

Changes to the Argentine Food Code to facilitate imports and exports

The initiative seeks to simplify administrative procedures related to the sanitary management of imports and exports of food products.

January 20, 2025

Decree 35/2025, published today in the Official Gazette, establishes a modification to the annex of the Argentine Food Code (CAA) that simplifies and seeks to expedite both the entry of foreign food products into the country, as well as the export of national products.

According to national regulations, all foods, condiments, beverages, raw materials and food additives that are produced, portioned, preserved, transported, sold or displayed must meet the requirements of the CCA, whether they are produced domestically or imported.

Regarding imports, the implemented modification establishes that the CCA requirements will be considered satisfied if the food products and packaging have a certification issued by countries considered to have high health surveillance. To enter the country, only an Import Declaration will have to be completed, without the need for the competent national health authority to request additional requirements.

The resolution considers that controls on imported products from countries with monitoring parameters similar to or superior to our legislation, or which use the standards of the Codex Alimentarius (FAO/WHO), end up overlapping structures and generating greater bureaucracy. These are countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, Israel, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom or the European Union bloc.

In the event that the products come from countries with which economic integration treaties or reciprocity agreements apply, the CCA requirements will also be considered to be met after an assessment of the food control system in the country of origin. Their circulation, marketing and sale will not be authorized until the analytical verification of the hygienic-sanitary and bromatological conditions of production in the country of origin is carried out.

In order to enter the country, these products must only have a marketing authorization or a certificate of free sale of the product - or a similar document - approved by the competent health

authority of the country of origin. They will also be exempt from the obligation to be previously incorporated into the Argentine Food Code and may be incorporated later.

In the case of exports, the change in regulations establishes that national food products sold abroad must only comply with the requirements and restrictions imposed by the destination country, without the competent national health authority being able to stipulate further requirements. In addition, exporters may request the corresponding health certificates from the National Food Institute (INAL), which is part of the National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT), in the event that the destination country so requires.

With this new initiative, the national government seeks to streamline and simplify administrative procedures in the exchange of goods and products, understanding that economic activities are the true driving force of the country's development and that it is also essential to protect the health of the entire Argentine population.