



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Bahrain

### FAIRS

## Bahrain Proposes New Food Standards

### 2008

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**Report Highlights:**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of 14 new draft standards in April 2008. A brief description each standard is available in this report. While Bahrain has notified the WTO, interested parties should be aware that these are draft Gulf Standards Organization standards and will eventually apply to all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and should be reviewed in that context. ATO Dubai can provide English version of the standards upon request.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Dubai [TC1]  
[BA]

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a  *cursory* review of the subject announcements and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the notifications in question, or of their implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Arabic, the latter shall prevail.

**ATO Dubai Summary:** In April 2008, the Government of Bahrain has notified the World Trade Organization of 14 draft standards for food products.

#### **ATO Dubai Analysis:**

Out of the 14 standards described below, 7 are based on similar Codex Alimentarius standards. All of the 14 standards will eventually be adopted by the GCC countries and as such they are GSO standards. U.S. exporters who believe that these standards could apply to their products may wish to further review the established standards and contact the Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington or ATO Dubai. The standards reference older versions of the standards for food labeling and shelf life and will likely be updated upon final publication to reflect recently revised GCC shelf life and labeling standards

### **Summary of Revised Standards**

#### **1. Fresh fruits and vegetables – Asparagus**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/43**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Asparagus" under clauses 5.2 & 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of the exporter, country of origin, etc. This draft has been prepared by the UAE and is based on Codex Standard No. Codex 225 AMD. 1-2005.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

#### **2. Burgul**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/44**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Burgul" under clauses 8 and 11 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that Burgul shall be packed in containers or packages which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and other characteristics of the product. It also describes the labeling requirements such as name of the product, name of manufacturer, country of origin, net weight, production date and expiry date. This draft has been prepared by Saudi Arabia and it is based on relevant national and international standards.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 3. Canned Sweet Corn

G/TBT/N/BHR/45

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Canned Sweet Corn" under clauses 8 and 12 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the whole kernel pack shall be designated as, either "Brine" or "Liquid Pack" when a salt (NaCl) brine liquid medium is used. Or, "Vacuum pack" or "Vacuum packed" if the liquid packing medium does not exceed 20% of the total net weight of product and the container is closed under conditions creating a high vacuum in container. It also describes the label requirements such as name of the product, packing type medium, production date and expiry date. The draft of this standard was prepared by Saudi Arabia and it is based on relevant national and international standards.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 4. Couscous prepared from durum wheat

G/TBT/N/BHR/46

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This technical draft regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Couscous Prepared from Durum Wheat" under clauses 7 and 9 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that Couscous shall be packaged in containers which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and other characteristics of the product. It also describes the labeling requirement such as name of the product, name of the cereal when prepared from cereals other than durum wheat, method of cooking and production date and expiry dates. The draft of this standard was prepared by Saudi Arabia and it is based on relevant national and international standards.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 5. Wheat, Rye and Respective Flour

G/TBT/N/BHR/47

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Wheat, Rye and Respective Flour" under clauses 8 and 11 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that Wheat, Rye and respective flour shall be packaged in containers that will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and other characteristics of the product. It also describes the labeling requirement such as, name of the product and grade, Name of the manufacturer, country of origin, net weight, production date and expiry date. The draft of this standard was prepared by Saudi Arabia and it is based on relevant national and international standards.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 6. Food packages – Part 2: Plastic Package General Requirements

G/TBT/N/BHR/48

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard " Food packages – Part 2: Plastic Package General Requirements " under

clause 7 (labeling) as mandatory requirements. It describes the labeling requirements of plastic packages that are used to package food materials such as type of plastic material, weight, capacity, number, or dimensions based on the types of packages, statement of "Food Grade", purpose and type of application, directions for usage and warnings if applicable. The draft of the standard was prepared by Saudi Arabia and it is based on relevant national and international standards.

**Final date for comments:** (the notification mentions April 2008. However, we suspect that this is a typographical error and the final date would be as in the case of other notifications 60 days from the notification date).

### **7. Fresh Fruits- Litchis**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/49**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits – Litchis" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on Codex 196/1995 and the draft was prepared by the UAE.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### **8. Fresh Fruits- Mangosteens**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/50**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits – Mangosteens" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on a Codex Stan 204-1997, AMD. 2005 and the draft was prepared by the UAE.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### **9. Fresh Fruits- Nopal**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/51**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits –Nopal" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on Codex Stan 185-1993, AMD. 1-2005.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 10. Oats

**G/TBT/N/BHR/52**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Oats" under clauses 7 and 10 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that oats shall be packaged in containers or packages which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and other characteristics of the product. It also describes the labeling requirement such as name of the product, date of harvest year, grade and country of origin. The draft of this standard was prepared by Saudi Arabia.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 11. Fresh Fruits- Orange

**G/TBT/N/BHR/53**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits –Orange" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on Codex Stan 245-1994, AMD. 1-2005.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 12. Fresh Fruits- Papaya

**G/TBT/N/BHR/54**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits –Papaya" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on Codex Stan 183-1993, Rev. 1-2001, AMD. 1-2005).

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

### 13. Fresh Fruits- Pineapple

**G/TBT/N/BHR/55**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Fresh Fruits – Pineapple" under clauses 5.2 and 6 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that the package material must be of food grade quality and capable of protecting the content from causing any external or internal damage. The internal surface of the package which comes in contact with food shall not react

with the contents. It also describes labeling requirements such as: name of the product, name and address of exporter, country of origin, etc. This standard is based on Codex Stan 182-1993, Rev. 1-1999, AMD. 1-2005 and is drafted by the UAE.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

#### **14. Durum wheat semolina**

**G/TBT/N/BHR/56**

**Notification Date:** 21 April 2008

**Description of content:** This draft technical regulation specifies the requirements stated in the Gulf standard GSO "Durum wheat semolina" under clauses 6 and 7 (packaging and labeling) as mandatory requirements. It specifies that semolina shall be packaged in containers or packages which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and other characteristics of the product. It also describes the labeling requirement, such as: name of the product, grading of the semolina (course-fine). The draft of this standard is prepared by Saudi Arabia.

**Final date for comments:** 60 days from the notification date

#### **Important Dates**

- 1. Proposed Implementation Date:** To be decided
- 2. Validity Period:** Indefinite from the date of adoption
- 3. Comments:** Please see required dates as specified for each standard above. ATO Dubai has versions of the standards in English and will provide copies of those standards upon request.

Interested parties may send their comments directly to the Government of Bahrain at the following address:

Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
P.O. Box 5479, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel: +973 17574880  
Fax: +973 17530730  
E-mail: [bsmd@commerce.gov.bh](mailto:bsmd@commerce.gov.bh)  
Website: <http://www.moic.gov.bh>

Or they may send them to ATO Dubai at ([atodubai@usda.gov](mailto:atodubai@usda.gov)) or to the International Regulations and Standards Division of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service at [IRSD@fas.usda.gov](mailto:IRSD@fas.usda.gov) or by fax at 202-690-0677, well before the end of the comment period.

#### **For More Information**

Should you require more information on the above, Please do not hesitate to contact us on the following: Fax: 011-971-4-311-6189  
E-mail: [atodubai@usda.gov](mailto:atodubai@usda.gov)

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