Importing Dried Herbs & Spices from Egypt to the EU

Importer's checklist · companion to the full guide at brotherhoodherbs.com/en/import-dried-herbs-spices-from-egypt/

Regulatory information reviewed: October 2026. This checklist is informational and is not legal advice. Always confirm requirements for your specific product and customs code with your customs broker or the competent authority.

1. Register as a food business operator

The EU-based importer must notify the competent authority of each establishment under its control that carries out any stage of production, processing or distribution of food, so that it can be registered.

Source: Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, Article 6

2. Check plant-health requirements

Phytosanitary certificates are required for the plants and plant products listed in Annex XI of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Whether a certificate is needed for a given product depends on its customs code, so confirm it before shipping.

Sources: Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 · Austrian Phytosanitary Service · CBI buyer requirements

3. Check whether your product is under increased border checks

Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 lists food from specific countries subject to a temporary increase of official controls. In the Egyptian entries of the version amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1206 (in force since 30 June 2026), no herb or spice in our range appears. The list changes regularly: check the current annex before each shipment.

Sources: Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 · Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1206

4. Meet EU contaminant limits

Regulation (EU) 2023/915 replaced Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006. Limits below are from the consolidated text of 1 January 2025; check EUR-Lex for later amendments. Most herbs and spices in our range have no specific aflatoxin limit in this version. Annex I contains further limits that can apply depending on the product and how it is sold, so check the entries for your product.

Contaminant	Product	Limit	Annex I point
Ochratoxin A	Dried herbs	10.0 µg/kg	1.2.5
Ochratoxin A	Dried spices (except Capsicum); also mixtures of dried spices	15 µg/kg	1.2.17
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Dried herbs (general)	400 µg/kg	2.4.2
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Borage, lovage, marjoram and oregano (dried), and mixtures composed only of these	1,000 µg/kg	2.4.3
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Cumin	400 µg/kg	2.4.9
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Herbal infusions (dried), general	200 µg/kg	2.4.7
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Herbal infusions (dried) of anise, chamomile, thyme, peppermint, lemon balm, lemon verbena, rooibos, and mixtures composed only of these	400 µg/kg	2.4.8
Aflatoxins (B1 / sum)	Dried Capsicum, pepper (Piper), nutmeg, turmeric, ginger, and mixtures containing them	5.0 / 10.0 µg/kg	1.1.14, 1.1.15

Source: Regulation (EU) 2023/915, consolidated text of 1 January 2025

5. Check pesticide residue limits

Maximum residue levels are set in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, product by product and substance by substance. Search the limits for your product in the EU Pesticides Database.

Source: EU Pesticides Database

6. Label in the right language

Mandatory food information must appear in a language easily understood by consumers in the Member States where the food is marketed. Member States may require one or more of the Union's official languages on their own territory.

Source: Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, Article 15

7. Customs and tariffs

The EU–Egypt Association Agreement entered into force on 1 June 2004 (trade provisions applying from 1 January 2004). A further agreement on agricultural and processed agricultural products and fish entered into force on 1 June 2010. Preferential treatment requires that the goods meet the Euro-Mediterranean rules of origin. Duty rates depend on the customs (CN) code: check yours in Access2Markets.

Sources: European Commission, agricultural trade with Egypt · Access2Markets, EU–Egypt Association Agreement

Importing into Poland

Border sanitary control

For food not covered by EU increased controls, national law applies: the importer files an application for a border sanitary check under Article 79 of the 2006 Food Safety Act. The border station at Dorohusk states the application is due at least 48 hours before the planned import.

Sources: GIS, information for food importers · Border Sanitary Station Dorohusk

- **Registration and commercial quality**
  Every production or trade activity in food of non-animal origin, including import, must be registered or approved by the competent local sanitary inspection authority. Commercial-quality control of imported food is carried out by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (IJHARS).
  Source: GIS, food controls

- **Labelling**
  Article 15 of Regulation 1169/2011 lets Member States require their official language, so check Polish guidance before labelling for the Polish market.

Documents buyers commonly request

These are market practice, and not all of them are legal requirements.

- **Certificate of analysis (COA)**
- **Certificate of origin, needed to claim preferential duty**
- **Commercial invoice and packing list**
- **Bill of lading**
- **Phytosanitary certificate, where the buyer or the product requires one**

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