

How to export... coffee to the European Union



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The European Union (EU) is the world's largest single market. Therefore, many exporters around the world hope to export their products to the EU to meet the large consumer demand. Sometimes, however, exporters feel that they lack information on how to export to the EU and how to meet EU standards. Yet the information is there! Indeed, with the Export Helpdesk, you can find all the facts and figures you need: information, forms and contacts.

The challenge is there. Interested in cracking the European market?

First of all, at the Export Helpdesk, you will find details on the following:

What are the requirements for coffee to be exported to Europe?

Health control of foodstuffs

Foodstuffs must comply with the EU health and safety requirements before entering the EU market. As a result, coffee can only be exported to the EU if it complies with EU food law or equivalent conditions. For instance, food business operators – including the final importer – should be able to trace and identify where their products came from, and where they are going as well, to rapidly provide this information to the competent authorities if required. This is called 'traceability'

The list of foodstuff hygiene rules is available at the Export Helpdesk.

To ensure that food placed on the market is safe and does not contain contaminants that could pose a danger to human health, food imports into the EU should comply with EU food safety standards and respect the maximum level of contaminant per product. For instance, specific limits of Ochratoxin A are set for coffee and the limits vary depending on whether the coffee is roasted or soluble.

The list of maximum levels of contaminant per product is available at the Export Helpdesk

Besides, coffee cannot be exported to the EU if it presents residues of pesticides exceeding the maximum levels permitted, thereby posing an unacceptable risk to humans. Maximum pesticide residue limits have been established for coffee and you can find the exact amount for each pesticide at the *EU pesticide database available at the Export Helpdesk*. For instance, 1 kg of coffee beans may not contain more than 1 mg of Carbofuran in order to enter the EU.

Pesticide	Value	Coffee beans	
			Symbols
ALDICARB	MRL (mg/kg)	0.1	
BOSCALID	MRL (mg/kg)	0.05	(*)
CARBENDAZIM	MRL (mg/kg)	0.1	(*)
CARBOFURAN	MRL (undef)	1	
CHLORPYRIFOS	MRL (undef)	0.05	
CYPERMETHRIN	MRL (mg/kg)	0.05	(*)
DISULFOTON	MRL (mg/kg)	0.2	
ENDOSULFAN	MRL (mg/kg)	0.2	
PERMETHRIN	MRL (mg/kg)	0.05	(*)
PHORATE	MRL (undef)	0.05	(*)
PROPICONAZOLE	MRL (undef)	0.02	
PYRACLOSTROBIN	MRL (undef)	0.3	
TERBUFOS	MRL (undef)	0.05	(*)
TRIADIMEFON	MRL (undef)	0.5	
TRIADIMENOL	MRL (undef)	0.5	

The Export Helpdesk is an online service to inform on how to export to the European Union

This free and user-friendly service provides all necessary information concerning EU import requirements, tariffs, preferential trade agreements and statistics in a tailor-made way:
product by product,
country by country

Your one-stop-shop to access the European market!

www.exporthelp.europa.eu



Coffee labelling

EU food labelling rules ensure that consumers receive essential information to make an informed choice when purchasing their food.

Similar labels make it easier for the customer to choose. Therefore, all food labels must display certain information, such as:

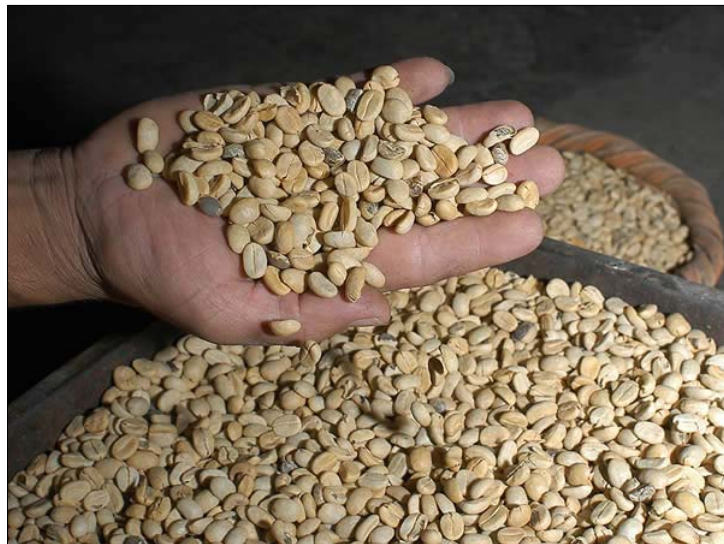
- The name under which the product is sold. In the absence of EU and national provisions applicable to it, the name should be a customary name or a description of the food. No trademark, brand name or fancy name may substitute the generic name, but it may be used in addition to the generic name. The food's physical condition or the specific treatment undergone (roasted, soluble, etc) must also be included if its omission could be misleading for consumers.
- The list of ingredients, including additives. However, foods consisting of a single ingredient, where the name of the food is identical to the name of the ingredient or enables the nature of the ingredient to be clearly identified do not need to include a list of ingredients. Presence of substances known for their ability to spark allergic reactions and intolerances should be always indicated.
- The net quantity of pre-packaged foodstuffs.
- The minimum durability date consisting of day, month and year in that order and preceded by the words "best before"
- Any special conditions for keeping or use.
- The name or business name and address of the manufacturer or packager, or of a seller established in the EU.
- Place of origin or provenance, where failure to give such particulars might mislead the consumer.
- Lot marking on pre-packaged foodstuffs with the marking preceded by the letter "L".

These indications must appear on the package or on a label attached to pre-packaged coffee.

Further, for coffee extract, soluble or instant coffee (except for café torrefacto soluble), specific label requirements apply: Markings such as '**Coffee extract**©, '**soluble coffee extract**©, '**soluble coffee**© or '**instant coffee**© mean that the package contains concentrated product obtained by extraction from roasted coffee beans using *only* water as medium of extraction and excluding any process of hydrolysis involving the addition of an acid or a base.

Apart from those insoluble substances which are technically impossible to remove, and insoluble oils derived from coffee, coffee extract must contain *only* the soluble and aromatic constituents of coffee.

The term "*concentrated*" may only appear on the label if the coffee-based dry matter content is more than 25% by weight, while the term "*decaffeinated*" must appear if the anhydrous caffeine content does not exceed 0,3% by weight of the coffee-based dry matter. This information must be within the same field of vision as the sales description.



Coffee extract in solid or paste	Liquid coffee extract
To be considered as "coffee", the dry matter content must not be less than 95% by weight if <i>dried</i> coffee extract, and between 70% and 85 % by weight if coffee extract <i>paste</i> . It must not contain substances other than those derived from the extraction of coffee and the label must indicate the minimum coffee-based dry matter content, expressed as a percentage by weight of the finished product.	The dry matter content must be between 15% to 55 % by weight in the <i>liquid</i> coffee extract. If containing sugars, whether or not roasted, the proportion should not exceed 12% by weight and the label must include the terms ' <i>with</i> ', ' <i>preserved with</i> ', ' <i>with added</i> ' or ' <i>roasted with</i> ' followed by the name(s) of the types of sugar(s) used.

The label must be, visible, legible, indelible and easy to understand, and must appear in a language that is easily understood by consumers. Usually this means in the official language(s) of the European country where the product is marketed. However, the use of foreign terms or expressions that are easily understood by the purchaser may be allowed.

Any information contained in this factsheet can in no way be regarded as a commitment on the part of the European Commission. For further information, please contact the National Authority of the EU country to which the product will be exported

Now that you know all the import conditions for exporting your product to the EU, do you need further details, forms or statistics? Do you also want to know if your country benefit from a special trade agreement with the EU that will allow you to reduce –or even totally remove- import tariffs? Do you need further details on rules of origin and its specificities and forms?

Check the Export Helpdesk! www.exporthelp.europa.eu

