MADB No 14062)</i></p>	<p>The successive shifts in import policies by Egypt namely with regard to ergot content have led to a lack of transparency, predictability and competition in this market.</p> <p>Since 2017 Egypt has introduced a maximum level of 0.05% ergot content in line with international norms for wheat, but that does not apply to other cereals. Furthermore any amount of ergot or other foreign material will lead to a requirement that the shipment be sieved under CAPQ supervision at a cost of \$3.00 per ton. Sieving is a practice done normally as part of the milling process, so this requirement is considered unnecessary from a safety point of view.</p>	<p>To be raised with Egypt at the WTO SPS Committee, Agriculture Sub-Committee and planned workshop on SPS issues.</p>

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	<p>To this should be added the costs of increased delays in port clearance, demurrage and other costs brought about by the inspections and sieving procedures. Many operators have withdrawn from this market and costs have increased for the Egyptian government, which is the biggest purchaser of grain imports.</p>	