SURINAME
IMPORT-EXPORT GUIDE

Foreword

Transparency is the cornerstone of fair and effective trade. It promotes trust, reduces the risk of corruption, and ensures that trade policies and practices are understood and respected by all stakeholders. By fostering an environment where information is readily available and accessible, transparency helps to level the playing field, allowing businesses of all sizes to compete on equal footing.

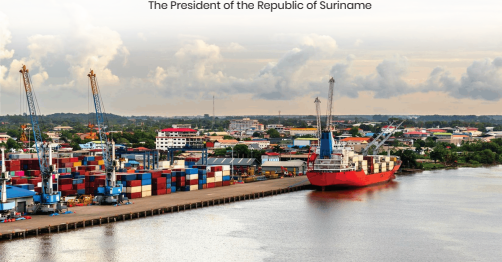
As we embark on this journey towards greater transparency in trade, intending to increase our local Surinamese production, we assure this manual will inspire a commitment to openness and integrity.

We will build a more equitable and prosperous global trading system that benefits all participants by embracing these values.

Suriname is open for business!

Signed

His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi
The President of the Republic of Suriname



Introduction

Although information-sharing must be fast, accurate and reliable, due to the spread of authorities in Suriname, information sharing is currently not always efficient. The policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation is to facilitate the business community and therefore further improve the business climate. In line with this, the Ministry intends to set up a Suriname Trade Notice Board (digital platform). In this context, the Interdepartmental Committee on "Suriname Trade Notice Board" was established on September 1, 2023, with the main mandate to make an inventory of the import, export and transit procedures of goods. Based on the above inventory, the committee has mapped out the various processes relating to import, export and transit. Due to the input of the committee members and their practical experiences, this document has been written in the form of the Suriname Trade Notice Board manual. This manual has attempted to provide entrepreneurs and all relevant stakeholders involved in the import, export and transit process with the necessary information.

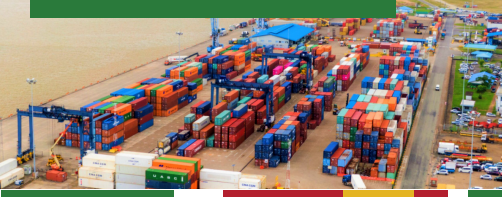
Thank you kindly to everyone who contributed.

Signed

Rishma Kuldipsingh MBA
The Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WTO -	World Trade Organisation
CARICOM -	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM -	Caribbean Forum
EU -	European Union
USA -	United States of America
TFA -	Trade Facilitation Agreement
FTA -	Free Trade Agreements
SESW -	Suriname Electronic Single Window
KKF -	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
IUD -	Import, Export and Foreign Exchange Department
SSB -	Suriname Standards Bureau
BOG -	Public Health Bureau
NPPO -	National Plant Protection Organisation
VKI -	Competent Authority of Industrial Quality in Fishery and Aquaculture.
SPS -	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
TBT -	Technical Barriers to Trade
ISPM -	International Standards For Phytosanitary Measures
IPPC -	International Plant Protection Convention
SB -	Government Gazette
ISO -	International Organization for Standardization
FDA -	Food and Drugs Administration
CoO -	Certificate of Origin
GSP -	Generalized System of Preferences



Suriname

Trade facilitation (TF) improves a country's competitiveness and the effectiveness of its border agencies. Within the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), trading procedures are simplified and made more transparent.

With this in mind, the WTO/Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was signed in 2011 by all WTO countries. The WTO TFA has now entered into force and is binding for all WTO countries, including Suriname. In accordance with Article 10.4 of this Agreement, WTO member countries will make every effort to establish a single window that allows traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for import, export or transit of goods through one place.

Although Suriname has not yet ratified the WTO/TFA, it has implemented certain aspects of the agreement, including the single window, by setting up the Suriname Electronic Single Window.

The Suriname Electronic Single Window (SESW) was officially launched on September 27, 2019. Since its launch, approximately 284 traders and their customs agents as well as government officials have been registered.

The SESW platform for the digital processing of documentation and compliance essential for the export, import and transit of important commodities such as gold, timber, pesticides, etc. About 127 officials from various ministries have already been trained and are using the platform to assess, examine and approve applications online. The Suriname Electronic Single Window System is in line with the following strategic objectives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation:

- improves the business climate in Suriname,
- improves coordination and cooperation between government agencies,
- Improves transparency and security in government processes.

The Suriname Electronic Single Window (SESW) is essential for commerce for the following reasons:

- Efficiency and Time Savings: ESW systems make it possible to submit all necessary documentation and information for processing via one digital platform. This significantly reduces the time required to process import and export formalities.

- Cost Reduction: By eliminating paperwork and reducing the need for physical visits to various government agencies, companies can save significant costs.

- Improved Transparency: SESW provides more transparency in trading processes. Companies can track the status of their shipments in real-time and make more informed decisions.

- Better Coordination between Government Agencies: SESW improves communication and coordination between various government agencies involved in the trading processes. This leads to a smoother and more integrated handling.

- Increased Compliance: By submitting all documents digitally and centrally, it becomes easier for companies to comply with international trade rules and regulations. This reduces the chance for errors and non-conformity.

- Competitiveness: Companies in countries with a well-functioning ESW system can act faster and more efficiently, increasing their competitiveness in the global market.

- Economic Growth: By streamlining trade processes and making them more efficient, an ESW contributes to overall economic growth. It facilitates international trade, allowing countries to attract more trading partners and increase their exports.

In short, an Electronic Single Window is a powerful tool to improve the efficiency, transparency and security of trading processes, leading to significant benefits for both companies and governments.

International trade plays a crucial role in the global economy. For companies that want to expand their markets and strengthen their competitive position, it is essential to understand the complex world of exports and imports. This guide provides an overview of the most important aspects of exporting and importing goods, and is intended to help companies navigate the procedures and regulations required to export/import successfully!

What is Export and Import?

Export refers to the process of sending goods and services from Suriname to another country. This can help companies enter new markets, increase sales and strengthen their brand globally. Import, on the other hand, means that goods and services from another country are brought into Suriname. This allows companies to access raw materials, products and technologies that may not be available locally, often at competitive prices.

But why Export or Import?

By exporting, we work on, among other things, market expansion. By exporting, companies can reach new customers and increase their market share. By importing, companies can purchase cost advantages of, for example, raw materials at lower costs and thus improve their competitive position.

All this could possibly lead to diversification of the Surinamese product, by exporting and importing companies can spread their risks across different markets. International trade drives innovation through access to new ideas, products and technologies.

The aim of this manual is to provide companies with a structured approach to managing their export and import activities. The manual provides an overview of the required documentation and customs procedures necessary for export/import

The export process

Before an entrepreneur can export, the registration obligation must be met. The registration obligation consists of the following steps:

A. Registration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF)
B. Registration with Customs to obtain an Importer/Exporter number
C. Registration with the Directorate of Taxes to obtain a tax number

When exporting or importing, a customs broker is always appointed to handle the formal import and export process at the Import Duties and Excise Department, as well as at the port operators.

By liberalizing trade on September 1, 1999, anyone may import or export after he or she has registered with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (under the Goods Traffic Act S.B. 2003 no. 74). (Registration with the Chamber of Commerce and Factories).
The Import, Export and Exchange Control Department (hereinafter abbreviated I.U.D.) is a department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation that is responsible for matters of a commercial policy nature, in particular the granting of licenses for imports, exports and transit under the "Negative List" Decree.

To further flesh out the implementation of trade liberalization, Suriname ratified its import/export policy in 2003 through a ministerial decision, the "Negative List" Decree.

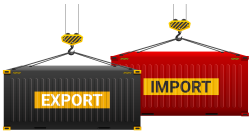
Under this decision, 4 categories of goods are defined as:

1. Goods whose import and export is prohibited, e.g. Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Weapons;
2. Goods requiring a permit may only be imported/exported with anapproved H-03 permit from I.U.D.;
3. Goods subject to a certificate (meat). For goods subject to a certificate, some specific actions are required, such as; inspection departments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, a health certificate from the inspection department of the Public Health Service (BOG);
4. Free goods include all goods that do not fall under the above categories. In accordance with the current legal regulations, these goods must be registered with the IUD.

To export, the necessary formalities must be observed. The required documents that an exporter needs are:
- IT form: an international trade transaction form intended for registration of goods and services
- Single Document: a form for declaring the export of goods out of free circulation.
- Airway Bill/Bill of Lading: a shipping document issued by the airline or shipping company.
- Invoice and possibly Certificate of Origin, if the goods are going to CARICOM and/or the EU.
- Extract from Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Health certificate from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries or the Ministry of Health.

In the case of goods from the so-called Negative List (Articles 2 and 3 of the Negative List Decree), an H-03 permit from the IUD will be required, after the relevant Ministry has issued a favorable advice regarding the output. The H-03 permit must be submitted in triplicate as follows: 1 copy intended for the IUD, one (1) copy for the Applicant and one (1) copy intended for Customs.

Depending on the product that will be exported, several authorities are involved for approval.



When exporting vegetables and fruits, the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries) is involved. The Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries) is involved in the export of fruit and vegetables.

It is prohibited to export plants, plant products and other regulated goods, to take them in a suitcase or to post them from Suriname without approval from and a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, such as is indicated in the Plant Protection Act 2020 (S.B. 2020 no. 78).

This arrangement applies to both commercial and non-commercial shipments. For the export of vegetables and fruits, the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery) is involved.

It is prohibited to export, carry in a suitcase, or mail plants, plant products, and other regulated goods from Suriname without approval and a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, as specified in the Plant Protection Act 2020 (S.B. 2020 no 78).

This regulation applies to both commercial and non-commercial shipments.

Note: By non-commercial shipments we mean (shipments) such as gift shipments and passenger goods; simply put, plant products are any unprocessed plant material that could pose a danger by harboring or spreading a plant pest or disease.

Regulated goods include: all materials as already mentioned plants, plant products packaging, containers, soil, organisms that can harbor or spread a pest or disease).

What are the phytosanitary requirements for the export of plants, vegetables and other regulated products?

1. Being in possession of an export code (for the export of unprocessed fruit and vegetables) issued by the Agriculture Directorate in collaboration with the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department/service (Directorate of the Agricultural Research, Marketing and Processing) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries;
2. To employ a quality manager who will be responsible for pre-inspection of the goods to be exported;
3. When it comes to most fruit and vegetables, the products to be exported must have been produced in accordance with the GAP system (Good Agricultural Practice), as indicated by the ministry;
4. The producers must be registered with the Ministry and have a producer code issued by the Ministry;
5. Exporters must have a traceability system allowing all information on the origin of the products to be exported to be verified; it must meet the conditions determined by the Service;
6. Submit an application for an export inspection to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service.

How do you qualify for a phytosanitary certificate for export/export of plants, vegetables and other regulated products? The exporter applies for inspection of his shipment by submitting an export application form to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department.

For proper preparation and execution of the inspection and for proper issuance of the phytosanitary certificate, the exporter essentially provides the following information to the department with the application:
- Phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country;
- The inspection address;
- Name and address of the sender and recipient;
- Time of inspection;
- The product(s) to be inspected and their quantities;
- Production area (for traceability);
- Country of destination.

What are the conditions for phytosanitary inspection upon export?
An inspection is effective if the exporter meets at least the following conditions:
1. If the exporter hands over a correct and clear (definitive) packing list of the products to be exported to the inspector on duty (for the document check);
2. Ensure that the inspection takes place at a well-facilitated inspection location, where the shipment is clearly recognizable per product type (quantity), and is also stored spatially separate from other products, shipments and/or production process (including packaging, sorting, etc.);

- Ensure that the consignment remains together as units and are identifiable until the phytosanitary inspection is completed.
- The packaging must be able to guarantee phytosanitary integrity during transport, provide protection against pests and other contamination (Art. 29);
- The products must be labeled. The labels must be easy and clearly legible and contain information allowing identification and traceability and comply with the labeling requirements of Suriname and the importing country (Art. 30)
- The inspected shipment is stored in an approved storage area;
- The means of transport for transporting the inspected shipment must also be approved by the Service;
- If wooden packaging and support materials are used when transporting an export shipment, they must have been processed under the supervision of the service and in accordance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) international standards of ISPM no. 15;
- After the inspection, no actions may be carried out on the approved export products that could influence the inspection result.

Inspection and inspection result:
The department carries out a random inspection (ISPM no. 31). The method of inspection (and any phytosanitary measures to be applied) is based on the type of export product and the phytosanitary requirements of the relevant importing country.

Some phytosanitary measures that can be applied are:
1. Heat Treatment: Heat Treatment in which the wood is heated at 56°C for 30 minutes.
2. Chemical treatment: Chlorine dip; Fumigation (with Methyl Bromide or Aluminum Phosphide).

If the shipment is approved, the exporter will receive a phytosanitary certificate. But if (presumably) quarantine pests are found for the importing country, the phytosanitary shipment in question is recorded in writing and a further investigation is initiated. The shipment will be rejected if further investigation actually shows the presence of quarantine pests. The phytosanitary certificate will then not be issued.

The issuance of phytosanitary certificates is legally established and takes place in accordance with international guidelines, the International Plant Protection Convention Guidelines of the (IPPC) and its standards. The certificate will only be issued after payment of the relevant applicable costs for the inspections and phytosanitary measures taken. The fees for export inspections are paid to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections Department in accordance with the "Decree of the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries dated January 31, 2024 no. 339/24, establishing inspection rates for the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections Service (National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) Suriname) with effect from March 1, 2024.

Certificates on which, after issued by the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Department, changes are made by third parties that are regarded as invalid. The involvement of the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service in the export of fruit and vegetables is essential for a successful export process. By ensuring compliance with phytosanitary and quality requirements, this service plays a key role in promoting safe and high-quality exports, contributing to the economic growth and international trade of the exporting country.

The Veterinary Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries) is also involved in the export of live animals, meat and animal products.

Export of live animals, meat and animal products are also subject to rules.

The Subdirectorate of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries has also laid down rules for the export of live animals, meat and animal products. One task that this Sub-Directorate is engaged in is carrying out veterinary inspection activities during the import, transit and export of animals and animal products. This concerns the international veterinary certificate (health certificate).

When exporting, each load must meet the following conditions:
• the import requirements set by the authority of the importing country (including laboratory tests and required documents);
• the transport of live animals must take place in such a way that injury or unnecessary suffering is prevented.

Export is only permitted if:
- The products meet the import requirements set by the authority of the importing country;
- The products come from establishments included on the list of approved establishments;
- The products are accompanied by an international veterinary certificate issued by the Directorate of Livestock.

The Competent Authority of Industrial Quality in Fishery and Aquaculture is involved in the export of fish and fish products. The Fish Inspection Institute (VKI) is the competent authority designated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for ensuring the quality of fish and fishery products in accordance with the Fish Inspection Act (S.B. 2000 No. 107) and its implementing regulations. VKI regularly carries out checks on fishery products intended for export and import.

Only fishery products that have been processed by VKI-approved companies (processor and/or exporter) may be exported. In view of the above-mentioned companies, this complies with the requirements established by law. In order to export fishery products, the exporter (not a processor) must first be registered as an "exporter" with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF). The exporter must comply with the legal requirements of the importing country.

The work processes within the VKI, including checks and inspections, firstly have a legal basis, namely:

LAWS	DESCRIPTION
Fish Inspection Act (S.B. 2000 no. 107)	Rules regarding the production, trade, import and export of fishery products
Fish Inspection Decree (S.B. 2002 no. 9) and Amendment to Fish Inspection Decree (S.B. 2008 no. 118)	Rules for the implementation of the Fish Inspection Act (S.B. 2000 no. 107)
General Quality Decree (S.B. 2002 no. 10) and Amendment to the General Quality Decree (S.B. 2008 no. 40)	Rules for implementing the quality requirements from catch of fishery products
Process Water Decree 2016 (S.B. 2016 no. 108) and Amendment to the Process Water Decree 2016 (S.B. 2018 no. 78)	Rules for determining the quality requirements for process water and clean seawater
TVB-N decision 2017 (S.B. 2018 no. 78)	Rule establishing reference methods and conditions for the determination of the concentration of total volatile basic nitrogen - TVB-N - in fishery products
HACCP Decision (S.B. 2002 no. 13)	Rules for implementing internal health controls
Additives Decree (S.B. 2002 no.14)	Establishment of regulations for the use of food additives in the preparation of fishery products

In addition, these processes are carried out in accordance with the regulations of: - EU guidelines - ISO standard 17020: 2012 -Codex Alimentarius - USA/FDA guidelines

The application for permission to export a commercial shipment consists of the following phases:

1. Submission of the application

To apply for export permission, the applicant must first report to the VKI Secretariat at Vangbalstraat no. 29 (on the grounds of the Small Scale Fisheries Center).

This should be taken into account:

1. the fully completed Single Document (ED);

2. a statement of the relevant batch of fishery products, if the exporter is not a VKI recognized company. This statement is provided by the recognized company (processor);

3. pre-notification of the fishery products to be shipped (during the initial assessment of the pre-notification, the export conditions for, among other things, heavy metals, PAHs and process water are tested).

4. A fully completed application form for health certificates;

5. The production status of the batch of fishery products to be shipped.

If a health certificate for the batch of fishery products is required by the buyer (sales market/export market), this can be requested from the VKI before the actual shipment of the batch of fishery products. The application for a health certificate must also be submitted to the Secretariat of the VKI. The application is forwarded to the Inspection department of the VKI, which is responsible for the certification process of the batch of fishery products. The exporter must fill in the necessary information required for the health certificate on the application form. It is also possible that the VKI recognized company from which the fishery products were purchased submits the application for the health certificate to the VKI Secretariat on behalf of the exporter.

2. Processing of the application for export permission

The required documents are submitted and checked by the VKI for correctness and completeness. The ED receives a unique serial number and if the VKI has no objection to the export of the batch in question, this will be authorized by the director of the VKI or authorized persons. Permission to export the fishery products is hereby granted. There are costs associated with handling the ED, namely:
- a fixed minimum rate per kg net weight and
- administration costs.

The exporter or his/hers customs broker submits the ED signed by the VKI to Customs for further processing.

The Public Health Agency (BOG) is a department of the Ministry of Health which, among other things, is also responsible for a preventive policy for monitoring and promoting food safety within the community. On this basis, regular inspections are carried out on different types of dining areas. (shops, warehouses, cafes, restaurants, markets, bakeries, companies, street vendors, etc.) the inspection is carried out in collaboration with the environmental inspection department. The powers of the inspection service are legally regulated in the Food and Regulation Act of 1911 (G.B. 1953 no. 134). This includes some implementation decisions, including the Milk Decree and the Butter Decree. The Bread Decree, the Vinegar Decree, etc.

When foodstuffs are exported, an inspection of the foodstuffs in question takes place in collaboration with the Central Laboratory of the BOG. The results are interpreted by the inspector on the basis of the reference values in the Food and Regulation Act or the relevant international standards used by the Inspection Service and the Central Lab.

In order to export foodstuffs, the exporter must first be registered as an "exporter" with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF). And meet the legal requirements of the importing country.

For export, it is important that the batch of foodstuffs is sent with a Health Certificate on behalf of the country's health authority.

This serves as confirmation that the batch of food products for export is safe for consumption.

To request a Health Certificate, the exporter must submit an application to the BOG Inspection Service department. The exporter is guided and informed by the inspector for the analysis of the foodstuffs intended for export.

Application and processing of the Health Certificate:

1. When applying, the exporter must first register with the Inspection Department of the BOG at Rode Kruislaan 13-15. The following documents must be demonstrated:

- Export license from the exporter;
- Declaration from the producer of the food; if the exporter is not the original producer of the product;
- Details of the relevant batch of foodstuffs (batch, production date, expiry date, etc.).

2. Furthermore, the exporter is referred by the inspector to the Central laboratory of the BOG with some samples. An application form is submitted here for analysis of the product on the parameters indicated by the inspector.
3. Each analysis is associated with costs that are charged to the exporter.
4. After this, the lab analysis takes place, the results of which are sent to the BOG inspector within 10 working days. The results are compared with the relevant reference values. If they are positive (safe for the consumer), a Health Certificate is drawn up, printed, stamped and signed by the inspector.

5. After full payment from the exporter, the Health Certificate is issued.
6. If the lab results do not meet the reference values (consumption is unsafe), the lab results will be passed on to the exporter, after which a report will be drawn up by the inspector. This is then forwarded to the Attorney General for permission to destroy the batch of foodstuffs.

Note: The product analysis is subject to a fee. So far, the preparation of the Health Certificate has not yet been linked to any costs.

"Certificate of Free Sale" is a proof document that indicates that the sale of a certain product in Suriname is not prohibited and that this product is marketed legally and safely.

This document is issued by a competent authority of an exporting country. In Suriname, this document is provided by the Suriname Standards Bureau in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation.

To obtain a Certificate of Free Sale the following shall apply:
- The products involved are manufactured and/or processed in Suriname.
- The affected products are also sold in Suriname.

When applying for a 'certificate of free sale', the following documents must be submitted:
- A copy of the invoice;
- Company information
- Name of the products being exported
- An appendix to the application, if more than 5 types of products are exported;
- ISO certification information (if applicable);
- Proof of registry (Chamber of commerce)
- Country to which the product is to be exported
- Name(s) and address to which the certificates should be sent
- Contact person and number of the company
- Additional supporting documents, if applicable.

The processing of the documents for approval and issuance of the 'certificate of free sale' takes place within 10 working days.

The import process

The required documents that an importer needs are:

- IT form: International trade transaction form for registration of goods and services
- Single Document: a declaration form for the import of goods from free circulation - Airway Bill/Bill of Lading: Shipping document issued by the Airline or the Shipping Company
- Invoice and possibly Certificate of Origin, if the goods originate from CARICOM
- H-03 permit: In the case of goods from the so-called Negative List (Articles 2 and 3 of the Negative List Decree), an H-03 permit from the IUD Service will be required after it has been approved by the relevant Ministry. If advice is required from a relevant Ministry, the importer must first contact that Ministry before submitting the documents to the IUD
- For goods subject to specific conditions, a certificate from the relevant authority (Public Health Bureau-Food Products, the Pharmaceutical Inspection and the Medicines Registration Office) will suffice.

Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries)

It is prohibited to import or transit plants, plant products and other regulated goods in Suriname without a phytosanitary approval from the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Suriname), as indicated in the Plant Protection Act 2020 (S.B. 2020 no. 78).

This arrangement applies to both commercial and non-commercial shipments (by non-commercial shipments we mean shipments such as gift shipments and passenger goods; By plant products we mean: any unprocessed plant material that could pose a danger by harboring a pest or disease, or to spread; Regulated goods include: all materials such as plants, plant products, packaging, containers, soil, organisms that can harbor or spread a pest or disease).

The import procedure:

Prior to any application for the import of plants, plant products and other regulated goods, the importer must submit a clearly completed form (Application for permit to import plants and plant products to Suriname) for the products to be imported well in advance.

Depending on the country, region and the plants, plant products and other regulated goods to be imported, an import permit is issued stating the import requirements for the product to be imported.

If a QUARANTINE DISEASE/PEST occurs during the import permit application in the country of origin and/or shipment of the products to be imported, this import permit will be withdrawn in implementation of the "Plant Protection Act 2020", while the country hereby expressly excludes all liability for any damage resulting from such withdrawal.

A Pro-forma is required to apply for an Import permit.

Request permission

For each intended import and transit of plants, plant products and other regulated goods, the importer must submit a clearly completed application form (Application form for obtaining a phytosanitary import permission) for the products to be imported to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department well in advance. of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Application for phytosanitary import permission for import and transit

The following steps should be taken into account for the application:

- The application form to obtain a phytosanitary import permission is completed by the importer (not handwritten) and submitted to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department, before placing the final order(s) abroad.
- Each request is accompanied by a copy of the invoice.
- If there is no phytosanitary risk, the permission application will be approved and permission to import will be granted subject to any phytosanitary import requirements.
- The permission will be withdrawn if a quarantine disease/pest occurs in the country of origin and/or shipment of the product(s) to be imported while the permit is in effect.

Inspection upon arrival of the product

Phytosanitary inspection upon import is mandatory. For this purpose, the importer provides the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department with ample time (at least one week) informed in advance regarding the arrival of the shipment in Suriname. Once the shipment has arrived and is stored in the warehouse at the (air) port, the inspection will be carried out under the following conditions:

During the phytosanitary inspection, a document check, identity check and a visual examination are carried out. Samples will be taken from the shipment randomly (International Plant Protection standard ISPM no. 31). If infestation of harmful organisms (pests and disease organisms) is observed, samples are taken to the department for observation for 48 hours.

An original phytosanitary certificate issued by the government of the country of origin and/or shipment must be submitted/issued to the Department of Plant Protection and Quality Inspections upon arrival of the shipment (as referred to in art. 6 paragraph 2, S.B. 2020 no.78).

Based on the inspection result and any lab research, the shipment is approved or rejected.

Samples taken for laboratory testing are not returned to the importers.

Upon approval of the shipment, the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service issues an "import inspection certificate" and the shipment may be released into "free trade".

The "import inspection certificate" is issued after the importer concerned has paid the inspection fee at the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department in accordance with the inspection rates that apply to the import of plants, plant products and other regulated goods in accordance with the "Decree of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries dated January 31, 2024 no.339/24 establishing inspection rates for the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service (National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) Suriname) with effect from March 1, 2024."

If the shipment is rejected during the inspection because it does not meet the phytosanitary import requirements (if applicable, quality aspects are also taken into account) and therefore possibly poses a phytosanitary risk to plant health and plant production, it will be seized and, depending on the nature of the risk becomes this; destroyed, returned to the country of origin, treated, or repurposed.

A report is drawn up of each rejection and the phytosanitary measure applied and copies are issued to the aggrieved and involved authorities.

Import Permit
In certain cases, the Plant Protection and Quality Inspections department can grant an exemption to the importer.

For example, if the shipment is unloaded outside normal working hours and cannot be inspected at the warehouse. An exemption will then be granted to transport the shipment to the company's warehouse where the phytosanitary inspection takes place. The interested party must notify the department so that the inspection can be done on the next business day.

The import of live animals, animal feed, veterinary medicines, products of animal origin and animal-related objects is only permitted if a veterinary import permit is present.

This Veterinary Import Permit is issued by the deputy director of Veterinary Services.

The veterinary import permit is applied for by submitting a correctly and fully completed application form and the associated documents to the Secretariat of the Livestock Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV).

Assessment takes place in the following manner:
1. On the correctness of the data entered and the presence of the required documentation. If it appears upon submission or at a later stage that the application has not been completed correctly or in full, the application will not be processed.
2. Policy-based; within the Animal Husbandry Directorate checks whether the import fits within the policy that is being implemented the Ministry of LVV has been mapped out. If not, if this is the case, the application may be rejected.
3. Veterinary/Sanitary; if the import is not in conflict with the adopted policy it will be redirected to the deputy director of Veterinary Services. The Deputy Director of Veterinary Services rates as and under what conditions, the import of animals whether products can be considered safe for the health of the people and animals in Suriname. The application will be processed within a period of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 working days, after submission of a correctly and completely completed application form and the required documentation.

The outcome of this treatment can be:

- Approval of the application, whereby the application form is stamped and signed by or on behalf of the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services
- Rejection, with the reasons stated on the application form. Interested parties can appeal against this rejection to the director of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. An appeal does not have a suspensive effect on the decision of the Deputy Director of the Veterinary Service

- Postponement, during which a request for more information about the import in question is made. A conversation with the director of livestock farming and/or the deputy director of Veterinary Services may be necessary.

The Veterinary / Sanitary assessment depends on the animal disease situation and the functioning of the control system within the countries of origin and/or shipment of the animals and products. This situation is subject to change.

Importers must therefore be prepared for the fact that an application that has been approved at one time could be rejected at another time. Each import request is unique and is treated as such. Animals and products of animal origin that are brought into Suriname without this assessment and a veterinary permit may be seized and destroyed by the inspectors of the Veterinary Services, whereby the country of Suriname expressly accepts all liability for any damage resulting from such an action.

It is therefore necessary and important to wait for the approval of the application before proceeding with the import.
The veterinary permit issued has a limited period of validity.

If, while the permit is in effect, a contagious animal disease or zoonosis occurs in the country of origin and/or shipment of the products to be imported, then in implementation of the "Act on the Control of Animal Diseases G.B. 1954 no 23 as last amended by S.B. 1986 no.70)" this permit may be withdrawn immediately, while the country of Suriname hereby expressly excludes all liability for any damage and expenses resulting from such withdrawal.

At least 72 hours before the arrival of the animals or products in Suriname the subdirectorate Veterinary Services will be notified, after which the veterinary inspection takes place.

In the case of products intended for human use consumption, the Inspection Service department of the Subdirectorate of Veterinary Services carries out the inspections make the deposit, together with the customs officials, after which it is released for trade.

How are live animals, animal feed, veterinary medicines, products of animal origin and animal-related objects imported?

The Border Post Guard Department of the Sub-Directorate for Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries has intensified its activities at the various border posts since 2022. In this context, border controls are regularly carried out on the import and export of animals, animal products, veterinary medicines and animal-related objects. The following conditions have been established for imports:

• A valid veterinary import permit issued by the Sub-Directorate of Veterinary Services is required.
• Before the arrival of a shipment, the importer must notify the sub-directorate in the manner prescribed by him, after which the veterinary inspection takes place.

The Veterinary Import Permit is not required for the import of processed products of animal origin up to a maximum weight of 5 kilograms for non-commercial use, if the following conditions are met:
• The products are not intended for feeding animals;
• There are no dangerous animal diseases or zoonoses, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, etc. in the country of origin;
• The products are packaged leak-proof, in the original packaging, with the original labels, which clearly state the type of product and the country of origin.

Products that do not meet these conditions will be seized and destroyed.

The Competent Authority of Industrial Quality in Fishery and Aquaculture (VKI)
To ensure food safety with regard to fishery products, fishery products that fall within the jurisdiction of the VKI and are brought into Surinamese territory must first be checked and inspected by the VKI before being sold or re-exported. The control and inspection of the batch of fishery products consists of the following phases:

1. Submission of relevant documents relating to the import of the consignment of fishery products by the importer/customs broker.

Before the physical arrival of the party, fishery products on Surinamese territory, the importer/clearer must submit the following documents to the Secretariat of the VKI, namely:
• The 'Import and Export Document' (IUD / Model H03 form);
•'Single Document' (ED);
• Original health certificate of the batch of fishery products, issued by the competent authority of the country of origin (in Dutch or English); Note: If the importer cannot produce the aforementioned health certificate, the ED will not be signed by the director of the VKI.
• For re-export, the original certificate from the country of origin must also be submitted and for the EU an Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) certificate;
• A statement from the importer (VKI recognized company) regarding the final destination upon re-export;
• Original permission letter from the Fisheries Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for processing and/or re-export.
The submitted documents are then forwarded to the Inspection department of the VKI.

2. Checking, signing and issuing of the relevant documents submitted by the VKI.

The relevant documents submitted are checked by the VKI for correctness and completeness. The health certificate of the batch of fishery products from the country of origin must meet the conditions included in the Fish Inspection Decree S.B. 2002 no.9, article 17 paragraph 1d.
The actual quantity of fishery products indicated on the certificate must correspond to what is indicated on the ED. After checking the relevant documents for completeness, the ED is signed by the director of the VKI or authorized persons. This indicates that the VKI has no objection to the import of the batch in question.

3. Issuing the exemption letter (for transport or unloading of the imported fishery products).

If the above-mentioned relevant documents are complete and correct, the VKI will draw up an exemption letter for the transport/unloading of the imported fishery products, for example Customs. The importer also immediately makes an appointment with the VKI for the control and inspection of the imported fishery products. After the goods have been released by Customs, the importer may not use/sell until the aforementioned inspection has taken place and the batch has been declared suitable for human consumption by the VKI.

Notes:
To ensure a smooth process of issuing the exemption letter, the importer must submit the relevant documents relating to the imported consignment within five (5) working days. There is a waiting period of 1 day associated with the issuance of an exemption letter. There are costs associated with the inspection.

4. Control and inspection of consignments of imported fishery products

- When checking and inspecting the batch of imported fishery products, a general observation is first made with regard to food safety aspects (including hygiene and storage conditions).
- The physical check involves a sensory assessment of the batch of fishery products. The result of the sensory inspection is indicated on a reporting form.
- In order to determine whether fishery products are fit for human consumption, inspectors may take samples for laboratory analysis. The sampling of the batch is carried out in accordance with international standards and legally established procedures.
- The samples are delivered to the VKI laboratory for analysis, the test results of which are submitted by the Head of the VKI laboratory to the Head of the Inspection department.

Remark:
If situations arise where public health may be endangered or actions are committed in violation of the Fish Inspection Act (S.B. 2000 no. 107), VKI can take enforcement measures in accordance with the legal provisions.

5. Decision: permission for sale (local)/re-export

5.1 Local sales

- If the test results show that the batch of fishery products is suitable for human consumption, this is passed on to the importer and the imported fishery products are released by the VKI for local sale.
- If the batch of fishery products is not suitable for human consumption, this will be passed on to the importer. The consignment of fishery products may not be offered for sale. The procedure 'Placing under quarantine and confiscating fishery products' comes into effect.

5.2 Re-export

- If the test results show that the batch of fishery products is suitable for human consumption, this is passed on to the importer and the imported fishery products are released by the VKI for re-export.
- If the batch of fishery products is not suitable for human consumption, this will be passed on to the importer. The consignment of fishery products may not be offered for re-export. The procedure 'Placing under quarantine and confiscating fishery products' comes into effect.
- When importing fishery products for re-export, the importer must, after unloading, make an overview of the actual quantity, the composition of the batch of imported fishery products and the country of origin (catch area) available to the inspection team. This information is important for, among other things, carrying out inspection(s) and obtaining a health certificate for the batch of fishery products that will be exported.
- For re-export, in particular to P.R.C. and the Member States of the European Union, it must be taken into account that the imported products have been processed/manufactured by an establishment that appears on the P.P.C and the EU list and that the fishery products are caught according to the IUU standards of the EU.

6. Billing & Costs

The invoice as well as the associated test report are provided to the importer by the VKI. There are costs associated with handling the ED, namely:

- A fixed minimum rate per kg net weight and administration costs.

Office of Public Health
The inspection department of the BOG does not grant permission for the import of foodstuffs. However, the foods included on the negative list are checked before they are released for sale.

The importer/clearer is referred to the inspector by a customs official or IUD department of the Ministry of EZOTI, so that the batch of foodstuffs can be inspected. The customs broker or importer must then demonstrate the following documents:
1. HO3 document of the batch of foodstuffs;
2. The original Health certificate/health certificate from the health authority of the country of origin;
3. Bill of loading

Physical Control:
After this, the load is physically inspected and checked by the inspector for:
- General food safety hygiene and storage conditions;
- Organoleptic observations of the products;
- Samples are collected randomly and sent to the lab for analysis;
- A provisional seizure document is drawn up for the importer.

Release of the batch of imported foodstuffs:
After the results of the lab analysis have been performed, positive results confirm that the cargo is safe for human consumption and can be released for further distribution and sale. The HO3 documents can then be stamped and signed by the judge.

If the lab results show that the product is unsafe for human consumption, it will be confiscated by the inspector. An official report is then drawn up for the destruction of this cargo. This is sent for permission to the Attorney General, who, in collaboration with the KPS, grants permission to have the relevant batch of foodstuffs destroyed.

The transit process
During transit, the submitted documents must be accompanied by:
1. A letter requesting permission to transit the goods in question.
2. G-import form stating the amount of 15% of the CIF value for goods from other countries and 5% for goods from Brazil (there is an exchange obligation in the transit process, the percentage that is mentioned above must be exchanged at the Commercial Bank, the (transit) trader will get the equivalent value in SRD).
3. Invoice for the relevant goods.
4. BL or AWB of the relevant goods.

The import and export of values is a collaboration between the Foreign Exchange Commission and the IUD Service. The permission is granted by the Foreign Exchange Commission in accordance with the Foreign Exchange Regulations (G.B. 1947 no. 136), after which the permit is processed by the IUD Service.

International trade relations involve more than just the production of goods; they also include export processes and access to markets.

Market access refers to the ability of a company or country to introduce and sell goods and services in a foreign market. This is a crucial aspect of international trade and economic development because it directly affects the growth, profitability and competitiveness of companies in the global marketplace.

Market Access:
1. Tariff Barriers: Many countries impose tariffs on foreign goods to allow their domestic industries to grow and become economically resilient. This can significantly increase the cost of entering a new market.
2. Non-Tariff Barriers: This includes a wide range of rules and regulations ranging from product standards to packaging regulations and health and safety regulations.
3. Consumer Preferences and Market Knowledge: Understanding the local market and consumer behavior is essential. This includes researching market trends, competitive analysis and tailoring products and services to the preferences of local consumers.

The complexity of international trade relations requires thorough planning and strategic approach. Companies need to be aware of the different challenges and barriers they may encounter, from production and export processes to market access and financial considerations. By carefully managing these factors, companies can successfully operate internationally and reap the benefits of a globalized marketplace.

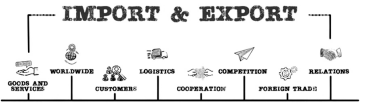
But why is Market Access important?
1. Economic growth: Access to new markets offers companies the opportunity to expand their footprint, which can lead to increased sales and profits. This contributes to the economic growth of both the company and the country of origin.

2. Diversification of risks: By operating in multiple markets, companies can spread risks. This means they become less dependent on the economic situation in a single market, making them more resilient to local economic fluctuations.

3. Innovation and competition: Access to foreign markets stimulates innovation and competition. Companies are forced to continuously improve their products and services in order to compete on a global scale.

4. Cost Savings and Efficiency: Companies can benefit from economies of scale by producing larger quantities for a larger market. This can lead to lower production costs per unit and higher efficiency.

5. Usable Technology and Knowledge Transfer:
International trade promotes the exchange of technology and knowledge between countries. This can lead to improvements in production processes, quality standards and product development.



Market access is an essential factor for companies that want to maximize their growth potential and compete on a global scale. By understanding and navigating the various obstacles and challenges, companies can plan strategically and successfully enter new markets, leading to sustainable growth and innovation.

The Sub-Directorate for International Trade is responsible for negotiating regional and international trade agreements and facilitating import and export policy. The rules for market access of goods with/by the related services are laid down. This ensures transparent trading rules. Furthermore, also for formulating regional and international trade policy to facilitate import and export policy for both the goods and services regime. The Subdirectorate is also responsible for promoting domestic and foreign trade, including import and export policy and compliance with the agreements made within the CSME and other agreements.

Trade preferences are trade based on an agreement between countries that reduces normal taxes on some imported goods (or offers preferences).
Preferential trade, or preferential trade agreement, refers to trade agreements between two or more countries that provide favorable trade terms, such as lower tariffs or tariff exemptions on certain products. The purpose of such agreements is to reduce trade barriers between participating countries and promote economic cooperation.

There are several forms of preferential trade agreements, including:
• **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):** Agreements in which participating countries agree to eliminate most or all tariffs and trade restrictions on each other's goods and services. Examples include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
• **Customs Unions:** Agreements in which participating countries not only eliminate internal tariffs, but also introduce a common external tariff on trade with non-participating countries. The European Union (EU) is an example of a customs union.

• **Tariff allowances:** Agreements in which specific products from certain countries are subject to lower tariffs or no tariffs, often in the context of development cooperation. Examples are the General Preferential Arrangement (GSP) of the EU and the United States.

• **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs):**
These are broader agreements that cover not only trade, but also cooperation in areas such as investment, services, and regulation. The EPAs between the EU and the Caribbean countries are examples of this. Preferential trade can provide significant economic benefits, such as access to larger markets, lower costs for consumers, and increased competition that drives innovation. At the same time, it can also bring challenges, such as the need to protect domestic industries and the possible negative impact on certain sectors that cannot compete with imported goods.

The trade agreements to which Suriname is a party and offers preferences to Surinamese entrepreneurs are:

• **CARIFORUM - EU Economic Partnership Agreement:** this agreement provides market access for goods (quota and duty free) and market access for services in the EU market

• **CARIFORUM - UK Economic Partnership Agreement:** provides access to goods (quota and duty free) and services

• **CARICOM - Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement:** provides market access to goods

• **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (CARICOM):** Provides market access to goods and services. Harmonization of regulations, etc.

• **CARICOM - Cuba:** Provides market access for goods

• **Agreement Establishing the Free Trade Area between the Caribbean Community and the Dominican Republic:** provides market access for goods

• **Partial Scope Agreement concerningTariff Concessions for the Rice Trade:** offers the possibility to export rice to the Northern part of Brazil

• **Trade agreement between the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Indonesia:** provides access for goods intended for expos and fairs

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